

**BOARD OF PRISON INSPECTORS, 1891-1905**  
**BOARD OF PRISON INSPECTORS, FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, 1905-1906, 1927-1931**

On June 23, 1888, King Kalakaua approved an act providing for prison inspectors. The Minister of the Interior, with the approval of the Cabinet, was given the power to appoint three persons from Oahu as inspectors of prisons for a term of two years. These inspectors would have supervisory and disciplinary control over the penal institutions in the Kingdom of Hawaii and serve as a type of parole board, with Oahu Prison as their primary responsibility.

Annexation and the 1900 Organic Act kept the structure and responsibilities of the Board of Prison Inspectors more or less intact with the logical change that authority to appoint inspectors was delegated to the Governor.

Act 41, Session Laws 1905, created a Board of Prison Inspectors for each Judicial Circuit of the Territory of Hawaii with the same powers and duties that their predecessor had, with the exception that jurisdiction was limited to their respective Judicial Circuit.

In 1931, each Judicial Circuit except the First Circuit continued to have a Board of Prison Inspectors. A Board of Prison Directors was created especially for the First Circuit. Its duties consisted of overlooking all jails and penal institutions in the Territory and particularly those of the First Judicial Circuit. This five member Board served four-year terms, acting primarily as a Board of paroles and pardons and was replaced by the Board of Paroles and Pardons in 1939. The different Boards of Prison Inspectors were abolished by the 1959 Special Session of the Legislature.

The records consist of the minutes and reports of the original Board of Prison Inspectors and those of the First Judicial Circuit. All deal essentially with matters of paroles, pardons and disciplinary measures against prisoners. Records found in the Archives are:

**Board of Prison Inspectors -**

Letterbook, 1891-1896 (PSD3 vol. 2)

Inspector's Report. November, 1893 - August, 1917 (1 folder; includes material from Board of Prison Inspectors and from Board of 1st Circuit; disbound vol)

Minutes. 1900-1905 (4 folders)

Minutes, 1893-1898 (PSD3 vol. 1)

**Board of Prison Inspectors, First Judicial Circuit -**  
1905-1906 (1 folder and part of another)

Minutes. February 3, 1927 - February 3, 1929 (PSD3 vol. 3, 4, 5,)

August 5, 1929 - June 15, 1931 (PSD3 vol. 6)

**See Also:** Prison Inspectors. Report, 1892 (filed with Government Publications)

Prison Directors. Reports (filed in Government Publications)

Interior Department. Prisons: Inspectors (1888-1896)

Box  
PSD3-1

(cont.)

**Governors' files (see period desired)**

**Session Laws. 1881, 1905, 1911, 1931, 1939**

**Subject Index: Prison Inspectors, Board of**