

HONOLULU WATER COMMISSION
1915-1917

On June 23, 1915, John C. Lane, Mayor of Honolulu, signed the Board of Supervisors' Juncture Resolution 150 which gave him the authority to appoint a commission to investigate water supplies available to residents of the City and County of Honolulu. He named Charles R. Forbes, Jorgen Jorgensen, John H. Wilson and James Gibb commissioners and appointed Lorrin A. Thurston chairman.

The Commission was given the power to determine the status of the water supply of Honolulu, to investigate and determine whether an adequate supply of water could be secured for Honolulu, and to work on necessary preliminary surveys, explorations and water development. With this in mind, they developed a plan of procedure which involved compiling, investigating and classifying all available information relating to the Commission's problems under six different headings. To this end, they hired two men: James T. Taylor to do the technical work of surveying and locating springs, streams, and reservoir sites, making maps and tables of them, and preparing plans for using these areas; Thomas F. Sedgwick, a future member of the Territorial Water Commission, was hired to secure, compile and index all available reports, articles and other data relating to the subject being considered.

The Board of Supervisors decided on the grounds of economy to modify the scope of investigation and on December 11, 1915, requested that a report be made of the results to date. The Commission then requested and was allowed to spend up to \$6,000 of its original \$20,000 allotment to complete its work and investigations in progress. The preliminary report was completed in November 1916; the final report in 1917, and published in 1918.

About one-half of the files of the Honolulu Water Commission are in folders labelled "Sedgwick Papers." These contain information and materials gathered by Mr. Sedgwick. Duplicates of practically all of the papers in the folders with the exception of the Minutes of the Commission and a few others may be found filed under different headings in the bound volumes.

The papers of the Honolulu Water Commission are grouped in the following manner:

Correspondence

Minutes

Reports (3 folders)

Final report

Sedgwick Papers - Commission Records; Graphic Materials; Laws on Water; Sanitation; Wells; Oahu Water Supply; Leeward Oahu including Kalihi, Wahiawa and Waialua; Manoa Valley; Nuuanu Valley and Dam; Palolo Valley and Pauoa Valley; Windward Oahu; Information received from mainland jurisdictions.

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numbers

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Preliminary Report to the Honolulu Water Commission on the Available Water Supply for the City of Honolulu, by James T. Taylor. November, 1916.

Honolulu Water Commission -

- C & C 5 vol. 2 Volume I. (printed) Report to the Honorable Mayor and Board of Supervisors of the City and County of Honolulu on the Available Water Supply for the City of Honolulu. 1918.
- C & C 5 vol. 3 Volume II. Contains the compilation on the artesian water supply of Oahu and pumping plants.
- C & C 5 vol. 4 Volume III. Contains the compilation on the surface water supply of Oahu, particularly the supply in the valleys near Honolulu.
- C & C 5 vol. 5 Volume IV. Contains the compilation on the development of power from water supply, and the legislation, laws and regulations relating to water supply.
- C & C 5 vol. 6 Volume V. Contains for reference, the official reports relating to the Honolulu Water Works and water supply.

See Also: Honolulu Water Commission. Report on Potable Water. (shelved with City and County of Honolulu publications)

For additional information about water in Hawaii, See Also: Water Commission of the Territory of Hawaii, 1915-1917.