The Honolulu Police Department Headquarters is located on 801 Beretania Street, Honolulu Hawaii. It is in the Downtown area and is walking distance to the State Capitol, Honolulu Hale, and the State Library.

**The History**

On March of 1852, Marshal William C. Parker petitioned for a station for the police department. The police had been operating out of a fort that held incarcerated prisoners. It wasn't until March 29, 1852 when the Privy Council granted the police officers a headquarters. They moved into the first police court and became the first police station. But a riot later destroyed it.

The second station was located on the Makai side of King Street between Fort Street and Bethel. It later caught on fire and burned down in July of 1855. It was occupied for less than ten years before it became ashes.

The Third station was constructed and finished by the ending of 1855 and was located on the Makai side of King Street between Nuuanu and (what is now called) Smith street. The wooden building cost about $2,438 to build and was put to use for almost 24 years. The building had a belfry (a tower on a
building, in which a bell or bells are hung) and rang at curfew time (9:30 pm and 10:30 pm). It was also used to alert the public in case of a fire. In the past the Bethel Church rang the bell; the duty was now given to the police, a sign of equality between church and Government. There are no pictures of this Police Department.

The Fourth Station opened its doors in 1879 and was constructed out of heavy timbers. It was two stories and 30 feet by 40 feet. The belfry was nine and a half feet taller than the old one, which elevated the building above the neighboring structures in the area. Unfortunately, it was later burned down by the Chinatown fire of April 18, 1886.

The fifth station was opened on July 31, 1886 and conformed to the requirements of an 1882 act (it restricted the repair and construction of buildings in the area to those of fireproof materials). The two-story stucco over brick building was of the Renaissance Revival style.

The sixth building was built in 1931 and was (and still) located at the corner of Bethel Street and Merchant Street. The Spanish Colonial revival style building cost about $253,000 and was designed by Louis Davis. The police began to complain about the size being too small. An addition to the building was up and running in 1939, but the size still did not meet their needs.
So in 1959, the city allowed moneys to purchase the Sears Roebucks store located on Beretania and Young Street. It was recognized for its “ultra simple design”. The police occupied the building from 1961-1992. The series “Hawaiian Eye” was filmed in front of the Young Street entrance.

Presently, the Honolulu Police Department Headquarters resides on Beretania and Alapai Street. It is built over the former bus barn (Slide). Sam Chang and associates designed it to “emphasize the regulatory aspects of the department.” The building is a “visual image not only of the police department, but beyond it as an image of government and law itself”.

After three and a half years of construction, the building opened its doors on October 16, 1992. It was Mayor Frank Fasi who presented the Chief of Police Michael Nakamura (who retired on December 30, 1997) with the key to the building.

**The Building**

The six level building (four levels are above street level and two are beneath street level, basement) and parking garage (which holds 550 stalls) was designed after the Spanish architecture of the early 1900s which design is similar to Honolulu Hale building. The total cost was around $93,049,240!
There is a lawn area located next to the building above the parking garage. It has tall trees and grass, which provide shade and a place to relax.

The back area is the loading zone and the release area.

The total land is 8.7 acres (it is part of the city's transportation center and city hall annex office complex), but the building area is 255,000 gross square feet.

The construction began on April 17, 1989 and the building opened on October 16, 1992.

The building is Spanish Colonial style because it has a low-pitched roof (from a certain angle, but it extends upward for the helipad. It could resemble a campanario, a feature of some Spanish Colonial homes, except there is no bell) and has decorative ornaments on the outside (the dark urns). It has a horizontal massing with rectangular windows (some of the windows are immediately next to each other, but most are 8/8 pane windows that have the appearance of casement windows).

**The Six-Levels**

The outside of level one welcomes visitors with a metal detector and information desk. The records and Identification and the Juvenile Crime Prevention Centers are seen from the street side. The finance department,
Research and Development, and the Honolulu Police Department Museum (which gives tours to the public Monday through Friday, except holidays) are also located on the first floor, but hidden inside the building away from public access.

The second level is blocked from the public. It consists of the Criminal Investigation unit, Polygraph area, Lunchroom, and a courtyard (which is an open area that is designed to utilize the sunlight and the trade winds. It is also where most ceremonies take place).

The third floor is home to the most important part of HPD. It is the Dispatch and Communication; this (the 911 call center) is where it services the entire island and is a 24-hour operation. The third floor also has the Intelligence and Enforcement area, Internal affairs, and Psychologist unit.

The fourth level is dedicated to the office of the Chief of police. But it also is the location for administration duties.

The rooftop is a Helipad.

The other two floors are below ground. Basement one is the adult and juvenile holding are where booking, fingerprinting, interrogation and photography takes place. But the holding, processing, booking areas for juveniles and adults are separated. The patrol divisions: 1 (Central Oahu), 6 (Waikiki), 7 (East Honolulu), and traffic also can be found on this level.
Basement two is the location for the Crime Labs. It is a compartmentalized into separate labs that was helped designed by the Federal Bureau Investigation forensic labs in Washington D.C. Some labs include: DNA Profiling, firearms testing, documents examination, and fingerprint analysis.

**Conclusion**

Before I started to research the Honolulu Police Department Headquarters, I thought it was just a renovation. The first I’ve seen of it was on “Dog: the Bounty Hunter” and it was only the back release area. I didn’t realize how much I passed by the building. I visited the building on two separate occasions, I took pictures the first time and the second time I got to go inside and see the museum. I was amazed at all the memorabilia they had in a tiny little room. Everyone was really friendly; three individuals helped me by answering questions and I was even offered a tour of the building (but the guy seemed like he didn’t want to do it, so I refused). I wish I could have gone up to see the other floors and the helipad, but I didn’t want to inconvenience anyone or get in the way.

This is my first architecture experience. It is a wonderful idea to research the history and recognize the features of old buildings. I think in many ways
References:

Honolulu Advertiser:
• 9/06/92 A3
• 8/27/93 A4

Honolulu Star-bulletin:
• 11/16/03 (travel)

Honolulu Police Department Website: http://honolulupd.org
The Legacy of Kapu/Kanawai (1750-2000)

City and County Annual report (1992)
Honolulu Police Department
(pg 328 & 329)