

SCHOOL FUND COMMISSION  
1909-1910

Joint Resolution 6 of the 1909 session of the Territorial Legislature was approved on April 28, 1909, by Governor Walter F. Frear, giving him the power to appoint a 3-man "School Fund Commission," which was to examine the methods of raising and apportioning school funds in different places, to consider ways and means for the revision and betterment of methods employed in the Territory and to draw up any necessary bills.

Wallace R. Farrington, William Alfred Bowen and Professor Edgar Wood were appointed to the commission in June and instructed to report to the Governor not later than July 1, 1910. The Reverend C. N. Pond of Oberlin, Ohio, who was approached by Secretary Bowen assisted in the work of the commission without pay.

A Concurrent Resolution passed in November, 1909, further requested the commission to investigate methods of endowing the College of Hawaii (University of Hawaii) and report its conclusions and recommendations and "such bills as may seem necessary" to the Governor by July 1, 1910.

Under the chairmanship of Mr. Farrington, the commission's plan of study was divided into 5 areas. The first was to work for a suitable Federal appropriation, but this was dropped because of the many complications that arose. The second involved a publicity campaign for the information of the people. Articles giving facts, opinions and circular letter asking for suggestions for solutions to the problem which was also sent to one thousand representative men and women throughout the islands were published in the papers. The commission also carried on an investigation of means and methods of raising and apportioning educational funds elsewhere and of conditions existing in the Territory of Hawaii. The fifth area involved recommendations for the solution of the educational problems in Hawaii. The results of the study may be found in its 1911 report, published after the commission was dissolved.

COM 32-1

COM 32-2

The files of the Commission consists of the minutes, correspondence and related newspaper clippings in two bound volumes.

See also: Public School Fund Commission Publications, shelved with the Government Publications:

- 1) Circular letter requesting the opinion of the addressee on proposed school tax. December, 1909. 12 pages.
- 2) School Fund Commission's plan for financing Hawaii's public schools. The preliminary report of the Public School Fund Commission submitted to the Governor by Chairman Wallace R. Farrington and Professor Edgar Wood. 1910. 16 pages.
- 3) Report. 1911. 142 pages.

Governor Walter F. Frear's file - Territorial Departments. Public School Fund Commission.