

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION OF THE
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
1937 - 1939

Provisions for the establishment of county governments were made by the Territorial Legislature in 1905; and in 1907 the island of Oahu was incorporated in the City and County of Honolulu. Subsequent legislative sessions made amendments affecting the operation of county government. In 1917 a bill to establish a charter revision commission for the city and county of Honolulu was passed by the legislature, but was vetoed by the governor.

During the Nineteenth Regular Session of the Territorial Legislature in 1937, Act 218 was enacted which authorized the creation of a charter revision commission for the city and county of Honolulu. The 15-member commission was charged with making a "study and analysis of the existing governmental structure of the city and county of Honolulu for the purpose of securing such factual data as will enable it to draft, and the commission is hereby directed to draft a proposed new charter, adapted to the requirements of such city and county and designed to provide for the people of such city and county a more efficient and economical form of government."

Mayor George F. Wright appointed former governor Lawrence M. Judd as chairman of the commission. The commission held 47 meetings between November, 1937 and February, 1939, twelve of which were designated as public hearings. They heard testimony from members of the Board of Supervisors, department heads of the city and county of Honolulu, members of the territorial legislature, and from civic organizations. The terms of office of the commissioners expired with the convening of the Twentieth Regular Session of the legislature in 1939, during which the commission submitted a proposed charter. After extensive amendment by the legislature, the proposal was passed as Act 242.

These records consist mainly of minutes and correspondence filed in folders. These include:

C&C1-5
and
C&C1-6

Minutes of meetings - 11/5/37 - 2/9/39
Notices of meetings
Memorandum to the commissioners
Copies of the Act creating the commission
Proposed legislation to the legislature (mimeographed)
Drafts of proposed legislation (secretary's file)
Miscellaneous clippings and booklets re charter
Correspondence - miscellaneous, out-going (11/1/37 - 2/17/39)
Correspondence - miscellaneous, in-coming (11/1/37 - 2/6/39)
Letters to members of the commission
Letters from department heads
Correspondence of F. E. Midkiff, chairman of sub-committee on public hearings
Correspondence with Hewitt and Tavares and George Kimball
Correspondence with Mayor and Board of Supervisors

Letters from Mayor-Council cities

Letters from City Manager cities

Copies of resolutions of Committee on Finance (Board of Supervisors)

List of material loaned to the commission

Bibliography

Reports from the City Planning Commission

C&C1 vol 1 Newspaper clippings (10/20/37-2/7/30)

See also: Subject Index: Charter Revision Commission
City and County Charter