

VITAL STATISTICS COLLECTION
1826-1929

SERIES DESCRIPTION

223 RECORDS OF VITAL STATISTICS. 1826-1929. 30 cubic feet.

Arrangement is by island and designated by letters: "H" for Hawaii, "K" for Kauai, "M" for Maui, "Mo" for Molokai, "N" for Niihau, and "O" for Oahu. Each file has a number and the records are loosely chronological.

There are very few records of births (1.5 linear inches) in the Vital Statistics Collection. They are arranged by island and then roughly chronologically and consist of listings submitted by school teachers who kept registers of births to be submitted to the Department of Public Instruction. Records before 1864 are basically statistical. A few baptismal records are included: O-15, (Kawailoa area, undated and unindexed); O-30 and O-31 (Bethel Union Church, Honolulu, 1843-1887). Indexes are available by the child's name and by the parents' names and records contain minimally the name of the child, district, and birth date. Race or color was not a requirement on certificates of birth until 1937. Some reports also show sex, place of birth and parents' names. Hawaii covers 1853-1858, 1860-1861, 1869-1897, 1900; Kauai - 1856-1857; Maui - 1860-1864, 1899; Niihau - 1853, 1855-1856; and Oahu - 1852-1856, 1858-1860, 1863-1873. These records are available on microfilm. Use microfilm no. 53 (MFL 53), Vital Statistics Collection for H-5, H-6, H-9, H-12 and H-13 and microfilm no. 69 (MFL 69), Vital Statistics Collection for K-4, K-8, M-6, M-8, M-10, N-3, N-5, O-6/7, O-8/9, O-13a, O-15 and O-21.

There are very few records of deaths (1.25 linear inches). They are arranged by island and then roughly chronologically and consist of listings submitted by school teachers who kept registers of deaths to be submitted to the Department of Public Instruction before 1896 and by agents to the Department of Health after 1896. Records before 1864 are basically statistical. Indexes are available by individual's name for all islands except Kauai. Death records minimally show the name, date of death, and district. Some reports also show sex, residence, place of birth and cause of death. Nationality was a requirement on death records as early as 1878. Hawaii covers 1853-1898; Kauai - 1852, 1856, 1857; Maui - 1860-1864, 1897-1899; Niihau - 1853, 1855-1856; and Oahu - 1852-1856, 1858-1860, 1863-1873. These records are available on microfilm. Use microfilm no. 53 (MFL 53), Vital Statistics Collection for H-7 to H-9, H-12 and H-13 and microfilm no. 69 (MFL 69), Vital Statistics Collection for K-4 to K-6, K-8, M-7, M-8, M-10, N-4, N-5, O-6/7, O-8/9, O-13a and O-21.

The majority of records are of marriages (368.45 linear inches) which are arranged by island and then roughly chronologically. The records, which are not complete, include the records from 1) marriage license agents who issued licenses to marry, 2) ministers who conducted the ceremonies, 3) school agents who were required to file reports and 4) the Territorial Treasurer.

Records of the marriage license agents include 1) reports of licenses granted, 2) marriage licenses, and 3) records of issue of license to marry. **Reports of licenses granted** are sparse and

span 1841 to 1893. These were required to be sent to the Department of the Interior or to the Department of Public Instruction. The information includes names of bride and groom, date of license and may include residence. **Marriage licenses** span 1837 to 1929 and are also sparse. The earliest records show names, date, district and sometimes place of residence. These may be in Hawaiian and called Palapala Mare or Palapala ae e Mare. Licenses to Marry from the late 1800's show names, nationality, age, previous marital status and residence. About 1928 another version added birthplace and length of residency of the bride and groom, race and birthplace of parents. **Records of issue of license to marry** cover 1896-1929 and show date of license, names and residence of the bride and groom, and previous marital status. The report of issue of license to marry shows names, age, nationality and residence of the bride and groom, nationality and residence of parents, place and date of marriage. The form was later amended to add birthplace and length of residence for bride and groom and birthplace of parents. Parents' permission to marry for minors are sometimes included but only have name of minor, names of parents, and date of consent. These have not been indexed but usually follow the records of issue of license to marry or record of marriage for that marriage.

Records from the clergy include: 1) marriage record books, 2) reports of marriage, 3) records of marriage, 4) marriage record stubs, and 5) marriage certificates. **Marriage record books** were kept by individual ministers or churches recording information on the ceremonies performed. Basic information includes names of bride and groom, date of marriage, and often place of residence. **Reports of marriage** were done yearly and sent to the Department of Interior or the Department of Public Instruction. The bride and groom are listed besides the date of marriage and sometimes residence. **Records of marriage** were printed forms filled out by the minister to be sent to the registrar. The earlier forms show names, age, nationality and residence of the bride and groom; names, nationality and residence of their parents, and place and date of ceremony. About 1916 a Territorial form added previous marital status, birthplace of the bride and groom, and length of residency in the Territory for the couple. Hongwanji Mission had their own form for records of marriage with the same information. **Marriage record stubs** record information from the certificates such as date and place of marriage, names of bride and groom, witnesses and minister's names. **Marriage certificates** include names of bride and groom, residence, date of marriage and name of minister.

Records of the School Agent include **Reports of Marriages** required to be sent in by schoolteachers to the Department of Public Instruction. The lists show names, dates and sometimes residence.

Records of the Territorial Treasurer include **applications for licenses to perform marriages** (1916-1929). These applications include full name of licensee, age, place of birth, nationality, citizenship, period of residence in Hawaii, if ordained minister, church denomination and ordination date, place of residence, and whether applicant can read and write the English language. Since certificates from one or more reputable persons attesting to the applicant's character were required, some letters of recommendation are also included especially from the head of the church. The majority of the applicants are Caucasians and Japanese. Japanese applications were sometimes rejected because the applicants' proficiency in the English language was questioned especially if they were new arrivals in Hawaii. These records are not indexed but

they are arranged alphabetically by the name of the applicant. There are very few Hawaiian applicants and the majority of them appear under the letter "K". Most of the applicants are clergymen with some being district magistrates. **License stubs of persons authorized to perform marriages** have only the name of the licensee, residence, date of license, date of delivery and to whom delivered.

Hawaii covers 1832-1900; Kauai, 1826-1894; Maui, 1843-1907; Molokai, 1850-1892; Niihau, 1853-1865; and Oahu, 1832-1895.

These records are available on microfilm. Use microfilm no. 53 (MFL 53), Vital Statistics Collection for H-12 to H-17 and microfilm no. 69 (MFL 69), Vital Statistics Collection for H-18 to H-32, H-34, K-6, K-8 to K-15, M-8, M-10, M-11, M-14 to M-17, M-45, Mo-6 to Mo-9, N-1/2, N-5, N-6, O-13a, O-14, O-16 to O-24, O-26 to O-31, O-33, and O-36 to O-42.

SEE ALSO:

Vital Statistics Index: Birth, Marriages & Obituaries by name

Microforms: Marriage Certificates by Circuits:

First (Oahu) - 1900-1949 (MFL 70)

Third (Hawaii) - 1905-1950 (MFL 71)

Fifth (Kauai) - 1905-1949 (MFL 72)

Registers of St. Andrews Cathedral,
Vols. 1-10, 1862-1910 (MFL 44)

Marriage Index: Second Circuit (Maui) - 1905-1949

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