

BOARD OF INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS

1916 - 1939

Institutionalized care for juvenile delinquents was begun during the monarchy when legislative action in 1850 provided for the placement of "vicious children" in foster homes. In 1864 the legislative assembly voted to authorize the Board of Education to establish an industrial and reformatory school for neglected children and for the "reformation of juvenile offenders." Six thousand dollars was appropriated for the establishment and maintenance of an industrial and reformatory school which was placed under the supervision of the Board of Education. In 1866 Keoneula Reformatory School, located in Kapalama, had fifteen boys and six girls. Due to a lack of funds, the girls school was discontinued in 1870. In a report in 1900, the superintendent of public instruction recommended that the boys school be relocated at Waialeale and the Kapalama site be used for a girls school. In 1901 the legislature appropriated funds for the construction of the school, which was occupied in 1903. In 1904 the girls school was opened at the abandoned site, and was later moved to Moiliili.

Due to community pressure, the legislature in 1915 passed Act 81 which vested the management and control of all public industrial and reformatory schools in the Board of Industrial Schools. Effective January 1, 1916, the Board assumed all the powers and duties of the Department of Public Instruction with regard to the operation of the industrial schools and detention homes. The Board consisted of seven members, three of whom were women; the Judge of the Juvenile Court of the First Circuit served as an ex officio member. They were appointed by the governor for a four-year term and served without compensation. The first members of the Board of Industrial Schools were Dr. Charles B. Cooper, chairman, Mrs. F.W. MacFarlane, Miss Bertha B. Taylor, Father H. Valentin, Judge W.L. Whitney, ex officio, Mrs. F.W. Klebahn, and Charles G. Heiser, Jr. In practice, the Board met in a body at least twice a month for detailed study with the superintendents of the schools, discussing problems and budgets. They planned the policy of the schools, approved and signed all disbursements, passed on all parole matters, and made frequent visits to the schools.

In order to handle the finances of the Board, an executive secretary was hired. Conducting the business of the Board from the office in the Armory Building, F. Lang Akana served as the first executive secretary. In that capacity he also acted as the parole officer. In 1939 the executive secretary was given the title of chief parole officer.

Plagued by overcrowded conditions and a close proximity to urban conditions, a new site for the girls home was sought. By the Loan Act Fund (Act 266) of 1925-1927 appropriations were made for the construction of a new plant at Kawaihoa in Koolaupoko. The schools was opened as the Maunawili Industrial Schools for Girls in 1929.

By Act 186, enacted in 1929, the industrial schools were formally known as Maunawili Training School for Girls and Waialeale Training School for Boys. In 1931 the name of Maunawili Training School for Girls was changed to Kawaihoa Training Schools for Girls.

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Govenor's Files: Lucius E. Pinkham - Industrial Schools, Board of
Charles J. McCarthy - Industrial Schools, Board of
Wallace R. Farrington - Industrial Schools, Board of
Lawrence M. Judd - Industrial Schools, Board of
Joseph B. Poindexter - Industrial Schools, Board of

Related Records:

Department of Public Instruction - 1865-1911
Department of Institutions - 1945-1955
Training School, Kawaiiloa - 1939-1951