

Inventory of Records
of the
Hawaii Statehood Celebration Committee

May, 2006

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

HAWAII STATEHOOD CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

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HAWAII STATEHOOD CELEBRATION COMMITTEE (1959 – 1960)

Introduction

Through Act 17, SLH 1959 (Special Session), the legislature of the State of Hawaii established the Hawaii Statehood Celebration Committee (“HSCC”) to prepare for the various official celebrations after the news that Congress passed the bill for Hawaii’s Statehood: the U.S. Senate voted on March 11, the U.S. House on March 12, 1959. On March 18, 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the bill into law.

Senate Bill 58, which became Act 17, was introduced on September 11, 1959, and was approved by the Hawaii State Legislature after Senate adjournment on October 22, 1959. Governor William F. Quinn signed it into law on November 13, 1959.

A plebiscite was conducted on June 27, 1959 whereby the voters accepted statehood. On August 21, 1959, President Eisenhower proclaimed Hawaii the 50th State and unveiled the new 50-star flag in Washington, D.C.

Apparently, before enactment of Act 17 in Honolulu, a group calling themselves the “Lanakila Club” and later known as the Statehood Day Celebration Committee, met in January, February and March of 1959. This committee had not been recognized by government officials. Its members were:

I.B. “Buddy” Petersen
Ray Kinney
Don Beach
Jock Purinton
Ray Tanaka
Charles “Chuck” Allen
John Akaka
Elsie Ross Lane
John Tsukano

Meetings of the Lanakila Club continued through 1959 and before passage of Act 17 in November 1959. Grand plans for celebration events included a concert at the Honolulu Stadium with celebrities including Sammy Davis, Jr., Frank Sinatra, Danny Kaye and Arthur Godfrey. The committee also discussed coordinated bonfires on Sand Island, military warship “salutes” off each of the islands, and airplane fly-overs.

After enactment of Act 17, the following members were appointed to the HSCC:

Lt. Gov. James Kealoha (ex officio)
Senator Matsuki Arashiro
Senator Bernard Kinney
Senator Ward Russell
Senator Barney Tokunaga
Representative Donald Ching
Representative Mamoru Yamasaki

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Representative Takeshi Kudo
Mr. Ernest Albrecht
Mr. Kenneth Char
Mr. David Eyre
Mrs. Mary K. Robinson

Mr. Jan Jabulka, Executive Director, and Ms. Peg Smith, Executive Secretary, were appointed to serve the Committee in administrative capacities.

Minutes of HSCC meetings are incomplete, and those in the collection do not explain the disparity in the composition of the membership (4 senators, 3 representatives, 4 citizens) with the statutory requirement (4 senators, 4 representatives, 4 citizens).

The HSCC planned several events for the period 1959 to 1960, dubbed the “Year of the Aloha State.” Admission Day was “officially” designated August 21, 1959; however, official ceremonies began with the Thanksgiving ceremonies held on November 26 – 30, 1959. As the November festivities were grand in scale, similar to the unofficial plans of the Lanakila Club, it was believed that dignitaries should be invited to these November events. In October 1959, the Hawaii legislature, by Senate Concurrent Resolution, authorized the HSCC to invite the elected members of the U.S. Executive branch and cabinet, U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, the governors of the several States in the Union, and heads of state of other countries. The collection contains responding correspondence, usually in the form of regrets, to the invitation.

The “Year of the Aloha State” was to include other activities, including the Inauguration of Governor William Quinn and Lieutenant Governor James Kealoha, issuance of a commemorative stamp and medallion, a State Dinner, and events on islands other than Oahu. Participants in planning the several events included prominent members of the Honolulu community. They included:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Company or Entity</u>
Charles Allen	President, Aloha Week Hawaii
George Barati	Director, Honolulu Symphony
Charles Braden	General Manager, Hawaii Visitors Bureau
Robert W. Hendry	District Engineer, Department of Public Works
C.R. Kendall	Exec. Director, Hawaii Government Employees Association
Robert Mead	President, Honolulu Junior Chamber of Commerce
William Mullahey	Pacific Director, Pan American Airways
T.F. Nobriga	Director, Dept. of Parks & Recreation
Dick Oguro	Representative, 100 th Infantry Battalion Veterans
I.B. “Buddy” Peterson	President, Musicians Association of Honolulu
Jock Purinton	Producing Manager, Waikiki Shell
Dr. Kobe Shoji	Representative, 442 nd Regimental Combat Team Veterans
Quentin I. Smith	Fiscal Officer, Department of Public Works
Leon Straus	Chief, Honolulu Police Department

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Yearlong activities extended through to the official flag raising ceremony on July 4, 1960 at Iolani Palace. Residents and non-residents who attended the flag lowering ceremonies of 1898 were invited to attend as special guests of the State. The collection contains correspondence of some of the attendees.

The Archives is the repository for the flags flown on July 4, 1960 at Iolani Palace: the last 49-star flag and the first 50-star flag. See Artifact collection, Flags #46 and #47.

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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.

Administrative History

Established: By Act 17, SLH 1959 (Special Session)

Dates: 1959 – 1960

Predecessor Agency: The “Lanakila Club” also known as the Statehood Day Celebration Committee, a non-governmental organization

Organization: Senate Bill 58, which became Act 17, was introduced on September 11, 1959, passed second reading on September 19, 1959, passed third reading on September 24, 1959. On October 22, 1959, the last day of the Special Session, the Senate received the bill with amendments, as returned from the House of Representatives, and approved the bill, passing its third reading, as amended. The bill was submitted to the Governor for signature, and was signed into law by Governor Quinn on November 13, 1959.

Pursuant to Section 2 of the Act, the Lieutenant Governor was appointed as the chair of the committee, together with twelve other members: four senators, one from each county as appointed by the President of the Senate; four representatives, one from each county as appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and four members appointed by the Governor of the State of Hawaii.

Pursuant to Section 3 of the Act, an appropriation of \$80,000 was made, with instructions to be disbursed on warrants of the comptroller.

Disestablished: 1960 (?)

Successor Agency: None

References: Act 17, SLH 1959 (Special Session)
See also, Governor’s collection, Gov 12-89.

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SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series Number: 389

Series Title: Records of the Hawaii Statehood Celebration Committee

Date Range: 1959-1960

Quantity: 0.42 cubic foot in one 5-inch box

Creator: Created or collected by the staff of the Hawaii Statehood Celebration Committee

Physical Characteristics/Condition: Consists of letter and legal size manuscript and typescript materials, as well as some printed and engraved materials of various sizes smaller than legal, in good condition.

Content Description: Contains correspondence, memoranda, reports, agendas, minutes, plans, invitations, lists, programs and notes created or assembled in the process of carrying out the statutory mandate of Act 17, 1st Special Session, 1959. Documents the various projects considered by the committee, the plans made to carry out selected projects and samples of the letters sent and received in the process of implementing those plans.

Arrangement: Alphabetical by file folder title.

Notes:

1. Working papers, drafts, supply inventories, invoices and other financial records were generally weeded per General Records Schedules 1 and 3.
2. Included typescript copies dated 1972 stapled to original thermofax materials; thermofax were discarded during processing.
3. Records were initially processed circa 1972. Considerable weeding of non-permanent and copy materials was done during 1999 re-processing, but order and file folder titles that resulted from 1972 processing were generally retained.

Access: Unrestricted.

Prepared by: A. Hoof **Date Completed:** September, 1999

Last Revised: February, 2003 // reformatted D.C. Tanabe 5/2006
Reviewed by C. Kellett, March 2020.

**HAWAII STATEHOOD CELEBRATION COMMISSION
(1959 – 1960)**

RECORDS CONTAINER LIST

Series Number: 389

Series Title: Records of the Hawaii Statehood Celebration Commission

<u>Volume/Box</u>	<u>Contents</u>
389-1	Admission Celebration Convention, February 1959 Essay Contest Final Report Flag Raising, July 4, 1960 Groups Participating Idea File Inauguration Legislative Matters Meetings Neighbor Islands Press Releases Projects Souvenirs Stadium Celebration Staff Committee Stamp Ceremony State Dinner Statehood Tribute Day, July 4, 1959 Sub-committees Year of the Aloha State