

## Where Am I? by Jacob Vasconcellos



I was tasked with writing about the differences between living in Las Vegas and Honolulu. Having lived 33 years of my first 36 in Honolulu and the last 28 years in Las Vegas I feel qualified to do so.



The other day after a breakfast of Portuguese sausage & eggs with sweetbread, guava jam and Lion's coffee I drove to the airport and picked up a supplier at the Hawaiian Airlines Terminal. Traffic was murder. I then headed to the tourist corridor and pointed out all the hotels on both sides of the street. We will be having several meetings with the entertainment directors of these properties the next day.

I dropped my associate at the Hilton and continued to the office. After a plate lunch at L & L Barbecue of teri beef and chicken katsu I settled in my car for the 45 minute drive to a resort property on the water away from town.



On my way home I stopped at Longs Drugstore to pick up a filled prescription. I also bought some poi, kalua pig and lomi salmon for dinner the next evening. This evening my associate and our spouses will dine at Roy's, afterward catching a late SOS performance with drinks and call it a day. Wait a minute! Is this déjà vu, am in Honolulu or Las Vegas? As you can deduce, Las Vegas has embraced a very prominent slice of Honolulu life. With the exception of agriculture (which today is not the exception) Las Vegas' economy was built on tourism and Federal government spending much like Honolulu. So why wouldn't the 2 cities have a close relationship?

The migration of Honolulu residents in the late 80s and 90s created a need for the services and goods with which we are all familiar. Honolulu merchants saw the opportunities and successfully established operations in Las Vegas as have mainland businesses opened in Honolulu.

Many of us know the Hawaii-friendly attitude of the California Hotel in downtown Las Vegas. It is not often locals venture beyond the lights and gambling of downtown and the strip except maybe to a golf course. A few days spent in the normal activities of daily life in Las Vegas and locals will feel right at home. It might take getting used to the slot machines in all the super markets but all the Chinese food buffets serve great malassadas.



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

*Jacob & Priscilla Vasconcellos operate Casino Gifts & Games. Jacob is a refugee from Upper Palolo, his wife a refugee from Upper Aina Haina.*