

COMPILATION COMMISSION  
REVISED LAWS OF HAWAII 1955

Since 1903, a commission has been authorized every 10 years to compile the laws of the Territory of Hawaii. In keeping with this, the 1953 Legislature passed Act 179, which called for a commission of 3 attorneys who have resided in Hawaii for a minimum of 3 years and who have been admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of Hawaii, to compile all the statute laws of the Territory as they would exist after the adjournment of the 1953 session. The specific powers and duties of the commission were further elaborated in the different sections of the Act. It included \$15,000 for the commissioners and \$26,500 for technical, clerical and miscellaneous expenses. The Compilation Commission was also authorized and empowered to call upon the Legislative Reference Bureau for any assistance and to compensate them for their aid.

Governor Samuel Wilder King appointed attorneys Herbert Y. C. Choy, Samuel P. King and Masaji Marumoto, the latter as chairman, to the commission. Their first meeting was held on July 29, 1953, with Norman Meller of the Legislative Reference Bureau and Deputy Attorney General Hidehiko Uyenoyama (who was assigned by the Attorney General to work with the commission) as guests. These gentlemen worked with the commission during the preliminary period when decisions involving procedure and format were made.

The Revised Laws of Hawaii 1945, served as the basis of the commission's work and was combined with the statutes of later sessions by the Legislative Reference Bureau staff. This preliminary draft of revised laws was discussed, reviewed and amended at commission meetings. As different sections were completed, they were sent to various agencies and offices for examination with a request for comments and suggestions. Upon return, they were again discussed and gone over. A mimeographed draft was then prepared with members doing the final editing. The finished copy was presented along with the commission's report, dated February 16, 1955, to Governor King and Territorial legislators. Appended to it were drafts of bills intended to carry out the recommendations of the Compilation Commission. However, the 1955 Legislature failed to pass any act concerning these revised laws.

At the end of the 1955 Legislative Session, the commission incorporated that session's laws into the revised laws which the Legislature had filed to act upon and sent the finished manuscript to the mainland firm of Bancroft-Whitney Company for indexing.

Two years later, the commission sent a second report, dated February 20, 1957, to the Governor and members of the 1957 Legislature, which then passed Act 2 on March 18, 1957. It provided for the enactment, printing and binding of the Revised Laws of Hawaii 1955 and gave the commission the responsibility of supervising and attending to the proofreading, printing and binding, and inclusion of prefix, annotations, footnotes, appendices, tables and indices. Sections 11 and 12 of Act 2 called for the continuance of the Compilation Commission until the 3-volume edition was printed and bound and appropriated \$149,500 for the purpose of carrying out its work.

On May 6, 1957, a contract was signed between the Territory of Hawaii and Filmer Brothers Press of San Francisco which had submitted the only bid for printing the Revised Laws of Hawaii 1955. A sample set of the Revised Laws was examined and approved by members of the Compilation Commission on March 10, 1958. Shipments of the finished volumes were received in March and April of that year. With that, the Commission was able to disband.

Materials regarding the commission include its correspondence and portions of the Revised Laws of Hawaii 1955.

Correspondence - July 1953-1958 (6 folders)

Minutes, 1953-1958

Certificate and Foreword

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Miscellaneous

Official copy of RLH 1955, (~~2 volumes~~)  
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