CENSUS COLLECTION
1840 - 1896

INTRODUCTION

The records in the Census Collection 1840-1896 were drawn from records of the Island Governors and Department of Public Instruction and were assembled into the present collection based on subject matter content. Included are early tax officer records, census returns, tables and statistical notes, and a few birth, death and marriage statistics. The collection totals approximately 3.25 linear feet, including one volume.

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

The earliest recorded population estimates of the Hawaiian Islands were made by Captain Cook and members of his expeditions, 1778-1779. The American Protestant missionaries conducted a population estimate in 1823, followed by actual census counts of the major islands in 1831-32 and 1835-36. They also undertook various geographically limited counts in the 1830's and 1840's.

In 1840 the tax officers were directed to conduct population counts as part of their regular duties. Originally appointed by the King or Premier, later by the Island Governors, and under the general supervision of the Governors, the tax officers were to:

...enumerate the people, male and female, together with the children who pay the yearly tax; and make a separate enumeration of the old men and women and those children who do not pay taxes--let them take a yearly account of the deaths and births, by which it may be ascertained whether the people of the kingdom are really diminishing in numbers or not, and by that means the amount of taxes can be known.
An Act to Regulate the Taxes, enacted June 6, 1839, signed by Kamehameha III November 9, 1840.

In 1846 responsibility for population count shifted to the Department of Public Instruction. This new law went beyond taxation in its scope, charging the Minister of Public Instruction:

...the census so to be taken shall comprise in distinct columns, the inhabitants in each district, between such ages as the privy council shall direct, specifying also the proportional number of each sex, and shall, as far as
practicable, indicate their avocations and such other particulars as the privy council shall direct, including an annual bill of mortality, and of the natural increase." Second Act of Kamehameha III, An Act to Organize the Executive Departments of the Hawaiian Islands, 1846.

The early censuses were under the direction of the Minister of Public Instruction and were conducted primarily by school inspectors and school teachers with the guidance and assistance of the American missionaries. From 1860 direction was placed under a Superintendent of the Census within the Department of Public Instruction, the Inspector General of Schools or the President of the Board of Education.

In all, the Hawaiian government conducted twelve official censuses. The Department first made efforts to take the census in 1847, 1848 and 1849. However, it was not until 1850 that an officially accepted count was finally made. This was followed by government censuses in 1853, 1860, 1866, 1872, 1878, 1884, 1890 and 1896.

With territorial status, jurisdiction shifted to the United States government and the Islands became part of the U.S. census from 1900 on.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Only a limited number of census returns have survived from the nineteenth century. They are available only for the years 1866, 1878, 1890, and 1896, and no one census is wholly complete.

The Archives collection also includes a few examples of tax office records dating from 1840. These records include name lists and statistical reports of the population listed by taxable categories.

SEE ALSO the following references in the Archives catalogues, card indexes and finding aid collections:

- Government Publications card index:
  - Department of Public Instruction-Annual Reports
  - Census, Superintendent - Reports
CENSUS COLLECTION

Library Catalog:
Population Demographics

Subject Index:
Census
Population
Birth Statistics

Government Records finding aids collection:
Department of Education
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

193 TAX OFFICER RECORDS. 1840-1843; 1850; 1854. 0.75 lin. inch.
Arranged chronologically.
The earliest record in the census collection is a tax officer's account book to lands and people of the Wai'ialua, Oahu area, 1840-1842. Includes lists of names. Other name lists are found in Poalua Books (Tuesday Tax) or School Tax books for N. Hilo, 1850 and Maui, Honuaauula area, 1854. The rest of these records, covering Oahu for 1843, are statistical reports or tables showing totals for the island and districts by various taxable or exempt categories, such as male, female, parents with three or more children, elderly and infirm, and even the number of cats and dogs. Also available on microfilm. Use microfilm no. 63 (MFL 63), Census Records (Misc.)

194 CENSUS RETURNS. 1866; 1878; 1890; 1896. 2.98 lin. ft.
Arranged chronologically, then subdivided geographically by island, district and place.
Contains individual enumeration sheets for households, plantations and schools, which list all persons staying on the premises on a designated night. The information varies in detail from census to census but the basic categories include: sex, age, marital status, citizenship/nationality, race, occupation, and ownership of livestock and real property. In addition to information given on each individual, family relationships may often be deduced from these returns.

For the place names covered by each census, see Appendix.

CENSUS OF 1866. 3 lin. inches.
Primarily Lahaina district, Maui; a few sheets for Kahoolawe; and one for the Hilo-Paukaa area on Hawaii. Individual categories are: name; sex; approximate age; marital status; ownership of land (kuleana); country of birth, foreign parentage or half-caste; number of cattle, sheep and goats; and occupation or profession. The census also contains returns for 28 ships in port. Also available on microfilm. Use microfilm no. 64 (MFL 64), Census of 1866.
SERIES 194: CENSUS RETURNS

CENSUS OF 1878. 7 lin. inches.
Lahaina district, Maui; Hamakua district, Hawaii; and Ewa, Waianae and Waialua districts, Oahu. Individual categories are: name; sex; approximate age; marital status; nationality, i.e. native, half-caste, Chinese, Hawaiian born to foreigners, American, German, French, Portuguese or other; occupation, limited to mechanic, agriculturist, plantation laborer or other; and ownership of land (kuleana). Also available on microfilm. Use microfilm no. 65 (MFL 65), Census of 1878 & 1895.

CENSUS OF 1890. 2 lin. ft.
Hamakua, Hilo, North Kohala and to a more limited extent, South Kohala, South Kona and Puna, Hawaii; small areas of Kauai; parts of Hana and Lahaina on Maui; some returns from Molokai and Lanai; and a few returns from Koolaupoko, Waialua and Waianae, Oahu. Individual categories are: name; actual age; sex; marital status; native, half-caste or Hawaiian born to foreigners; country where born; business or occupation; mother of how many children/how many living; registered voter; whether literate, attending school, name of school and teacher; ownership of land and its assessed value. Also available on microfilm. Use microfilms no. 66 (MFL 66), Census of 1890.

CENSUS OF 1896. 1.75 lin. inch.
Limited to a few streets in the Honolulu area of Oahu. Individual categories are: name; actual age; sex; marital status; Hawaiian, part Hawaiian or Hawaiian born to foreigners; length of residence; nationality of father; father's citizenship; business or occupation; mother of how many children/how many living; registered voter; literacy in English, Hawaiian, other languages; whether attend government or private school; religion - Protestant, Catholic, Mormon; ownership of land, house; number of cattle, horses, mules, donkey, oxen, sheep, pigs, goats and milk cows. Also available on microfilm. Use microfilms no. 62 (MFL 62), 1895 Census Report; Census of 1896, and Census 1896 (continued).
195 CENSUS TABLES AND STATISTICAL REPORTS. n.d.; 1846; 1847; 1849-1853; 1860; 1861; 1866; 1872; 1878; 1890. 9 lin. inches.
   Arranged chronologically.
   Statistical summaries and tables including district summaries, tables on foreigners in various areas, summaries of most of the official censuses since 1853, and tables of comparison between censuses. Also a few letters with statistical reports. Also available on microfilm. Use microfilm no. 63 (MFL 63), Census Records (Misc.).

196 ENUMERATOR RECORDS. n.d., 1890-ca. 1896. 1.4 lin. inch, 1 volume.
   Arranged by type of record: daily memoranda book followed by enumerators' notebooks and correction sheets.
   Contains a book of daily memoranda relating to the administration of the Census of 1890 by the General Superintendent of the Census, 3 enumerators' pocket notebooks (ca. 1890-1896), and undated notes relating to the correction of certain census schedule sheets.
   The daily memoranda book contains a record of significant events in the administration of the Census of 1890, a ledger relating to the purchase of supplies, and the names of enumerators by location. The enumerators' notebooks are for Honolulu ca. 1890-1896. They tally the names of a limited number of persons resident in Honolulu with the sheet number of the census schedule on which their names appeared. The notebooks also show street names for the residents. The correction sheets are administrative notes relating to the correction of certain census schedules from several locations. They are undated. The enumerators' notebooks and the correction sheets are available on microfilm. Use microfilm no. 63 (MFL 63), Census Records (Misc.).

197 BIRTH, DEATH AND MARRIAGE STATISTICS. n.d.; 1849-1855.
   0.25 lin. inch.
   Arranged chronologically. Primarily statistical. Reports of numbers of births, deaths and sometimes marriages for various districts, but mostly for Lahaina, Maui. Includes an 1852 table for all islands compiled from quarterly school reports. Additional records may be found in the Archives Marriage Records and in the records of the Department of Public Instruction. Also available on microfilm. Use microfilm no. 63 (MFL 63), Census Records (Misc.).
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**CENSUS RETURNS**

1866 Census
- Hawaii-Hilo
- Maui-Lahaina
  - Kahoolawe-Ilikahi
  - Kamani-Mokuhinia
  - Olowalu-Paunau
  - Polaiki-Puunau
  - Ukumehame-Waiokama

1878 Census
- Hawaii-Hamakua (7 folders)
- Maui-Lahaina
  - Kahakuloa-Ukumehame
- Maui-Lahaina
  - Lahaina
- Oahu-Ewa and Waianae (7 folders)
- Oahu-Waianae (3 folders)

1890 Census
- Island Unknown
- Hawaii-Hamakua #1-3
- Hawaii-Hamakua #4-7a
- Hawaii-Hamakua #7b-11
- Hawaii-Hamakua #12-15
  - Hilo #1a, 1b [pt.1]
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<td>Hawaii-Hilo #3a, 3b, 4-5</td>
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<td>Hawaii-Hilo [Laupahoehoe], #7a Hawaii-No. Kohala #1(2)-#5(2)</td>
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<td>Hawaii-No. Kohala #5(2c)-8(5) So. Kohala #1-3 So. Kona Puna #1-2</td>
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<td>Kauai-Kawaihau Koloa #1a &amp; 4</td>
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<td>Kauai-Waimea Maui-Hana #5 &amp; 6b</td>
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<td>Maui-Lahaina &amp; Lanai (#5), Makawao, Wailuku #3-4c</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<td>Niihau Oahu-Koolaupoko #4a &amp; 4b Waialua #1-2, 4</td>
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CENSUS RETURNS
1896 Census
22 Oahu-Honolulu Punchbowl St-Emma St (inc. Emma Sq)

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List of Place Names
and Number of Pages of the Returns Thereof
in the Censuses of 1866, 1878 and 1890
(Series 194)

SERIES 194: CENSUS RETURNS

BOX CENSUS

CENSUS OF 1866

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CENSUS COLLECTION

BOX CENSUS

CENSUS OF 1866

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Appendix: List of Place Names in the Censuses

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CENSUS OF 1878

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7) Lahaina p. Helu 1-62

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Ewa and Waianae Districts

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   Ewa p.1-5 (summaries)

2) Ewa District
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   Aiea p.12-23
   Halawa p.24-32
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3) Ewa District
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4) Ewa District
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   Manana p.22-38
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6) Ewa District
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Appendix: List of Place Names in the Censuses

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CENSUS OF 1878

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- **Waianae District**
  
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- **Waialua District**
  
  - Summary (torn) p.1
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**Hawaii:** 5 Districts

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CENSUS OF 1890

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4) Paauilo p.1-3
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1b) (pt.1) Pihhonua - Puueo p.1-18

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) Papaikou - Onomea p.1-15

) Onomea p.2-27

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5(2c) Kapaua - Puehuehu p.1-22

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Kohala, South: Subdivisions 1-3

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2) Kawaihae Kai - Puako p.1-10

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Kona, South: 1 unnumbered subdivision

) Kaohe p.1-16

Puna: Subdivision 1-2?

1) Pohoiki - Panau p.1-25

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BOX CENSUS

CENSUS OF 1890
Hawaii

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Kawaihau: Subdivisions 3, 4, 7, & unnumbered
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4) Kapaa p.1-19
7) Kealia - Kapaa p.1-19

Koloa: Subdivisions 1-4 and unnumbered
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2) Lihue p.1-4
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2) Waimea, Makaweli, etc., p.1-49
3) Waimea - Kekaha p.1-25
3) Kekaha p.1-6
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Lanai: See Maui: Lahaina and Lanai
Appendix: List of Place Names in the Censuses

CENSUS OF 1890

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5a) Wailau - Kalaupapa p.1-5, 7-52
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CENSUS COLLECTION

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CENSUS OF 1890

Oahu

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2) Kamananui p.1-31
4) Waimea p.1-3

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Summary sheet p.1

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CENSUS OF 1896

Oahu: Honolulu area (by street name)
Punchbowl Street: 31 sheets
Likeliike Street: 3 sheets
Campbell's Lane: 2 sheets
Miller Street: 21 sheets
Palace Walk: 12 sheets
Richard Street: 2 sheets
King Street (#510): 1 sheet
Beretania Street: 32 sheets
Emma Street (inc. Emma Sq.): 83 sheets

194-23
Emma Street (St. Andrews Priory):
4 sheets
Fort Street: 51 sheets
School Street: 40 sheets
Nuuanu Avenue: 17 sheets
Nuuanu Avenue (Iolani College): 2 sheets
Judd Street: 7 sheets
Liliha Street: 13 sheets
Kuakini Street: 27 sheets
Niupapa area - street not known: 4 sheets
Waikahalulu area - street not known: 4 sheets

Revised by J. Nakamatsu, 6/1992
Revised by G. White, 6/2000

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