

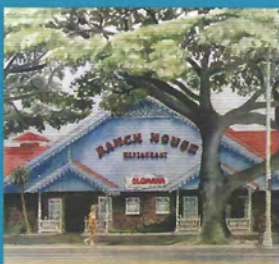
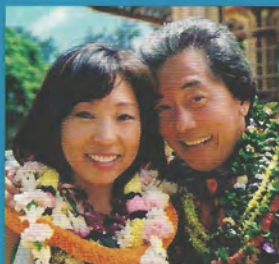
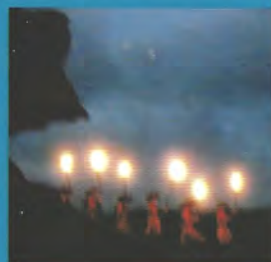
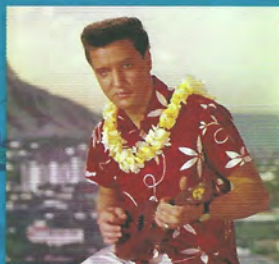
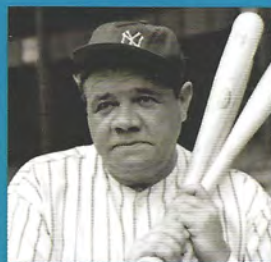
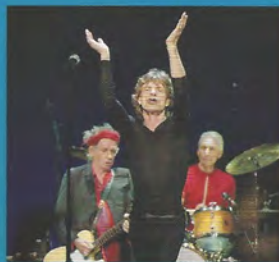
#1
Hawaii
Bestseller

The Companies We Keep 4

More amazing
stories about Hawaii's
people, places, and
companies



Bob Sigall
Honolulu Star-Advertiser
Rearview Mirror columnist



Hawaii's Private Aviation Terminals

Most of us have flown in and out of Honolulu International Airport many times. But we probably didn't see Frank Sinatra, Harrison Ford, Greg Norman, the Rolling Stones, Ronald Reagan, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, or Prince Phillip passing through because they came in the back door. They came in through the private aviation terminal on Lagoon Drive or on neighbor islands.



Barbara planned a special hula, danced by her and three girlfriends, when husband Frank Sinatra's plane touched down on Maui.

Tom Anusewicz spoke to my Downtown Exchange Club recently. He's worked in aviation for over 45 years with half of that being in private business aircraft operations, and he had some interesting stories to tell.

Private jets can cost \$20-80 million to buy, he told us, or they can be rented for \$4-7,000 per hour. Over 4,000 arrivals and departures come into Hawaii annually. They pay a landing fee, based on weight of \$200-400, parking fees of about \$40 a day, servicing fees to the private terminals of over \$1,000, plus fuel and catering.

There are three private jet companies operating in Hawaii: Castle & Cooke Aviation, Bradley Pacific Aviation, and Air Service Hawaii.

A private jet terminal is more than a gas station, Anusewicz says. "It is a team of professionals that understands the many local, federal and international regulations, as well as aviation industry standards required for movement of aircraft in and out of Hawaii.

"We have always taken pride of the high level of service provided to our customers. The customers operate some of the most sophisticated aircraft with professional flight crews that ensure high

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standards for their passengers. Well at least 99% do.

"We roll out a red carpet for every plane. They can depart the plane directly to a waiting limo, if they're staying on the island. "We have customer service reps with leis for everyone, including the pilots."

"One particular day started with the 4 AM arrival of General Norman Schwarzkopf and Dan Rather," Anusewicz recalls. "They were returning from making a documentary on Iwo Jima. Customs, Immigration and Agriculture were standing by our facility to expedite their entry to the U.S.

"We refueled the aircraft, approved their flight documents, and put new catering on board, all within 30 minutes. I advised the passengers that we were ready when they were. They decided that another cup of coffee would be great and asked why don't I join them...which I did. They were very friendly, down to earth guys.

"Later that day, the Rolling Stones were transiting back from Japan on a chartered DC-10. While the aircraft was being attended to, Mick Jagger and Ron Wood hung out in our third floor lounge. They were admiring the great view of the ocean and Diamond Head."



Over 4,000 arrivals and departures come into Hawaii's private aviation terminals annually.

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A local radio station was playing in the background, and a Rolling Stones song came on. "The boys started singing along and dancing to it. Often passengers are tired and grumpy, but the Stones were rested and coherent that day.

"We sat in my office, talking story for about 20 minutes. I caught Jagger on a day that he was talkative, but Keith Richards was another story. Keith had an 'elevated personality' and we all thought it would be better if he stayed on the plane. He came to the door of the plane and was ranting, but fortunately did not get off.

"You never know what to expect, but you couldn't ask for a more interesting and diverse encounter on the same day.

"Over the years I have had the opportunity to meet many celebrities. Most move on quickly, from aircraft to transportation, but there have been times where I have had the opportunity to spend a little more time with them.

"I really enjoyed working with Frank Sinatra and his family.



Celebrities such as the Rolling Stones, President Jimmy Carter and Frank Sinatra have come into Hawaii's private jet terminals.

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His wife, Barbara and her friends arrived a few days earlier and stayed in Willie Nelson's Sprecklesville Maui home.

"Barbara called me and asked if we could do something special for Frank, when he arrived. She was thinking she and three girlfriends could all do the hula. I said we could do that. I arranged for a group with ukuleles and got them all fixed up in grass skirts.

"We had a hibiscus bush outside our office, so they all had one behind an ear.

"Frank was going to come in early, around 7:30 AM and the girls felt they needed to get there early to practice. They asked for screwdrivers upon arrival that morning to 'loosen up for their performance.' They were doing more drinking than practicing, but it seemed to work out fine when he landed.

"The plane's door opened and Frank saw all the girls dancing the hula, giggling. They were just a hoot. Those are some of the special moments. I've been able to spend some time with some very unique legends."



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When the two-week trip was over, Sinatra came over to Anusevicz and told him what an incredible job he had done. He offered to take a photo with him. Anusevicz had a policy against it.

"I always wished I had a photo with Frank, but I instilled in our staff that we do not request autographs or photos. My declining the photo was witnessed by a few of the staff and they all knew within a short period of time. Leading by example is not always easy."

On one occasion, former President Jimmy Carter came to Honolulu and boarded a Hemmeter Aviation plane to Lihue to speak to a group at the Westin Kauai Lagoons.

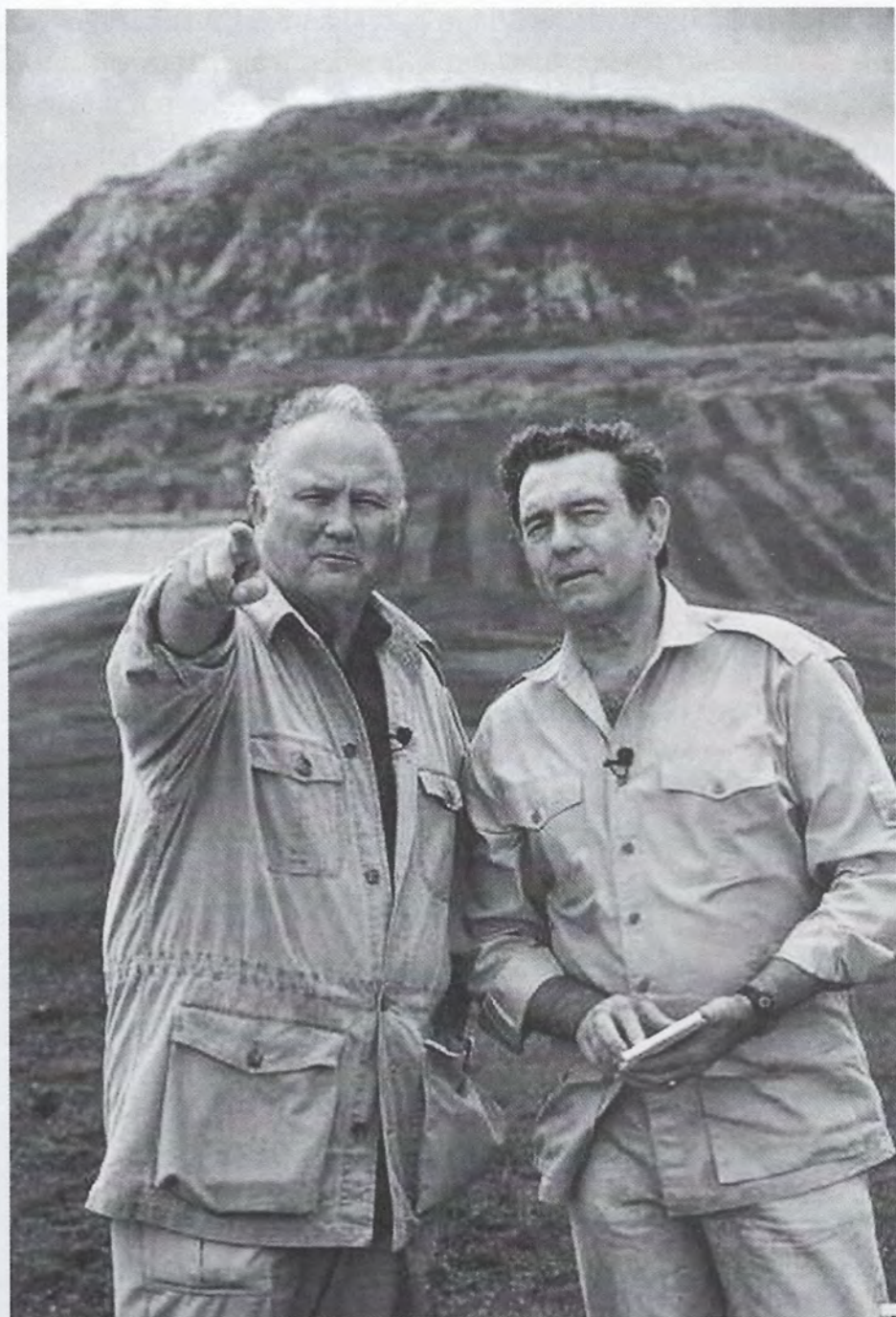
"The aircraft was on final approach to land at Lihue when, just before landing the plane applied power and went around. Everyone on the ground was nervous and looking to me for reassurance."

On a second attempt, just before landing, the aircraft applied power and went around again. "I immediately called the tower to find out what was going on. It was a quiet day in the tower so the air traffic controllers thought they would train a new guy on his first day."



Ferdinand Marcos planned a coup in the Philippines with the help of this plane.

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Former Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf and CBS newsman Dan Rather flew in one day after filming a special on Iwo Jima.

The shift change hadn't read the memo and didn't know who was aboard. "Please, just let the President's aircraft land." Anusewicz pleaded.

"Nike owned a jet and let Tiger Woods and Michael Jordan use it for trips to Hawaii. Maybe they discovered how comfortable and convenient it can be for they later bought their own jets," Anusewicz said.

When the Irish band U2 played at Aloha Stadium, many flew in to see it. Two planes landed one after the other and pulled up to their red carpets and waiting limos at the same time. "In one was Kid Rock and in the other was Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates. That's the kind of diversity we get here sometimes."

Actress Goldie Hawn, her boyfriend Kurt Russell and their kids came in unannounced once and needed a car rental. "I drove Ms. Hawn over to the agency," Anusewicz said. "She was very down to earth. As she signed the car rental agreement, she giggled and said she had signed her first name with a small 'g' since she was a child. She didn't know why.

Comedian Chevy Chase, who was famous for imitating people who fell, came into Maui while Anusewicz was working. "I don't know if he did it for my benefit, but he fell down the stairs as he got off the plane."

Anusewicz also worked with tobacco heiress Doris Duke, who had a home in Hawaii at Black Point called Shangri-La. She bought a Boeing 737 aircraft for her private use.

On one occasion, when she was older, Anusewicz asked if Duke needed assistance getting aboard her aircraft. "I was told someone would carry her up the boarding stairs. Upon her arrival, I found that person would be me. Nobody else wanted to do it.

"Duke didn't want me to see her like that so she asked me to close my eyes while I was carrying her. I told her to close her eyes, so she wouldn't see that my eyes were open."

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Duke befriended Imelda Marcos and allowed her to use her jet for mainland travel. In 1989, Imelda Marcos was formerly charged with Federal racketeering and fraud in the State of New York. She used the aircraft to get back and forth to court.

"One day, the court proceedings were questioning documents that were signed by her. She stated that it was not her signature on the document. Even though experts determined that it was, the defense argued that there was no witness to verify the signatures.

"On the next trip from Honolulu to New York the following week, while sitting in the facility lounge before departure we asked her if she would sign our VIP guestbook," Anusewicz recalled.

"She recognized signatures from Ronald Reagan, Prince Phillip and others so she felt honored to add her name. We opened the book to a fresh blank page. After she signed she boarded the plane for New York."

Immediately following, the FBI agent, who was in a Hemmeter Aviation uniform and who was holding the guest book, removed



In 1983, Ferdinand Marcos attempted to launch a counter-revolution in the Philippines from Hawaii, but it failed to get off the ground at Lagoon Drive.

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the page and boarded an aircraft to New York. They now had the signature witnessed by a reliable source. Even with the signature, Marcos was acquitted of all charges.

While Anusewicz was VP of Hemmeter Aviation on Maui in 1987, his boss, Bob Fishman, asked if he could cover the Honolulu operation during his National Guard duty in Japan.

"It's going to be a quiet week. Enjoy yourself," Fishman said to Anusewicz. It was anything but.

During that week, a drama would unfold at the terminal that Anusewicz discovered was part of an attempt to overthrow the government of the Philippines and reinstall Ferdinand Marcos in the presidency. However, it played out more like a comedy of errors.

A Boeing 707 arrived just before midnight that week. It was configured with a living room, dining room, bedrooms and galley for servicing its passengers.

Three passengers, including one later found to be an international arms dealer left in a limousine for Waikiki.

When he boarded the plane, Anusewicz found the flight crew in an argument that turned into a shoving match. The three could not come up with enough cash to pay for a cab to get to their hotel, so Anusewicz gave them the money.

The next day they wanted fuel but their credit card was rejected. Yelling, cursing and threats failed to move Anusewicz.

"I suggested we start with flight plans, which must come from an approved dispatch company." Where were they headed, Anusewicz asked? "Taiwan," they stated nervously.

Their previous supplier said they had not paid for the last flight plans and would not issue new ones until the bill was paid in advance. The crew debated what to do.

"Finally, on the third day, a late 1950's Chevy Impala in beautiful

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condition drove through the gate and a gentleman which I believed to be of Philippine decent carrying a brief case entered our facility. It was full of cash, lots of cash. He counted out hundred dollar bills sufficient for the flight plans."

The flight plans were issued but the crew was unhappy with them. What was wrong with the flight plans? "They stated that they wanted to get closer to Manila."

"Are you going to Manila," I asked? In unison, they said "No!"

Based on the plan to Taiwan, they were ready for fuel. Anusewicz told them they needed \$19,000 to pay for it up front. "They gave me the arms dealer's platinum AMEX card which was declined, leading to further arguments.

"They put the card holder, Sarkis Soghanalian, on the phone and he threatened to kill me if I didn't accept the card. I later found out his nickname was the 'Merchant of Death.' I suggested we might see the Chevy again."

Former Philippines dictator Ferdinand Marcos had fled the country and was living in Hawaii with his wife, Imelda. "I was aware of TV news showing trouble brewing in the Philippines against the government, and it was not difficult to see through their diabolical plans.



Private Jets can cost \$5,000 an hour to rent.

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"I told the president of the company about my suspicions and he notified the State Department, Philippine Consulate and FBI, who put undercover agents in our office.

"We later found out the plan was for a plumber to come to Marcos' home to install a hot water heater. Marcos would hide in the empty box, and would be carried to the plumber's truck and driven to the airport."

The State Department notified Marcos that he would not be permitted to leave Hawaii and return to the Philippines, and trying to do so would violate his agreement with them. The press got wind of it and descended on the terminal. It was on the news day and night. The jig was up and the crew decided to return to Miami.

"If the aircraft and crew had arrived with money, aeronautical charts, advanced flight plans to Manila, and acted in a more professional manner, they could have gotten Marcos to the Philippines," Anusewicz believes.

If this is how the military coup began, I can only guess how badly it would have ended, if Marcos actually got to the Philippines.



There are 137 islands in the Hawaiian chain. Which one was named for a Russian navigator?

Kailua resident Alan Lloyd told me that it's Kure Atoll, about 1300 miles west of Oahu.

It was discovered in 1823 by Captain Benjamin Morrell, Jr. aboard the American schooner "Tartar." In 1827, Captain Stanikowitch, on the Russian ship "Moller" named it for another captain, Kure, who he believed had first discovered the island.

Many shipwrecks happened on the island, and in 1885, King Kalakaua had a house built there with provisions.