

**Records of the Hawaii Bicentennial Commission
1970-1979**

Introduction

The records of the Hawaii Bicentennial Commission span the period from 1970, prior to the Commission's first meeting, to 1979, two years after the Commission office closed. It consists of minutes, correspondence, project and publicity files that were transferred to the Archives by the Department of Planning and Economic Development.

The records consist of 11 linear ft. of folders, one 3 inch scrapbook, three 16mm microfilms on the Encyclopedia of Hawaii. There is no viewing restrictions, but copying articles in the Encyclopedia of Hawaii is restricted.

Agency History

The Hawaii Bicentennial Commission was authorized in 1970 by Act 98 to plan and coordinate activities commemorating the 200th birthday of the United States in 1976. It prepared an overall program in cooperation with appropriate state departments, agencies, local public bodies and other historical, civic, philanthropic and related organizations. The Commission was authorized to accept donations of money, personal property or personal services.

The Commission was composed of nine members appointed by the Governor; one member was selected from each of the four counties, four were selected at large and one was selected from the executive branch of the State government. Commissioners Thurston Twigg-Smith, Chairman, Sam N. Okinaga, Vice Chairman, James D. Evans and John G. Simpson served continuously throughout the Commission's existence. Hideto Kono, Paul W. Goudsmit, Sandy Young, Gabriel I, Msgr. Charles A. Kekumano, Dr. Shelly M. Mark, Mrs. B. Howell Bond, Lowell S. Dillingham, Mrs. Piilani Ramler, Donald K. Tokunaga, Kenneth Harding and Turk Tokita served shorter terms as Commissioners.

Following the appointment of John Pincetich as executive director in 1972, the Commission was organized along the following lines. The Executive Committee, composed of Commission members, functioned as the executive arm of the Commission, and was responsible for budgetary matters and reviewing programs seeking Commission endorsement and funding. Citizen committee work was responsible for planning and developing the bulk of the Bicentennial program. Three basic program committees suggested by the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, Heritage '76, Festival '76, and Horizons '76 were responsible for developing and coordinating programs relating to the "historic past," the "living present" and the "challenging future," respectively. A Communications Committee was responsible for publicity, served as a liaison with other Committees, and formed and directed a Speaker's Bureau. The Government Liaison Committee was responsible for establishing and maintaining liaison with state/county departments and agencies and keeping the Commission apprised of such governmental efforts; the Military Liaison Committee was the military counterpart to the Government Liaison Committee; and Neighbor Island

County Bicentennial Committees coordinated statewide activities in their respective counties and developed their own local projects.

Although administratively placed in the office of the Governor by Act 98, the Department of Planning and Economic Development (DPED) handled all Bicentennial business until a full time office staff was hired in October 1972. The Commission met from November 9, 1971 and June 16, 1977, and following the close of its office closed on June 30, 1977, DPED was again chosen by Governor Ariyoshi to handle any remaining Bicentennial business.

Scope and Content Note

The bicentennial of the American Revolution in 1976 was marked by patriotic celebrations throughout the country. The Hawaii Bicentennial Commission was one of the State Commissions which coordinated activities with the national American Revolution Bicentennial Commission (ARBC).

Project files, which document the wide variety of activities that were proposed to commemorate the Bicentennial make up the bulk of the records. The remaining records consist of administrative files including agenda, minutes, committee records, publicity files, records relating to project funding and correspondence on a variety of subjects including the status of projects.

The Commission's annual reports provide detailed information about the organization of the Commission, funding, and projects. The final report of the Hawaii Bicentennial Commission, December 31, 1976, describes all projects which received funds. Copies are filed in the State Archives' government publications collection.

Articles from the Encyclopedia of Hawaii, a project sponsored by the Commission, may be viewed but, not reproduced. A microfilm copy of the Encyclopedia of Hawaii is available for viewing in the Archives. The original articles are in the Commission's project files.

See also:

Government Publications: Hawaii (State) Hawaii Bicentennial Commission

Newspaper Index: Bicentennial Celebrations
Hawaii Bicentennial Commission

Series Descriptions

- 184 COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA. 1972-1977. 4 linear inches.
Arranged chronologically.
Includes background information on projects seeking Commission endorsement and/or funding including identification of sponsor, nature of project, date of planned event or date of planned project completion, type of endorsement and/or financial assistance requested.
- 185 MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETINGS. 1971-1977. 2 linear inches.
Arranged chronologically.
Proceedings of Hawaii Bicentennial Commission meetings. Contains information on decisions regarding funding and/or endorsement of Bicentennial projects.
- 186 LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY. 1973-1974. 0.5 linear inches.
Arranged chronologically.
Commission testimony to the Hawaii State Legislature, chiefly concerning funding requests.
- 187 EARLY COMMISSION RECORDS. 1970;(1971-1972);1973. 8 linear inches.
Arranged alphabetically.
Consist of correspondence of the Department of Planning and Economic Development-Hawaii Bicentennial Commission liaison officer with the American Revolutionary Bicentennial Commission (ARBC), of Thurston Twigg-Smith, chairman of the Commission, of Dr. Shelly Mark, commission member and head of the Department of Planning and Economic Development, and of Cornelius Downes, DPED Information Officer; informational copies of the Governor's correspondence; and records concerning developing ideas for projects and organizing an administrative staff for the commission.
- 188 CORRESPONDENCE OF COMMISSIONERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF. 1972-1977;1979. 18 linear inches.
Arranged alphabetically.
Consists of correspondence of Commissioners and staff, especially the executive director, concerning projects. Sponsored projects were under the Commission's direct management and control; approved projects received some financial assistance but the Commission did not assume operational assistance; recognized projects were favorably acknowledged by the Commission, but received no financial assistance.
- 189 COMMITTEE RECORDS. 1972-1976. 9 linear inches.
Arranged alphabetically by committee and secondly by subcommittee.
Consists of meeting minutes and correspondence of the citizen constituted Heritage, Festival and Horizon committees and their subcommittees relating to development and coordination of programs relating to the "historic past," the "living present" and the "challenging future." Committee records also include

correspondence with the Neighbor Island Counties Bicentennial Committees which coordinated statewide activities in their respective counties and developed their own local projects.

- 190 PROJECT FILES. 1972-1977. 6 cubic feet. 3 16mm microfilm reels
Arranged alphabetically by name of project or project sponsor.

Contains summary sheets listing the project title and a brief description of the project, the name of the sponsor, costs and source(s) of funds, and the date of the event or the project's completion date. Also contains correspondence, progress reports and a final report.

Major projects that were successfully completed include the voyage of Hokule'a, the double-hulled Hawaiian sailing canoe, to Tahiti; microfilming of historic records at Lyman House Memorial Museum; the Honolulu Symphony's Bicentennial concert; and the State of Hawaii's "official" Bicentennial program, a musical pageant called, "Portrait of America '76."

Major projects that were not completed include the creation of a Heritage Meeting House and a Bicentennial Park/Plaza.

For files relating to the Encyclopedia of Hawaii, see Series 192. The Hawaii Time Capsule, a two cubic foot aluminum artifact containing microfilms, records, publications, medals, flags, and children's artwork was removed from the project files and cataloged as Artifact 384.

- 191 PUBLICITY FILES. 1971-1976. 7 linear inches (including scrapbook - 3 linear inches).

Arranged alphabetically.

Consist of news releases, clippings (including a scrapbook), background information about the Commission and its members, and speeches.

- 192 RECORDS RELATING TO THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HAWAII. 1973-1976. 24 linear inches.

Organized into administrative files and manuscript of the Encyclopedia, both arranged in alphabetical order.

Consists of minutes of the Encyclopedia Executive Committee, progress reports of the editor, notes and correspondence relating to the administration of the project, and manuscript of the Encyclopedia of Hawaii, which was written, but never published. Additional information may be found in Series 189 in the files relating to the Publication and Publications and Production subcommittees of the Heritage Committee.

Copying of articles in the Encyclopedia of Hawaii is restricted.

The Encyclopedia is available on Microfilm No. 132 (MFL 32).

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Processed by H. Arai, April, 1990
 Edited, September 1991, February 1994