Lucht
April 14, 2009
Report #4 Clouds

Clouds 2

Purpose:

Last cloud project I took my cloud picture of the Colorado sky. For this second cloud image, I wanted to capture another sky. I went to Oahu, Hawaii for spring break. In Hawaii they get these huge cumulus clouds that sit in the middle of the island. They are quite brilliant from a distance. The clouds are so billowy and big, it sometimes looked as if they were eating up the mountains. I had taken cloud images the whole week I was there, but I did not capture my masterpiece until the day I was leaving.

Photograph:

The photograph was taken on Tuesday, March 31, 2009 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The image was captured at the Honolulu International Airport through a window in the early morning. The picture is a morning picture, the sun was rising more north east of the island. The airport sits north of Honolulu on the south side of the island. The camera is pointing almost directly east, it may be a little northeast. The camera was hand held, no tripod.

The clouds in the photograph to me look similar to cumulus congestus clouds and stratocumulus clouds. The altitudes of these clouds range from 2,000 ft to 6,500 ft. The cumulus congestus can only reach an altitude of 3,000 ft. The clouds in the picture appear to be denser towards the land of the island, but as you look to the right, which is out on the ocean the sky seems to clear. The clouds seem to have a cauliflower look to them, sprouting up above the actual cloud. It looks like a bunch of cotton balls stacked up on one another. In The Cloud Spotter's Guide they describe a stratocumulus cloud, "These are often Cumulus- like in appearance and can be joined together into a continuous layer or have some gaps between" (Pinney, 93).

The Skew T plot closest to the photo time of day is given in Figure 1. Clouds are most likely forming about 2,000- 4,000 ft above the ground on this day. This Skew T plot is hard to read, because it is not for just the island of Oahu. I think each island has a

different reading and different weather, therefore this Skew T plot just gives us an idea of what the air temperature and dew point were. Air tends to grow colder with height, but when air grows warmer or stays fixed at a certain temperature it forms these types of clouds. As weak thermal currents rise as far as a temperature inversion it spreads sideways making these types of clouds form at an altitude between 2,000-6,000ft. Since it was taken in a very humid climate these types of clouds form more than in dry Colorado. It was early in the morning when the shot was taken therefore the temperature is still cool and has not warmed up yet. Oahu, Hawaii most likely experienced some precipitation the day this photograph was taken. As the day went on the clouds probably began to decimate as the temperature began to rise, but the clouds never fully disappeared to leave a completely clear sky.

The estimated size of view is right around 15 to 20 miles long. The image was shot with a digital Nikon Coolpix S6 with a 5.8 mm lens. The camera was set at an f-stop of 3.0 and the ISO speed was 50. The pixel dimensions of the original are X: 2816

by Y: 2112. After I upped the resolution on Photoshop the pixel dimensions became X: 5000 by Y: 3749. The image reveals clouds forming above and around the island of Oahu, Hawaii in the early morning. It is taken at the airport that explains the plane in the photograph. In the background is the skyline of Honolulu. I like the photograph because of the shape the clouds are making, also how you cannot see the sun, but you can see it glowing behind the clouds. The plane in the picture I thought was just very distracting at first, but the more times I see the photograph the more I like the plane. I like the reflection that comes off the plane. Something about capturing the sky is such a way and then the plane in the fore ground makes the whole picture tie together.