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 $ 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.
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
  Waiakae-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 Kala to Mokapu
  Dole St. extension
  Pacific Heights Rd. improvements
  Metcalf Ave. widening
  Pupukea-Paualu 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
  Kaliouou drainage
  Woodlawn drainage
  Pauoa Stream flood control
  Beretania-King St. storm drain
  Makiki Ditch storm drain
  Mailiili Stream, Lualualei-Waianae
- Landscaping, grading, erosion control, parks, airports, etc.
  Likelike School
  Robello School
  Palolo School
  Pohukaina School
  Laie School
  Kawananaokoa School
  Leilehua School
  Nanakuli School
  Waialae School
  Roosevelt High School
  McKinley High School
  Thomas Jefferson School
  Royal School
  Kahuku School
  Puuohale 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
  Waialua 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

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Administrative Organization of all FERA
activities in the Territory of Hawaii
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Lower Kula Road
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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

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Kamehameha Street improvement
Waianuenue Avenue
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Kau Homestead Road
Wailuku Drive improvement
Kumu Street improvement
Paauilo-Kaapahau Homestead Roads
Kapiolani, Spencer and Hokuula Roads, Waimea
Keauhou-Kailua Road
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Honaunau-Keei Road connection
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Olaa School athletic field
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Wailoa Park
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Kauai - Approved Projects
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Na Pali Kona Forest Reserve - Kokee
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Wailua Airport
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Geological Survey - Anahola, Hanalei

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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.