

HONOLULU WATER WORKS

1861-1905

**Prepared
May 2001**

**Hawaii State Archives
Iolani Palace Grounds
Honolulu Hawaii 96813**

Table of Contents

<u>Section</u>		<u>Page</u>
Introduction		1
Administrative History		1
Series Description	Series 473 - Records of the Honolulu Water Works	3
Records Container List		C-1

HONOLULU WATER WORKS

INTRODUCTION

The Honolulu Water Works existed from 1859 to 1914. The records consist of correspondence and financial records and contain information about the development of the Honolulu water supply system.

Access is unrestricted.

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established: Section 192 of the Hawaii Civil Code of 1859 made the Minister of the Interior responsible for the pipes and conduits of water to supply the town and harbor of Honolulu, for the establishment of rates of supply for same, for making rules as necessary and for appointing a superintendent of the water-works. The latter was responsible for maintaining the system and collecting rates. The Act of August 18, 1860 empowered the Minister of the Interior to take possession of such lands as were required for the use and maintenance of the Honolulu Water Works.

Predecessor Agency: None.

Dates: 1859-1914.

Organizational Relations:

1859-1900 agency within the Interior Department.

1900-1913 agency within the Department of Public Works (Organic Act, sec. 75).

Functions: The Honolulu Water Works was responsible to the Minister of the Interior, and later to the Superintendent of Public Works for the following functions:

1. Keeping in repair the conduits and pipes for the conveyance of water;
2. Advising on the acquisition of land for laying pipes, constructing dams and reservoirs and establishing watershed forest reserves;
3. Collecting all water rates from ships and persons in Honolulu or its vicinity; and
4. Performing such other duties as may be prescribed.

Disestablished: By Act 138 SLH 1913, which transferred the functions to the City and County of Honolulu effective July 1, 1914..

Successor Agency: 1914-[present], Board of Water Supply, City and County of Honolulu.

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References: Hawaii Civil Code, 1859, Sections 191 and 192
Hawaii Civil Laws, 1897, Chapter 41
Revised Laws of Hawaii, 1905, Chapter 45
Session Laws of Hawaii
1860, Act of August 18, 1860
1886, Act 26
1909, Act 112
1913, Act 138

Archives Library: Government Publications:

Reports of the Minister of the Interior to the Legislature, 1860-1900
Annual Reports of the Superintendent of Public Works, 1901-1914

HONOLULU WATER WORKS

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series Number: 473 **Series Title:** Records of the Honolulu Water Works

Date Range: 1861-1866, 1872-1878, 1880-1885, 1890-1893, 1899-1905

Quantity: 0.92 linear foot

Creator: Created or collected in the office of the Superintendent of the Honolulu Water Works

Physical Characteristics/Condition: Letter-size or smaller manuscript and original and carbon copy typescript leaves in one file folder and eight bound volumes, including one oversize (folio) volume in generally good condition.

Content Description: Consists of correspondence and financial records, including cash journals and accounts ledgers. The correspondence includes indexes and provides information and insights on the policies and operations of the Honolulu Water Works and its problems in the early territorial period. The financial records, normally non-permanent, were retained because they are a significant portion of the information extant on the development of the water supply system in Honolulu up to 1880. They provide names of customers and the streets on which their property was located. Additional correspondence of the Honolulu Water Works, 1854-1900, is in the Interior Department records (boxes 56 and 57). There is more extensive information on the policies, procedures and activities of the Honolulu Water Works from 1880-1914 in two titles in the Archives Library. For 1880-1899, see the Report of the Minister of the Interior (call number J 87 .H34c [year]), and for 1900-1914, see the Report of the Superintendent of Public Works (call number TA 24 .H3 H38 [year]).

Arrangement: The correspondence is divided into incoming letters followed by outgoing letters. The incoming letters are in a single folder, arranged numerically by page number from a scrapbook from which they were removed at some date, page numbers to which the accompanying index refers. The outgoing letters are arranged chronologically in two letter press copy books. The financial records are in six bound volumes, arranged chronologically.

Access: Unrestricted.

See also: Records of the Department of the Interior, Subjects, Water Works

Prepared by: A. Hoof **Date Completed:** May 25, 2001

HONOLULU WATER WORKS

RECORDS CONTAINER LIST

Series Number: 473

Series Title: Records of the Honolulu Water Works

Box & Folder **Contents**

473-1-1 Incoming letters, 1902-1905

Volume

Title

- 473 vol 1 Honolulu Water Works [Outgoing] Letters from Dec. 31st, 1899 to Dec. 7th, 1904 [in Box 473-1]
- 473 vol 2 Honolulu Water Works [Outgoing Letters from December 7, 1904 to June 30, 1905] [in Box 473-1]
- 473 vol 3 Rate Book from July 1st 1861 to July 1866
- 473 vol 4 Water Rates Commencing [from] Quarter ending July 1, 1872 [to] Quarter ending July 1, 1878
- 473 vol 5 [Rate Book from July 1, 1880 to December 31, 1881]
- 473 vol 6 Water Works [applications nos. 401 through 600, 1882-March, 1883]
- 473 vol 7 Water Works [applications nos. 601 through 800, April, 1883-1885]
- 473 vol 8 folio [Cash Journal from July 31, 1890 to January 30, 1893]