

Inventory of Records

of the

New York World's Fair Committee

May, 2006

**Hawai'i State Archives
'Iolani Palace Grounds
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813**

NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR COMMITTEE

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NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR COMMITTEE (1962 - 1966)

Introduction

In July, 1961, Governor William F. Quinn appointed an advisory committee to determine the feasibility and extent of Hawaii's participation in the 1964-65 New York World's Fair ("NYWF"). Governor Quinn acted as Chairman of the committee, and Lieutenant Governor James Kealoha served as the Vice-Chairman. There were 17 other committee members, individuals from various state agencies and chambers of commerce.

Later that month, upon the recommendation of this advisory committee, a letter of intent was filed with the New York World's Fair Corporation, serving as formal notification of the State of Hawaii's intent to utilize the two-acre site which had already been set aside for the Hawaii Exhibit.

In October, 1961, Lieutenant Governor Kealoha advised the NYWF Corporation of Hawaii's serious intent to participate in the NYWF, but that the final determination required action of the State Legislature. The legislature was not prepared to consider this matter until the 1962 legislative session. Before that legislative session, conceptual plans and cost estimates for Hawaii's participation in the NYWF had already been prepared, and those studies had been paid by private business which had contributed some \$25,000, solicited by the advisory committee.

In a testament to legislative efficiency, in May, 1962, the legislature created the NYWF Committee and authorized a \$2.3 million bond issue for Hawaii's participation in the NYWF. The measure, Senate Bill 104, was signed by Governor Quinn on May 8, 1962, and became Act 4, SLH 1962, which became effective on July 1, 1962. Pursuant to Act 4, James Kealoha, the Lieutenant Governor, was appointed to serve as Chairman; after December, 1962, William S. Richardson, the newly elected Lieutenant Governor, served as Chairman of the Committee.

The 1964/1965 New York World's Fair opened on April 21, 1964 for two six-month seasons concluding on October 21, 1965.

Hawaii Pavilion

The Hawaii pavilion's 80 foot high Aumakua Tower with a ring of flaming torches at the 55 foot level, formed a gateway to a complex of structures; the Aloha Theme Pavilion, a Tourism and Industrial Exhibits building, the Five Volcanoes Restaurant, an arcade of shops, an ancient village and the enclosed Aloha Theater. The area was landscaped with coconut and hala trees, orchids and other tropical plants.

The exhibition hall in the hexagonal Aloha Theme Pavilion had numerous displays of the islands' history and culture, including carved reproductions of the old Polynesian gods, thrones of the monarchy and views of the state in 1964. One exhibit depicted the influx over the centuries of peoples from many Pacific lands.

In the Tourism and Industrial Exhibits, motion pictures focused on Hawaii's wonders. Wall maps depicted travel routes to the islands.

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In the Ancient Hawaiian Village, craftsmen demonstrated native skills; how to construct a grass hut, shape stones into tools, and weave blossoms, seeds and strands into lei without thread or needles. Beach boys offered rides in outrigger canoes.

A one hour show "Hawaiian Extravaganza" featuring island entertainers, was presented six times daily in the Aloha Theater. It was built on a man-made peninsula that jutted into Meadow Lake.

The Five Volcanoes Restaurant had an indoor dining room, a Lava Pit Bar and an outdoor area seating 500. At night, a three-hour, 12 course luau was held outdoors, complete with traditional dishes, rituals and dances.

* * *

Historical Chronology

- 1961 July Governor Quinn appointed the NYWF Advisory Committee and later established the Subcommittee on Fairs and Expositions with Lieutenant Governor Kealoha as chairman.
NYWF Advisory Committee recommends participation, and a letter of intent was sent to the NYWF Corporation.
- October Lieutenant Governor Kealoha advised NYWF officials of the State of Hawaii's serious intent to participate. Ivel Construction Corporation prepares designs and renderings of the Hawaii exhibit for the original proposal.
- 1962 February Ivel Construction Corporation, as consultants to the State of Hawaii, displayed for the legislature and general public a scale model of the proposed buildings.
- May The legislature created the NYWF Committee and authorized a \$2.3 million bond issue. Governor Quinn signs the bill into law, Act 4, SLH 1962. Lieutenant Governor Kealoha became chairman of the Committee.
- August The State of Hawaii signed a contract with the NYWF Corporation, and signed a standard form agreement with architect Reino Aarnio.
Lieutenant Governor Kealoha appointed a Subcommittee on Management, seeking recommendations on staff and management of the Hawaii exhibit.
- October The NYWF Committee issued bid invitations for a management firm.
The NYWF Committee authorized the creation of the post titled "Executive Officer", intending to install the former Lieutenant Governor in that position.

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- November Upon the recommendation of the Subcommittee on Management, the NYWF Committee appointed Ivel Construction Corporation as the management firm for the Hawaii Exhibit. The State of Hawaii signed the management contract that same month.
- December With the election of William S. Richardson as Lieutenant Governor and Chairman ex-officio of the Committee, James Kealoha is appointed Executive Officer of the Committee.
- 1963 January The NYWF Committee appointed a special Negotiation Subcommittee for the construction of the Hawaii pavilion.
The Negotiation Subcommittee recommended, and the NYWF Committee approved, award of the construction contract to Gilbane Construction of Baltimore.
Bennett Associates, Inc. presented "Opportunities Unlimited - a presentation to the State of Hawaii - NYWF 1964-65."
- February The NYWF Committee appointed a Subcommittee for Restaurant and Food Concessions.
- March The NYWF Committee appointed a Subcommittee on Publications. The subcommittee recommended approval of a proposal made by Blue Book Publishing Company. The contract would be approved and signed in June, 1963.
- April The Subcommittee for Restaurant and Food Concessions recommended the award of the concessions contract to Pele's Partners, later known as Hawaii-Ahn, Inc. The contract would be approved and signed in May, 1963.
The Friends of Ulumau Village, Inc. proposed to operate the Hawaiian Village and outrigger canoe rides, one of the attractions in the Hawaii Exhibit.
- June In the face of increasing and unbudgeted costs, the NYWF Committee employed Stanley Char, engineer with the Department of Accounting and General Services. Mr. Char was to oversee budgetary cutbacks, quality control, and expedition of the completion of construction drawings by Mr. Aarnio.
- July For costs savings, the NYWF Committee voted to change certain basic plans as had been prepared by Mr. Aarnio.
- August The NYWF Committee issued bid invitations for landscaping. The contract was eventually awarded to Everett Conklin and Co. of New Jersey.
- 1964 January The NYWF Committee awards the contract for event promoter to Edward Long, Inc., also known as Hawaii New York World's Fair Productions. The contract is signed.

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- February Upon the recommendations of the Comptroller, Department of Accounting and General Services, the NYWF Committee retains Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company to serve as auditors.
- October Upon recommendation of the Executive Officer and Exhibit Manager, the NYWF Committee terminates the contract with Bennett Associates, Inc, citing dissatisfaction with services provided.
- 1965 February After contentious developments with its promoter, the State of Hawaii and the NYWF Committee executed a mutual release and settlement agreement with Aloha Productions, Inc., Edward Long, Inc., and Sterling Mossman New York Productions, Inc.
- Summer The State of Hawaii and the NYWF Committee signed a contract with new promoter Productions of Greater Hawaii, Inc.
- September The Management Subcommittee and the Executive Officer both recommended that the NYWF Committee accept a bid from Lehigh-Salvage Corporation for the demolition of the Hawaii Exhibit. Exhibit items and other equipment would be shipped and returned to the State.
- October 17 Conclusion of the New York World's Fair.

This collection was at one time organized under the files of the Lieutenant Governor, as administratively he was chair of the committee. In 2006, Archives staff determined this collection would be better accessible to patrons if prepared as a collection identified as a separate governmental agency. Thus, this finding aid has been prepared to merely supplement the series description and container list which have been reformatted but otherwise unmodified.

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Administrative History

Established: By Act 4, SLH 1962

Dates: 1962 - 1966

Predecessor Agency: In the state legislature of 1961, in the Committee of the Whole, apparently a subcommittee named "Subcommittee on Fairs and Expositions" was created to address concerns about the state's exposure and participation in national and international fairs and expositions. The list of events included the Century 21 Exposition in Seattle, Washington in 1962, New York's World Fair in 1964, and the Los Angeles World Fair in 1966. Additionally, the committee considered the creation of a Hawaii-based fair event to attract national and international exhibitors. Some other ideas included a Pan-Pacific type Olympics sports competition, Pacific Film Festival, the formation of a Pacific Area Fairs and Expositions Association ("PAFEA"), and fair grounds to be built in Waimanalo.

These bills were submitted, but were apparently never enacted into law during the 1961 session: Senate Bills 41, 422, 620, 1103, and House Bill 917. House Bill 246 was enacted as Act 43, SLH 1961, authorizing expenditures for the National Governor's conference.

This collection also contains meeting minutes of an entity named "Governor's Advisory Committee of the Whole on Fairs and Expositions". This entity held meetings in February, 1961.

Another set of minutes shows the meeting of an entity named "Governor's Advisory Committee on New York World's Fair, 1964-65". This entity held meetings in July and August, 1961.

Organization: Basing the authority granted by Section 11, Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, the Legislature created this committee as it was deemed 'necessary in the public interest'; it being determined that participation in this World's Fair was in the economic and social interest of the state to present the customs, culture, history, development and natural and industrial products of the State.

In May, 1962, the legislature created a New York World's Fair Committee ("NYWFC") and authorized a \$2.3 million bond issue for participation in that Fair. The bill was signed by Governor William Quinn, and became Act 4, SLH 1962, establishing a 16-member committee to be headed by Lieutenant Governor James Kealoha, with five members each to be appointed by the Governor, the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. The terms of the members would expire six months after the close of the Fair, at which time the committee would cease to exist.

The members of the NYWFC were:

James K. Kealoha, Lieutenant Governor and Chairman
Elizabeth P. Farrington
Raymond B. Milici
Chinn Ho, Vice Chairman

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Thurston Twigg-Smith
Ralph C. Honda
Senator William H. Hill
Senator D. Hebden Porteus
Senator Francis M.F. Ching
Senator Sakae Takahashi
Senator Nelson K. Doi
Representative Donald D.H. Ching
Representative Webley Edwards
Representative William E. Fernandes
Representative Stanley I. Hara
Representative David K. Trask, Jr.

In the winter of 1962, William S. Richardson was elected Lieutenant Governor, and assumed the Chairmanship of the Committee. Former Lieutenant Governor James Kealoha was appointed to be the Executive Officer, a position created specifically for him. George J. Wimberly was selected as the local architect to coordinate with New York and other mainland architects in the design and construction of the pavilion, theater and restaurant buildings.

Hawaii's participation in the World's Fair in the summer of 1964 coincided with the 5th anniversary of Statehood.

Pursuant to Sections 5 and 6 of Act 4, SLH 1962, expenses were not to exceed \$2,328,000, and paid out of a special fund in the state treasury known as the 'New York World's Fair 1964-65 Special Fund'.

A Committee report was to have been submitted within six months after the close of the Fair, together with a complete financial accounting.

Disestablished: 1966

Successor Agency: None

References: Act 4, SLH 1962

The New York World's Fair, 1964-65, website 5/2006:
http://www.nywf64.com/fair_story.shtml

Maps of the New York World's Fair, website 5/2006:
<http://naid.sppsr.ucla.edu/ny64fair/map-docs/hawaii.htm>

Wikipedia entry for the New York World's Fair, website 5/2006:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1964_New_York_World's_Fair

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Subjects:

New York World's Fair

Other contemporaries and manuscript collections in the Archives:

Burns, John A. M-481
Farrington, Elizabeth Pruitt M-475

Other government records collections in the Archives:

Governors

Quinn, William F. (1957-1962)
Burns, John A. (1962-1974)

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Scope and Content Note

The items within this collection span the years 1961 through 1966. The following types of materials are included in these papers: drafts, both holographic and typed; correspondence; lists; tabulations; memoranda; legal documents; research notes; printed materials; Xerox, Photostat and Thermofax copies; and photographs.

Duplicative records were weeded. Newspaper clippings were photocopied for preservation purposes.

When accessioned by the Archives, the records were organized somewhat haphazardly. The Archivist determined that arrangement of the files by agency would provide accessible organization. Accordingly, the files were generally arranged under (a) the NYWF Advisory Committee and the NYWF Subcommittee on Fairs and Expositions which existed in 1961; and (b) the NYWF Committee, which was created in 1962.

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SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series Number: 338
Series Title: Records of the New York World's Fair Committee
Date Range: 1961-1966
Quantity: 1.75 cubic feet in four 7.5-inch boxes and four oversize (map) folders
Creator: Created or collected by the New York World's Fair Committee

Physical Characteristics: Consists of letter- and legal-size typescript, photocopy and photographic, and oversize diazo materials in good condition.

Content Description: Contains minutes, correspondence, newspaper clippings, building specifications, photographs and press releases. Documents operations of the advisory committee appointed by Governor Quinn in 1961 to determine the feasibility and extent of Hawaii's participation in the 1964-1965 New York World's Fair, and its successor the New York World's Fair Committee, created by Act 4, SLH 1962. Includes observations regarding Hawaii's participation, problems encountered and various facts relative to the New York World's Fair, as well as information about the process of planning for and participating in a major exposition.

Arrangement: By committee and sub-committee in order: NYWF Subcommittee on Fairs and Expositions; Committee; Management Sub-Committee; Negotiation Sub-Committee; Publications Sub-Committee; Theater and Entertainment Sub-Committee; Museum Sub-Committee; Restaurant Sub-Committee; Executive Officer; and thereunder chronologically.

Notes:

1. Arrangement was established during processing.
2. Newsprint originally included in the records has been replaced with photocopies.
3. The Committee was responsible to provide for and maintain exhibits that showed the customs, culture, history, development and natural and industrial products of Hawaii to their best advantage. Per Act 4, the Committee ceased to exist in 1966, six months after the close of the New York World's Fair.

Access: Unrestricted.

Prepared by: G. Vergara-Bautista **Date:** August, 1998

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NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR COMMITTEE
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RECORDS CONTAINER LIST

Series Number: 338

Series Title: Records of the New York World's Fair ("NYWF") Committee

Box

Contents

NYWF Subcommittee on Fairs and Expositions

- 338-1-1 NYWF Advisory Committee, 1964-1965
- 338-1-2 Advisory Committee on Fairs and Exposition
- 338-1-3 Meetings - NYWF Committee
- 338-1-4 Governor's Advisory Committee on Fairs and Exposition

Minutes

- 338-1-5 August - December 27, 1962
- 338-1-6 January 30 - June 13, 1963
- 338-1-7 July 29, 1963 - February 17, 1964
- 338-1-8 March 23 - December 11, 1964
- 338-1-9 Special Committee Meetings in New York
- 338-1-10 September 13, 1965
- 338-2-11 Correspondence, 1962
- 338-2-12 Correspondence, 1962
- 338-2-13 Kealoha
- 338-2-14 Public Relations
- 338-2-15 Public Relations
- 338-2-16 NYWF, 1964-1965

Management Sub-Committee

- 338-2-17 NYWF Management
- 338-2-18 Meeting, October 12, 1963
- 338-2-19 Negotiation Sub-Committee - Minutes of Meetings, 1963
- 338-2-20 Publications Sub-Committee
- 338-2-21 Theater and Entertainment Sub-Committee
- 338-2-22 Aesthetics Sub-Committee
- 338-2-23 Museum Sub-Committee
- 338-2-24 Restaurant Sub-Committee
- 338-2-25 Hawaii Pavilion Concessionaire Meetings

Records of the Executive Officer

- 338-3-26 Executive Officer's Reports
- 338-3-27 Stanley Char's Reports
- 338-3-28 News from Bennett (Public Relations)
- 338-3-29 Amphitheater
- 338-3-30 Aarnio, Reino (Architect)
- 338-3-31 Aarnio, Reino (Architect)
- 338-3-32 Specifications
- 338-3-33 Plumbing Specifications
- 338-3-34 Reports by Ivel Construction Corporation

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RECORDS CONTAINER LIST

Series Number: 338

Series Title: Records of the New York World's Fair ("NYWF") Committee

Box

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Newspaper Clippings by Bennett Associates

338-4-35 January - March 21, 1964
338-4-36 April 1 - May 8, 1964
338-4-37 May 9 - August 20, 1964
338-4-38 August 21 - October 22, 1964
338-4-39 Report of Public Relations Activities
338-4-40 Addenda
338-4-41 Addenda

338-MAP Building Plans
338-MAP-42 Details
338-MAP-43 Theme Building
Organizational Chart
Industrial Building
Photograph of a Model
Landscaping
Site Plan
Restaurant and Kitchen
Industrial Exhibit and Shops
338-MAP-44 Set of Plans (1 of 2)
338-MAP-45 Set of Plans (2 of 2)