#### 1968 CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

# INTRODUCTION

The records of the 1968 Constitutional Convention consist of records from the Office of the Secretary and from subject committees. Included are journals, orders of business, debates in the Committee of the Whole, delegate and committee proposals, committee reports, communications, roll call, and record cards. Committee records include minutes, agenda, testimonies, correspondence, digests of proposals and scrapbooks. These records total approximately 7.0 linear feet.

## AGENCY HISTORY

Act 222, Session Laws of Hawaii, 1967 was enacted by the legislature to provide for a constitutional convention. It provided for the election of the delegates, their compensation, submission of the convention's work and other pre-convention preparations. In accordance with Act 222 and pursuant to a proclamation issued by the Governor, 82 delegates to the 1968 Constitutional Convention were elected in a special election held June 1, 1968. 63 delegates were elected from Oahu and 19 from the neighbor islands.

The second constitutional convention since annexation by the United States was called to order July 15, 1968 in the McKinley High School Auditorium by Delegate Jack K. Suwa, First Representative District who acted as temporary chairman. The convention officers were: President, Hebden Porteus, Fifteenth District; Secretary, Tadao Beppu, Sixteenth District; and Assistant Secretary, Peter C. Lewis, Twelfth District. Five vice-presidents were also named: Jack K. Suwa, First District; William E. Fernandes, Eighteenth District; Ed C. Bryan, Tenth District; Robert D. Y. Chang, Eighth District; and Kazuo Kage, Seventh District. These officers were elected by affirmative vote by a majority of the membership.

l2 major subject committees were established as well as two housekeeping or administrative committees. These subject committees were: l) Bill of Rights, Suffrage and Elections; 2) Legislative Powers and Functions; 3) Legislative Apportionment and Districting; 4) Executive; 5) Judiciary; 6) Taxation and Finance; 7) Local Government; 8) Public Health, Education and Welfare; 9) Agriculture, Conservation and Land and Hawaiian Homes; l0) Revision, Amendment and Other Provisions; ll) Style; and l2) Submission and Information. The housekeeping committees were l) Accounts and Printing and 2) Rules.

Each Constitutional Convention delegate could introduce proposals to amend the constitution. The Convention President referred each delegate proposal to a standing committee which studied the proposals, received expert testimony and held public hearings.

The committee would draft a report and committee proposal to be sent to the convention for passage on first reading. After first reading passage the committee proposal was sent to the Committee of the Whole, composed of the entire convention acting as a large committee, for further debate. These debates form the basis for the intent of the committee proposals.

After debates and amendments to the committee proposal, the convention would pass it on second reading. Next, the Committee on Style would review the

committee proposal to ensure correct and consistent grammar making any necessary amendments before sending it to the convention for passage on third and final reading by a majority affirmative vote. The final form of the constitution lastly went to the Committee on Submission and Information which by resolution recommended the method and manner of presentation to the electorate.

The 1968 Constitutional Convention adjourned on October 21, 1968 after 57 days of deliberations. 23 amendments were recommended by the delegates and all but one, lowering the voting age from 20 to 18, were approved by the voters in the general election of November 5, 1968.

# **SEE ALSO:**

Finding Aids: Government Records Inventories

Constitutional Convention 1950

Subject Index: State Constitution

Government Publications: Proceedings of the Constitutional Convention of Hawaii
of 1968, Volume I. Journal and Documents and
Volume II. Committee of the Whole Debates

Legislative Reference Bureau

Hawaii Constitutional Convention Studies,

1968. 15 volumes arranged by article
numbers.

Library Collection: With an Understanding Heart; Constitution Making in Hawaii. by Norman Meller

# RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The secretary was the officer in charge of the administrative, clerical and custodial activities of the convention. He was responsible for keeping the journal of the proceedings of the Convention and under the direction of the President, preparing a calendar of business each day. The secretary preserved all proposals, committee reports, and all other records, books, documents and papers of the convention and after adjournment these were delivered to the State Archives. The duties of the secretary, except certification of official acts and documents and vouchers for the payment of convention expenses, could be delegated to the Chief Clerk.

#### SERIES DESCRIPTION

159 CONVENTION JOURNALS. July 15 to October 21, 1968. 3.0 lin. inches.

Arranged chronologically.

Official record of the proceedings of the convention. Summary of all business transacted such as introduction of proposals by title and name of introducers; proposals acted upon; committee reports submitted and acted upon; roll call votes and communications received. Printed in the Proceedings of the Constitutional Convention of Hawaii of 1968. Volume I. Journal and Documents. Also available on microfilm. Use microfilm no. 67, (MFL 67), State of Hawaii Constitutional Convention 1968 Proceedings.

ORDERS OF BUSINESS. July 16 to Sept. 24, 1968. 1.0 lin. inch.

Arranged chronologically.

Agenda specifying the order of consideration of subjects before the convention on a specific day.

161 DEBATES IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE. August 10 to September 16, 1968. 12.0 lin. inches.

Arranged chronologically.

Transcripts of debates on specific articles in the constitution. Printed in the <u>Proceedings of the Constitutional Convention of Hawaii of 1968.</u>

<u>Volume II. Committee of the Whole Debates.</u>

162 DELEGATE PROPOSALS. July 16 to August 6, 1968. 14.0 lin. inches. Arranged numerically.

Form for introduction of ideas or subjects for inclusion into the constitution. Proposals were introduced by one or more delegates and could relate to a point or section of an article or to the entire constitution. Also available on microfilm. Use microfilm no. 67 (MFL 67). State of Hawaii Constitutional Convention 1968 Proceedings.

163 COMMITTEE PROPOSALS. August 8 to September 14, 1968. 4.5 lin. inches. Arranged numerically.

Proposal introduced by a committee in the form of an entire article encompassing only subjects under its committee jurisdiction. Includes drafts of committee proposals and record of votes in committee of the whole. Also available on microfilm. Use microfilm no. 67 (MFL 67), State of Hawaii Constitutional Convention 1968 Proceedings.

164 RESOLUTIONS. July 15 to September 24, 1968. 1.75 lin. inches.

Arranged numerically.
Informal means of introduction of ideas used primarily to express appreciation to the media, the various government agencies and other deserving organizations or individuals. Adoption of convention rules and listing of committee membership are also done by resolutions. Printed in Proceedings of the Constitutional Convention of Hawaii. Volume I. Journal and Documents. Also available on microfilm. Use microfilm no. 67 (MFL 67), State of Hawaii Constitutional Convention 1968 Proceedings.

165 COMMITTEE REPORTS. 1968. 3.5 lin. inches.

Arranged in the following subseries: Standing Committee Reports, Committee of the Whole Reports, and Special Committee Report.
Subseries are arranged numerically.

Standing Committee Reports. July 16 to September 24, 1968. 3.0 lin. inches.

Written statements by the committees which set forth the findings, results and recommendations of matters referred to the committees such as proposals and resolutions.

Committee of the Whole Reports. August 20 to September 17, 1968. .5 lin. inch.

Written statements by the committee of the whole, consisting of the entire membership of the convention, after debates on particular issues. Includes minority reports for Committee Proposal Nos. 1, 3 and 7 and record of votes.

Special Committee Report. July 15, 1968. 1 item.
Report from the Credentials Committee regarding examination of certificates of election and qualifications of delegates.

Printed in Proceedings of the Constitutional Convention of Hawaii. Volume I. Journal and Documents. Also available on microfilm. Use microfilm no. 67 (MFL 67), State of Hawaii Constitutional Convention 1968 Proceedings.

166 COMMUNICATIONS. 1968. .2 lin. inch.

Arranged in the following subseries: Governor's Messages, Departmental Communications, Miscellaneous Communications and Petitions.

Each subseries is arranged numerically.

Governor's Messages. July 15 to October 21, 1968. I folder.
Includes excerpts of welcome address by Governor John A. Burns
opening session of the convention, authorization for signing of vouchers, and
remarks by Governor Burns on signing of the constitution.

**Departmental Communications**. July 16 to October 15, 1968. 1 folder.

Letters of information submitted by state government agencies.

Miscellaneous Communications. July 15 to September 12, 1968. .1 lin. inch.

Letters and telegrams from federal public officials, the general public and private organizations. Also policy statements with respect to Con-Con issues adopted by the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii and messages from private individuals.

**Petitions**. July 17 and July 29, 1968. 1 folder.

From Citizens' Administration of Justice Foundation re: judicial system and from Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club re: article IV, allocation of functions. Printed in the <u>Proceedings of the Constitutional Convention of Hawaii of 1968, Volume I. Journal & Documents.</u>

- 167 ROLL CALL. July 15 to October 21, 1968. .25 lin. inch.
  Arranged chronologically.
  Delegates' attendance sheets.
- **168** RECORD CARDS. 1968. 7.0 lin. inches.

Arranged numerically by type: Proposals, Committee Proposals, Resolutions, Committee of the Whole Reports, Miscellaneous Communications, and Petitions.

Records history of convention documents including name of introducer, status and disposition of documents. Also available on microfilm. Use microfilm no. 67 (MFL 67), State of Hawaii Constitutional Convention 1968 Proceedings.

169 FINAL CUMULATIVE INDEX AND STATUS OF PROPOSALS AND RESOLUTIONS. 1968. .25 lin. inch.

Index arranged by subject and status arranged by bill and resolution no. Includes proposal number, report nos. and disposition of proposal. Also available on microfilm. Use microfilm no. 67 (MFL 67), State of Hawaii Constitutional Convention 1968 Proceedings.

## RECORDS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

Twelve committees were formed to investigate and hold hearings on delegate proposals. Every provision of the Constitution was addressed by at least one committee on referral by the President. Two committees, Rules and Accounts and Printing were administrative or housekeeping committees.

Minimally the files consist of minutes, agenda, testimonies and digests of proposals which were summaries of proposals considered by the committee. The Committee on Legislative Apportionment and Districting also includes meeting transcripts and districting plans. The Committee on Submission and Information also includes publicity files and scrapbooks.

#### SERIES DESCRIPTION

170 RECORDS OF COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS AND PRINTING. 1968. 1 folder.

Arranged chronologically.

Responsible for business affairs of the convention and for supervising all printing for the convention. Includes expenses of the convention.

RECORDS OF COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION, 171 LAND AND HAWAIIAN HOMES. July 30 to July 31, 1968. .5 lin. inches.

Arranged by subject and then chronologically.

Considered changes to the Hawaiian Homes Commission and of conservation of resources. Includes testimonies, digests of proposals, schedule of hearings, speeches.

172 RECORDS OF COMMITTEE ON BILL OF RIGHTS, SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS. July 18 to August 7, 1968. 3.0 lin. inches.

Arranged by subject and then chronologically.

Considered changes dealing with due process and the freedom of speech, eminent domain, capital punishment, rights of man, and elections. Also discussed initiative, referendum and recall. Includes minutes, agenda, testimonies and petitions regarding the 18-year old vote and digests of proposals.

173 RECORDS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. July 24 to August 12, 1968. 1.0 lin. inch.

Arranged by subject and then chronologically.

Examined qualifications and powers of the governor, concentration of executive power, and executive-legislative relations. Includes minutes, agenda, testimonies, and digests of proposals.

174 RECORDS OF JUDICIARY COMMITTEE. July 16 to August 19, 1968. .5 lin. inch.

Arranged by subject and then chronologically.

Considered judicial organization, justices' qualifications, tenure, compensation, removal and appointment. Includes minutes, agenda, testimonies, memos, and digests of proposals.

RECORDS OF COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE APPORTIONMENT AND 175 DISTRICTING. July 22 to September 11, 1968. 9.0 lin. inches.

Arranged by subject and then chronologically.

Prepared plans for the apportionment and districting of the state and provided for periodic future reapportionment and redistricting. Includes agenda, minutes, meeting transcripts, digests of proposals, correspondence, submissions to the committee, petitions, memos, districting plans, and maps showing proposed districts.

176 RECORDS OF COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE POWERS & FUNCTIONS. July 16 to August 28, 1968. 2.0 lin. inches.

Arranged by subject and then chronologically.

Considered unicameralism vs. bicameralism, salaries, eligibility and qualifications of legislators. Consists of minutes, agenda, testimonies, digests of proposals, subject and numerical indexes to proposals and resolutions heard by the committee, policies and procedures, report of the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Legislative Process (Hamilton Report).

RECORDS OF COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT. July 17 to 177 August 28, 1968. .5 lin. inch.

Arranged by subject and then chronologically.

Considered structure, organization, and powers of local government. Consists of minutes, agenda, testimonies and digests of proposals.

178 RECORDS OF COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE; LABOR & INDUSTRY. July 25 to August 21, 1968. 2.0 lin. inches.

Arranged by subject and then chronologically.

Discussed issues of housing, public assistance, and environmental development and collective bargaining. Includes minutes, agenda, testimonies, digests of proposals, and record of votes by article number.

179 RECORDS OF COMMITTEE ON REVISION, AMENDMENT & OTHER PROVISIONS. July 18 to August 21, 1968. 1.0 lin. inch.

Arranged by subject and then chronologically.

Considered revisions of and amendments to the constitution. Consists of minutes, agenda, testimonies arranged by proposal no. and article no. and also by subject: code of ethics, initiative, referendum and recall and digests of proposals.

180 RECORDS OF COMMITTEE ON RULES. July 19 to August 23, 1968. 1 folder.

Arranged by subject and then chronologically.

Responsible for changes in the rules and organization of the convention. Includes minutes and agenda.

181 RECORDS OF COMMITTEE ON STYLE. July 17 to September 23, 1968. 1.0 lin. inch.

Arranged by subject and then chronologically.

Reviewed and edited committee proposals to eliminate inaccuracies, repetition and inconsistencies and to arrange sections of the proposals in final order in the constitution. Consists of minutes, rules, memoranda to members of the committee.

182 RECORDS OF COMMITTEE ON SUBMISSION AND INFORMATION. 12 lin. inches. 4 vol.

Arranged by subject and then chronologically.

Responsible for preparing and presenting to the convention for its approval, a plan of informing the electorate about proposed changes to the constitution and presenting a report outlining the convention's work. During the convention the committee kept the public informed of the convention activities by arranging for radio and newspaper coverage and preparing news releases. Includes agenda, minutes, correspondence, memos and speeches of Chairman Jaquette, and reports of hearings on Neighbor Islands. Publicity files consist of newsletters, distribution lists for weekly newsletters, speaker assignments, position papers and information about organizations and research report of survey of attitudes toward the convention. Ballot information includes samples and formats for ballots. Four oversize scrapbooks contain newspaper clippings about the constitutional convention activities.

183 RECORDS OF COMMITTEE ON TAXATION & FINANCE. July 19 to September 4, 1968. 4.0 lin. inch.

Arranged by subject and then chronologically.

Discussed taxing powers and debt limitations. Includes minutes, agenda, testimonies, digests of proposals, correspondence, and reports from the Office of the Legislative Auditor.

# SERIES INVENTORY

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RECORDS OF COMMITTEE ON TAXATION & FINANCE

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"Con-con Communication on Constitutional Restrictions on State and Local Debt;" Tax Foundation of Hawaii, June 1968

"Con-con Communication on Biennial vs. Annual State Budgeting;" Tax Foundation of Hawaii, April, 1868 "Potential Growth in State General Fund Tax Revenue to 1975"; Tax Research and Planning, June 28, 1968 Report to the Legislature and Budget Request for 1968-

Report to the Legislature of the State of Hawaii: Long and Short Range Programs of the Office of the Auditor; December 1965

182-U.1 Scrapbook July 15 - Aug. 8, 1968

V. Z Scrapbook Aug. 9 - Sept. 7, 1968

V. 3 Scrapbook Sept. 8 - Nov. 7, 1968

U.4 Supplement to V.1+U.Z July 15- Sept. 1968

Prepared by J. Nakamatsu October, 1991