

BANANA CLAIMS COMMISSION - 1913

During the decade between 1899 and 1909 the Territory suffered two bubonic plagues. Efforts to improve sanitation and enforce medical controls over the community were hampered by public indignation over the 1900 burning of China Town. In 1911, the Board of Health, aided by local doctors and community groups, sought and obtained the passage of legislation designed to deal with the situation. Act 28 authorized the appointment of the Sanitary Commission of Honolulu and appropriated money for its expenses; Act 132 amended previous laws toward broadening and strengthening the powers of the Board of Health. The incidence of a yellow fever epidemic brought action by the Board through the Commission. The population of infected areas was evacuated and given shelter; open buildings and banana trees were destroyed; remaining buildings were sealed and the entire area fumigated. So many claims arose from this action that in 1913 the Legislature created a Commission by Act 37 for the "ascertainment, adjudication and payment of claims by persons whose property was destroyed to prevent the spread of yellow fever." It appointed as Commissioners: William T. Rawlins, Chairman; Frank F. Fernandez and Manley Hopkins. Seven hundred and ninety-four claims were filed during the designated period from June 16, 1913 to July 16, 1913.

These records consist of the ledger of claims filed before the Commission and a file folder containing representative samples of legal documents, correspondence between claimants and Commission, a list of claimants and awards granted, and a bound and indexed ledger of judgments.

BANANA CLAIMS COMMISSION - 1913

COM3 vol. 1

Ledger of claims filed before Commission.

Box COM3-1

File folder:

Letter of transmittal and list of claims made between 1911 and 1913.
Sample letter sent to claimant before time period established by the
Commission.

Affidavits of publication in English, Hawaiian, Japanese, and Spanish.
Correspondence between W. F. Drake of Claims Commission and J. S. B.
Pratt, President of Board of Health, in re actions taken and build-
ings and trees demolished.

Correspondence and claims in re late filing.

Claims made by Tung Mow Wai Company preceding appointment of Commission.
Subpoena served on J. S. B. Pratt, President of Board of Health, in re
claim of Tung Mow Wai Company.

Claim and judgement awarded Tung Mow Wai Company.

Representative correspondence between claimants and Commission.

Representative claims made in 1911/12.

Representative claims and judgements.

Affidavits by witnesses and investigators.

Serial listing of claims filed before Commission.

Serial listing of judgements awarded by Commission.

Indexed Ledger of Judgements awarded by the Commission.