

**UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF RECORDS**  
**Governor's Commission on Unemployment Relief, 1931-1933**  
**Unemployment Work Relief Commission, 1933-1935**  
**Territorial Relief and Welfare Commission, 1935-1941**

The Unemployment Relief Records can be divided into those of the commissions and those concerning work projects that were created to provide emergency relief for the unemployed.

The function of the two commissions was to study the unemployment problem, to establish general policies and administer funds which were provided for direct or work relief, by territorial, private, and the following federal sources:

Reconstruction Finance Corporation, 1932  
Federal Emergency Relief Administration, 1933-1934  
Civil Works Administration, 1934-1935  
Federal Emergency Relief Administration, 1935.

On September 30, 1931, Governor Lawrence McCully Judd appointed a Commission on Unemployment Relief to study and gather information about the unemployment situation in Hawaii, with Ralph Woolley as chairman, succeeded by Richard A. Cooke. It conducted a survey which showed a need for definite action. The action taken was the establishment of an Unemployment Relief Bureau and Headquarters on March 1, 1932, to register unemployed men and to carry out work relief measures with Harold A. Mountain, as director (later director of the FERA in Hawaii) working in close cooperation with the Social Services Bureau. At this time, the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce appropriated \$5,000 for work relief which was spent providing jobs at the Moana Park (Ala Moana) Project. A couple of months later, the Territorial Legislature provided the sum of \$100,000 for work relief. Governor Judd then set up the Governor's Work Relief Committee which was entirely different from the Commission on Unemployment Relief. With Richard A. Cooke as its chairman, its sole purpose was to administer the \$100,000. This money quickly ran out and in October 1932, a \$307,435 loan was obtained from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation for direct and work relief.

In November 1932, a new Governor's Commission on Unemployment Relief was formed. It absorbed certain members of the original Governor's Commission on Unemployment Relief and members of the Work Relief Committee, and Mr. Cooke who was originally chairman of both continued in that position. The formerly autonomous Work Relief Committee became a sub-committee of the new Commission on Unemployment Relief.

But the organization of the commission was to change again. Act 209 (Unemployment Relief Act) Session Laws 1933, established a tax of  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1% on earned and unearned income to pay for work relief. The Territorial Work Relief Commission was set up to replace the just reorganized Governor's Commission on Unemployment Relief. This new Commission consisted of 10 members with 7 representatives from Oahu, 1 from Maui, 1 from Kauai, and 1 from Hawaii. Its primary function was to establish policies, approve work relief projects, administer funds received from private, territorial, and federal sources and to investigate work relief cases.

Richard Cooke and Harold Mountain continued serving in the same capacity: i.e., chairman and director respectively. In December 1933, Mr. Cooke resigned as chairman and was succeeded by Walter F. Dillingham.

It must be emphasized that the tax revenue appropriated by Act 209, 1933, was allocated only towards work relief. Because of this restriction and the fact that there was a growing cry for direct aid for the aged, the physically handicapped, and the aliens who were either ineligible or unqualified for work relief, the Territorial Legislature passed Act 135 in 1935, amending Act 209. The primary change was the use of the revenue derived from the tax for direct relief also. At the same time, it changed the name of the Commission to Territorial Relief and Welfare Commission.

Within that same year, conditions which called for the creation of the 1933 and 1935 commissions changed completely. The Federal Government began to assume responsibility for the work relief program in the Territory through the Works Progress Administration which was directly and solely responsible to Washington. The duties of the Relief and Welfare Commission then came to consist largely of direct relief. Thus in its report to the 1937 Legislature, it recommended that a Territorial Board of Public Welfare be established and thereby eliminate the need for the Commission.

The Territorial Relief and Welfare Commission was abolished in 1941 by Act 213 which "provided for more adequate financing of the public welfare program of the Territory of Hawaii."

The Commissions' records are very incomplete and are filed under two major headings: Administrative Accounts and Work Relief Projects. The Administrative Accounts include ledgers and statements, the Governor's Commission on Unemployment Relief, 1931-1933, and the Unemployment Work Relief Commission, 1933-1935. The materials on Work Relief Projects cover the period of all three commissions. They contain records, statistics, and reports on work projects. The Archives also has on file papers on the "Civil Works Administration and Federal Emergency Relief Projects of the Territory of Hawaii, 1933-1934." They were formerly the property of the chief engineer, John H. Kangeter, and were presented to the Public Archives by Mrs. Kangeter. They contain detailed information about work projects along with many photographs.

The Unemployment Relief Records are filed in the following order:

Administrative Account, Governor's Commission on Unemployment Relief.

Administrative Account, Unemployment Work Relief Commission.

Work Relief Projects, 1934-1942.

Work Relief Projects, Wailua Airport.

Box  
number  
COM 14-1

CWA & FERA Projects, Territory of Hawaii, 1933-1934, Oahu, Maui and Kauai (John H. Kangeter, Chief Engineer)

Foreword - The CWA & FERA in Hawaii, How Projects are classified.

Oahu - Approved Projects

Planning Projects - Pineapple Cannery Transfer Project

Public Property Projects - Roads, sidewalks, gutters, etc.;

new construction & repairs & maintenance

Kaneohe Bay Drive

Waianae-Makua Rd. improvement

Kalihi Uka, Kalihi Valley Ave. improvement

Puuloa Rd. widening

Middle St. extension & drain

Punchbowl-Tantalus Rd. widening

Kuakini St. extension

Ewa-Honouliuli-West Loch Rd.

Wahiawa; Kilani St. & California Ave.

improvements

Mokapu Rd. from Kalama to Mokapu

Dole St. extension

Pacific Heights Rd. improvements

Metcalf Ave. widening

Pupukea-Paumalu Rd. improvements

- Public buildings, hospitals, etc.; new construction & repairs & maintenance

Kalakaua Jr. High School

Fort Shafter, Ordnance Depot new barracks

Tripler General Hospital

Aala Park

Altering old Normal School

Temporary Central Fire Station Pier 15

Immigration Station, janitor service

Alterations & improvements to Old Hawaii

National Guard Armory (Iolani Barracks)

- Sewers, drainage & sanitation; new construction

Hauula School

Sonoma St. drain in Manoa Valley

- Gas, electric, water works & other public utilities

Reservoirs & Tributaries, Nuuanu Valley

Makiki Stream stonewall

Waialae pipeline

Kapiolani Girls' Home & Meyer St. pipeline

- Recreational facilities, playgrounds, swimming pools, etc.; new construction

Ala Moana Park & Ala Wai

University of Hawaii; athletic field,

amphitheater, Varney Fountain

Metcalf Ave. playground

- Waterways, levees, flood control, etc.;  
new construction
  - Ala Wai retaining wall
  - Kuliouou drainage
  - Woodlawn drainage
  - Pauoa Stream flood control
  - Beretania-King St. storm drain
  - Makiki Ditch storm drain
  - Mailliili Stream, Lualualei-Waianae
- Landscaping, grading, erosion control,  
parks, airports, etc.
  - Likelike School
  - Robello School
  - Palolo School
  - Pohukaina School
  - Laie School
  - Kawananako School
  - Leilehua School
  - Nanakuli School
  - Waiialae School
  - Roosevelt High School
  - McKinley High School
  - Thomas Jefferson School
  - Royal School
  - Kahuku School
  - Puuhale School
  - Lincoln School
  - Maemae School
  - Liholiho School
  - Kapalama School
  - Kauluwela School
  - Manoa School
  - Queen Emma Park
  - Foster Park
  - Kaaawa Park
  - Hauula Park
  - Kaneohe Park
  - Nanakuli Park
  - Wahiawa Park
  - Waiialua Park
  - Palolo Golf Course
  - Indigent Home at Lanakila
  - Animal Quarantine Station
  - Kewalo Basin
  - Lualualei Radio Station, clearing landsite
  - Fort Armstrong improvements
  - Kaimuki Reservoir grounds
  - Kaimuki Pumping Station grounds
- Eradication & Control of Disease Bearers  
& Pests
  - Typhus Control

Mosquito Eradication  
Mosquito Control, Honolulu & Schofield  
- Miscellaneous  
Incinerator Ash Dumping area at Kewalo  
Quarries at Fort Ruger & Black Point  
Makiki Nursery  
Fort DeRussy  
Fort Ruger  
Kapahulu-Kaimuki Ave. stonewall  
Immigration Station transfer service  
Old Central Fire Station, demolition of

Production and Distribution of Goods Needed by the Unemployed

Direct Relief  
Community Gardens  
Farm Relief Program

Public Welfare, Health & Recreation

Recreational supervision  
Coral removal from Waikiki Beach  
Traffic Survey, Honolulu District  
Fire Prevention & Safety Week

Public Education, Arts & Research

Teachers  
Students' Aid, University of Hawaii  
Nursery School at Puuhale School  
Nurses  
Analysis of Tax Data for Governor's Advisory  
Committee on Taxation  
Geological Survey, model study of streams  
Commercial & Industrial Survey  
Public Works of Art  
Miscellaneous Women's work  
Geological Survey - Analysis & compilation  
of field data

Administrative Projects

Administrative Organization of all FERA  
activities in the Territory of Hawaii  
Territorial Administrative Assistants

Motor Pool

Approved Project for Improvements in 1935 - Kapiolani Park  
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Maui - Approved Projects

Planning Projects - Kula Sanitarium study  
Public Property Projects - Roads, sidewalks, gutters, etc.; new  
construction & repairs & maintenance  
Kihei Road & drainage  
Lower Kula Road  
Kahakuloa Rd. Nos. 1 & 2  
Hana Belt Rd.  
Kipahulu to Kaupo Trail  
Iao Rd.

- Huelo Rd. No. 3
- Paukukalo to Waiehu Rd.
- Maluhia to Olinda Rd.
- Mill St. improvement
- Kakipi Gulch Rd.
- Makawao Rd.
- Paia sidewalk
- Lahainaluna Rd.
- Pauwela sidewalk
- Makawao sidewalk
- Keanae crusher
- Public Buildings, hospitals, etc.;
- new construction
  - Waiehu Municipal Golf Course
  - County office building auto shed
  - Kula Sanitarium Farm
- Bridges; new construction - Aoo Bridge
- Sewers, drainage & sanitation; new construction & repairs & maintenance
  - Iao Stream flood prevention
- Recreational facilities & playgrounds; new construction & repairs & maintenance
  - Maui High School tennis courts
  - Keokea Park
  - Lahainaluna athletic field
  - Construction of park & playground equipment
  - Hana tennis court
  - Malu-ulu-olele Park
- Waterways, levees, flood control, etc.;
- new construction
  - Opaepilau culvert
  - Ulumalu cutoff
  - Hikiau culvert
- Landscaping, grading, erosion control, parks, airports, etc.
  - Hana emergency landing field
  - Kihei athletic field & bathing beach
  - Hookipa Park
  - Ulupalakua Park
  - Waiehu Park & bathing beach
  - Lower Paia Park and playground
  - Kalama Beach
  - Haleakala Federal Experimental Station
  - Maalaea Airport
- Eradication & control of disease bearers
- Anti-bubonic Plague Control
- Miscellaneous
  - Kula Road crusher
  - National Guard buildings, Paukukalo
  - Forest reserve
  - National Guard firing range & drill grounds

Production and Distribution of Goods Needed by the Unemployed -  
Direct Relief and Farm Relief  
Public Welfare, Health & Recreation  
Recreational Survey and Instruction  
Administrative Projects  
Administration and Territorial Administrative Assistants  
Index

Hawaii - Approved Projects

Chinchuck Road  
Leilani Road  
Naalehu School Road  
Kamehameha Street improvement  
Waiianuenue Avenue  
Kilauea St. improvement  
Haina Road  
Ululani Street  
Kau Homestead Road  
Wailuku Drive improvement  
Kumu Street improvement  
Paauiilo-Kaapahu Homestead Roads  
Kapiolani, Spencer and Hokuula Roads, Waimea  
Keauhou-Kailua Road  
Keauhou Road  
Honokahau-Kailua Road  
Upolu Point airplane field landing  
Honaunau-Keefi Road connection  
Honaunau-Napoopoo Road  
Pahoa-Kalapana Road  
South Kona Belt Road  
Punaluu Road  
Kaumana Road  
North Kona Belt Road  
Todd Avenue improvement  
Kaiwiki Homestead Road  
Union Mill Road  
Hilo Airport Prison dormitory  
Hilo Airport power line  
Hilo Waterwork extension  
Piihonua Park  
Mooheau Park  
Lincoln Park tennis courts  
Olaa School athletic field  
Piihonua School grounds  
Reed's Bay Park  
Experiment Station  
Wailoa Park  
Puumaile Home  
Upolu Airport  
Kona landing field

Villa Franca Park  
John M. Ross School  
Ookala School  
Hilo Intermediate School improvements  
Onakahakaha Beach Park  
Kukuihaele Public Park  
Waipio Public Park  
Kapehu School  
Kaiwiki Park  
Kalaniana'ole Park  
Heiau Park  
Liliuokalani Park  
Rainbow Park  
Waimea Public Park  
Honokaa Public Park  
Anti-Plague campaign  
National Guard Rifle range  
Hilo County quarry  
Naval Radio Station  
Direct relief  
Farm relief  
Board of Agriculture and Forestry  
Board of Health (Nurses)  
Hilo Public Library  
Playground Service - Hilo  
Hawaii National Park  
Administration  
Index

Kauai - Approved Projects

Kalihiwai-Wainiha Road  
Poliahu-Heiau Road  
Geological Survey - Kalalau  
Na Pali Kona Forest Reserve - Kokee  
Nawiliwili Harbor Light Station Road  
Cemetery Road - Kekaha  
Kokee Road  
Kukuiohono Shortcut Road  
Kalaheo Park  
Burns Field, Hanapepe  
Hanapepe Park  
Wailua Golf Course  
Kapaa Beach  
Wailua Airport  
Kauai High School  
Board of Agriculture and Forestry  
Geological Survey - Anahola, Hanalei  
Administration  
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See Also: Report of the Relief and Welfare Commission of the Territory of Hawaii to the 1937 Legislature.

Reports of the Governor, 1933 and 1934.

Governor Lawrence Judd's file - U. S. Departments - Emergency Relief.  
Miscellaneous - Unemployment Committee, Governor's

Governor Joseph Poindexter's file - U. S. Departments - Emergency Relief.