

LAND STUDY BUREAU

1957-1973

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

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LAND STUDY BUREAU

INTRODUCTION

The Land Study Bureau existed from 1957 to 1974, but its records include materials dated as early as 1923. It was established to gather, analyze and publish information on the characteristics, use and potential utilization of land in Hawaii in order to enhance the operational effectiveness of government agencies concerned with the entire spectrum of land issues, from agriculture to zoning.

The records are in one series, the Records of the Land Study Bureau (Series 496) and contain information on the purpose, personnel, policies, plans, projects and products of the Bureau.

Access is unrestricted.

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Established: By Act 35, SLH 1957. The primary Legislative motive for creating the Land Study Bureau (LSB) was to respond to the lack of basic, readily available information on all aspects of land; such information was necessary for proper land use planning.

Dates: May 1, 1957-June 30, 1974.

Predecessor Agencies: None.

Organization: The LSB was part of the Organized Research Department of the University of Hawaii and responsible to the Director of Organized Research. It was placed in the University of Hawaii system to ensure the objectivity of its work and to provide it with easy access to other University researchers. In practice, it worked directly with various territorial/state and U.S. agencies. To carry out its legislative mandate, the LSB organized itself as a multidisciplinary group whose purpose was to research land use. They considered themselves a land fact-finding agency. They had no interest in becoming involved in land use recommendations or zoning changes. Nevertheless, other University of Hawaii departments and state agencies sometimes felt that the LSB duplicated their own work. As a result, attempts were made to integrate the LSB into other agencies, but in the end it remained separate, on the basis that independent status was necessary to provide impartial service to a wide range of groups.

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Functions: The general purpose of the LSB was to “develop, assemble, coordinate and interpret data on the characteristics and utilization of land” in Hawaii in order “that the highest and best use” of the land could be determined. The LSB had no administrative or regulatory functions. It was “a service organization with its programs concentrated upon collection and evaluation of facts needed to indicate ways and means of securing better land use.” Specifically, the LSB had the following statutory functions:

- to collect existing data on land, develop additional data, and integrate such data into a basic land classification study of the entire Territory (State);
- to study problems involving land use in the Territory (State) as the problems arose;
- to keep informed of changes in technology and in economic conditions affecting land use so as to be able to recommend alternative uses for land;
- to supply the Governor, the Legislature, and other territorial (state) and county agencies with data and impartial advice on land use; and
- to make its findings generally known through publications and, to the extent possible, to supply information on land use in reply to inquiries.

Personnel: The LSB had two directors during its existence: Frederick K. Nunns, 1957-1964, and Harold L. Baker. The Director supervised a staff consisting of specialists and technicians, including crop and soils scientists, economists, statisticians, cartographers and climatologists.

Policies, Plans and Operations:

The LSB perceived its mission as twofold; first, to provide some immediate information through generalized land classifications from available data and second, to conduct long range detailed land classifications including economic and crop capability ratings. The generalized land classifications “provided the heart of the General Plan for the State of Hawaii,” and the basis for the 1961 state zoning law. In 1958-1960, the LSB completed generalized land classifications for all major islands, including classification maps that rated land according to its agricultural capabilities.

To make the results of their work known, the LSB staff gave speeches to various government agencies and professional organizations, wrote articles for journals and appeared on television and radio. In addition, the LSB published a number of bulletins, circulars, reports, special studies and maps, which contained the results of studying land from several perspectives, and of classifying land in various ways, e.g., by soil or vegetation types, by amount of rainfall received, or by use, ownership, or suitability for intensive agriculture.

Another aspect of its statutory functions required that the LSB undertake projects at the request of other agencies, or by legislative fiat, such as making detailed land classification of public land tracts for the Department of Land and Natural Resources; providing technical assistance to the Department of Agriculture and Conservation in a research plan for the development of Hawaii's forest reserve areas; and preparing reports on land utilization for Legislative committees.

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The Legislature often assigned new tasks to the LSB that consumed much staff time and ultimately slowed down their own legislatively mandated projects. The delay in the completion of the statewide detailed land classifications was the most serious result of the added work load. For example, in 1961, the Legislature, through Act 187, mandated that the LSB annually service the Department of Taxation by making special land classification studies; and annually service the State Land Use Commission with personnel and facilities as requested. By 1964, the Legislature, unhappy with the progress of the detailed land classification studies, set an end-of-1967 deadline for completion. At the same time, they cut back the LSB staff and the Senate Ways and Means Committee requested a shift of "emphasis of the program to the physical aspects of land classification and a reduction in economic aspects of land use."

Disestablished: Once the major land classifications for all the islands were completed, the Legislature considered that the LSB had accomplished its mission. HR 148-1966 called for a study to recommend disposition of the LSB. A committee recommended keeping the LSB and it was not until 1973 that it was disestablished, pursuant to legislative intent contained in House Standing Committee Report No. 732, on HB 1295-73. HB 1295 was signed into law as Act 218, SLH 1973, the FY 73-75 state budget. Act 218 implemented the legislative intent by refusing to fund LSB operations beyond June 30, 1974. The records of the LSB were transferred to the Archives in November, 1973 which suggests that they finished their work prior to that date.

References: Hawaii Revised Statutes:

Session Laws of Hawaii: Act 35, SLH 1957; Act 187, SLH, 1961; Act 32, SLH 1962; Act 218, SLH 1973.

Government Records Collection:

Records of Governor Quinn (GOV12).

Records of Governor Burns (GOV13).

Records of the Clerk of the House Of Representatives (Series 303):
HR148-66.

Library Collection:

Government Publications;

University of Hawaii - Land Study Bureau.

"The Land Study Bureau, Its Creation and Program," August, 1958.

Records in the collection.

LSB Annual Report, 1959-1960.

Memo to file, June 10, 1958.

Memo, F. Nunns to Stanley Hara, Chairman, House Finance Committee,
March 2, 1962.

Memo from Dean Hiatt, March 27, 1962 and response from F. Nunns, March 29, 1962.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series Number: 496 **Series Title:** Records of the Land Study Bureau

Date Range: 1923, 1945, 1955-1973

Quantity: 1.56 cubic feet in two 7.5-inch foot boxes and one 5-inch box

Creator: Created or collected by the Land Study Bureau (LSB)

Physical Characteristics/Condition: Paper records: letter-, legal- and folded oversize; printed forms, typescript and handwritten; originals and mimeograph, xerox, carbon and diazo copies. Includes a few photographs and a small amount of published material. The records are in fair to good condition.

Content Description: Consists mostly of file copies of correspondence and memoranda. Includes some periodic and project reports; questionnaires; radiograms; maps; agendas and minutes of meetings of a few boards and committees; press releases; speeches and newspaper and magazine articles written by the LSB staff. Documents the establishment, purpose, organization, functioning and disestablishment of the LSB; the scope of the work they did; and how they decided on the methodologies and products necessary to accomplish their mission, in particular their land classification studies. In addition, shows the demands placed upon the LSB to perform work outside its charter, without additional funding or personnel, and the impact of those demands on the performance of its core functions. For information regarding the origins of the LSB see the files, "Memoranda to/from Staff;" "Memoranda to File and Notes of Meetings;" "Reports including Annual;" and "Public Relations." For insight into development of the policies and priorities of the LSB, see the several "Hawaii, State of" and "University of Hawaii" files. And, for examples of the work done by the LSB, see the several "Projects" and "Land . . ." files.

Arrangement: Alphabetically by file folder title. Titles are subjects, e.g., "Land Classification, Hawaii Island," forms, e.g., "Memoranda . . ." or names of agencies, e.g., "Hawaii, State of, Land Use Commission." Within folders, records are in chronological order.

Notes:

1. Copies of all publications of the LSB are in the Archives Library.
2. Maps created or collected by the LSB have been transferred to the Archives Map Collection.
3. Aerial photographs used by the LSB constitute the aerial photograph section of the Archives Photograph Collection.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series Number: 496 **Series Title:** Records of the Land Study Bureau

For Additional Information See:

Government Records:

Correspondence of Governor Quinn (GOV12);
Correspondence of Governor Bums (GOV13).

Library Collection:

Government Publications:

Search card catalog under: University of Hawaii - Land Study Bureau.

Map Collection:

Search online catalog under Author: Hawaii. Land Study Bureau.

Photograph Collection:

Aerial Photographs.

Access: Access is unrestricted.

Prepared by: S. Shaner
Reprocessed by: A. Hoof

Date Completed: June 14, 1985
Date Revised: December 5, 2002

RECORDS CONTAINER LIST

Series Number: 496

Series Title: Records of the Land Study Bureau

<u>Box & Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
496-1-1	Advisory Board/Committee, 1957-1972
496-1-2	Aerial Photography, 1961-1963
496-1-3	Aerial Photography, 1964-1970
496-1-4	Budget-Related Records, 1964-1973
496-1-5	Descriptive Legend, Kona Soil Conservation District, 1957
496-1-6	Hawaii, State of, General, 1958-1972
496-1-7	Hawaii, State of, Land and Natural Resources, Dept. of, 1958-1972
496-1-8	Hawaii, State of, Land Use Commission, 1961-1973
496-1-9	Hawaii, State of, Legislature, 1961-1973
496-1-10	Hawaii, State of, Planning and Economic Development, Dept. of, 1958-1972
496-1-11	Hawaii, State of, Taxation, Dept. of, 1959-1973
496-1-12	Honolulu, City and County of, Planning Dept., 1959-1973
496-1-13	Inquiries and Responses, General, 1958-1972
496-1-14	Land Classification, Classes and Codes, 1958-1969
496-1-15	Land Classification, General, 1958-1968
496-1-16	Land Classification, Hawaii Island, 1962-1966
496-1-17	Land Classification, Needs Assessment and Proposals, 1955-1957
496-1-18	Land Classification, Seminar, 1968-1969
496-2-1	Land Use, Compensable Regulations, 1968
496-2-2	Land Use, Future, Hawaiian Pineapple Company Study, 1957
496-2-3	Land Utilization, Zoning and Valuation, 1958-1972
496-2-4	Memoranda to File and Notes of Meetings, 1958-1966
496-2-5	Memoranda to/from Staff, 1958-1972
496-2-6	Oceanic Properties, 1962
496-2-7	Projects, Atlas of Natural Resources and Land Utilization, 1960-1961
496-2-8	Projects, Crop Diversification Opportunities in Kahuku, 1968-1969
496-2-9	Projects, Field Observations, 1958
496-2-10	Projects, Forest and Grazing Land, 1960-1961
496-2-11	Projects, Kauai's Economic Development Potential, 1962
496-2-12	Projects, Kokee Irrigation, 1960-1964
496-2-13	Projects, Lalamilo Lands, South Kohala, 1961-1967
496-2-14	Projects, Land Ownership, 1959-1963
496-2-15	Projects, Maui Pineapple Problem, 1961
496-2-16	Projects, Military Land, 1960
496-2-17	Projects, Molokai, 1923, 1958-1962
496-2-18	Projects, Pineapple Production, 1945, 1955-1961

RECORDS CONTAINER LIST

Series Number: 496

Series Title: Records of the Land Study Bureau

<u>Box & Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
496-2-19	Projects, Public Land Tracts Classified for DLNR, 1960-1961
496-2-20	Projects, Ranching, 1963-1964
496-2-21	Projects, State Prison Site, 1961-1964
496-2-22	Projects, University of Hawaii Campus Sites in Leeward Oahu, 1969-1972
496-2-23	Projects, Urban and Industrial Expansion, 1961
496-2-24	Projects, Waimanalo Valley, 1958-1963
496-2-25	Projects, Waipio Valley Study, 1959-1960
496-2-26	Projects, Water Storage Dating, 1959-1961
496-2-27	Public Relations, 1958-1966
496-2-28	Publications including Maps, Detailed Land Classification, Oahu, 1969-1973
496-2-29	Publications including Maps, General, 1959-1969
496-3-1	Reports, including Annual, 1958-1972
496-3-2	Soil and Water Conservation, 1958-1964
496-3-3	Speeches and Articles, 1960-1971
496-3-4	United States, Agriculture, Dept. of, 1958-1973
496-3-5	United States, General, 1958-1972
496-3-6	University of Hawaii, General, 1958-1973
496-3-7	University of Hawaii, President, 1959-1970
496-3-8	University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture, 1958-1971