

# Hawaii County Investigation Commission

## INVESTIGATION RECORDS

- Dates: 1905-1914
- Extent of records: 1 cubic foot (two 7.5 in. record storage boxes)
- Physical Condition: Records are on highly acidic paper, but in fair condition. Many are punctured from fasteners but remain legible; edges and corners are curled and creased; some pages are brittle. Most records are carbons or other copies but some are typed or handwritten originals.
- Restriction: The records are unrestricted per HRS §§ 92F-14(b)(1) and 94-7.

## INTRODUCTION

Early in 1913 the Hilo Board of Trade, uncertain that Hawaii County revenues were properly collected and spent, hired an accountant to examine the County's financial records and produce a report of its findings. A complete and detailed audit was recommended. The Board of Trade requested the Hawaii County Board of Supervisors to perform a thorough audit at County expense. The Board of Supervisors rejected the request.

The Board of Trade appealed to the Senate Hold Over Committee on Ways and Means of the 1911 Territorial Legislature to authorize the Audit Company of Hawaii, Ltd. to conduct an examination of County Auditor and Treasurer financial records. Though the audit was not exhaustive, it was found that warrants were issued in excess of seventy-one thousand dollars without authorization from the Board of Supervisors. Charles K. Maguire, County Auditor from 1905 until 1913, admitted embezzling more than twenty-seven thousand dollars.

These disclosures resulted in the passage of Act 42 (Session Laws 1913) by the Territorial Legislature, charging the Governor to appoint a Commission to investigate financial mismanagement in Hawaii County. Governor Walter F. Frear created the Hawaii County Investigation Commission on March 28, 1913. The three-member Commission was authorized to 1) audit the financial transactions of the County of Hawaii since its formation as a county in 1905; 2) probe allegations of embezzlement and misappropriation of County funds by County officials; 3) identify public officials, private businesses or individuals who embezzled or misappropriated County funds. Lastly, the Commission's findings and recommendations would be summarized in a *Report* to the Governor.

Governor Frear appointed Harold B. Elliot, William Williamson and Elia A.C. Long as the three-member Commission on April 8, 1913. The Commissioners designated Elliot as Chairman, Williamson as Disbursing Officer, and Long as Secretary. In addition, R.W. Breckons was retained as attorney, B.K. Dwight as stenographer and H. Gooding Field as auditor.

These records are valuable as documentation of legal oversight during the formative years of Hawaii County government. They also reflect principles adopted by the Territorial government of civic and financial accountability consistent with Progressive movement politics

on the mainland United States.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

These records constitute the Minutes and the Appendix to *Report of the Hawaii County Investigation Commission to the Governor of the Territory on the Financial Transactions of County of Hawaii from July 1, 1905 to March 31, 1913* (Call no. P0000.4158). The Appendix to the *Report* provides evidentiary records in the form of testimonies, legal filings, memoranda, audit tables, informational lists, bank records, payment vouchers, and ancillary correspondence between Commission members, the Office of the Attorney General and individuals involved with the investigation.

## ARRANGEMENT

The original order has been retained as described in the "Index to Appendix." Page numbers are denoted on almost all pages. Duplicates were not discarded being minimal in amount. Pages out of order were returned to correct sequence.

The collection contains one bound volume of Minutes, one bound volume of Auditor's Report (Vol. I)<sup>1</sup> and more than 1400 loose pages (Vols. II and III). These records are filed according to the Commission's interpretation of the financial documents and legal evidence in its investigation of Hawaii County fiscal transactions.

Pages 1417 forward are not numbered. The *Report* refers to specific page numbers of the Appendix (COM-45), which are cross-referenced on the container list. Pages 361 and 1017 are missing. It appears page 361 was a cover sheet.

**SOURCES:** *The Report of the Hawaii County Investigation Commission to the Governor of the Territory on Financial Transaction of the County of Hawaii from July 1, 1905 to March 31, 1913.* Honolulu: Mercantile Printing Co., Ltd., 1914.

Act 42, SLH 1913.

Prepared by: N. Sachdeva  
15 May 2000

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<sup>1</sup>Copy available under call number P0000.4160.

# HAWAII COUNTY INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

## Hawaii County Investigation Commission

### INVESTIGATION RECORDS

The Report of the Hawaii County Investigation Commission to the Governor of the Territory on Financial Transaction of the County of Hawaii from July 1, 1905 to March 31, 1913 may be found under call number P 0000.4158.

### CONTAINER LIST

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Volume I		
COM-45-1-1	Minute Book, Hawaii County Investigation Commission, 1913	
Volume II		
COM-45-1-2	Auditor's Report, April 16, 1914	1 - 349
COM-45-1-3	Attorney's Report, June 10, 1914	349 - 360
COM-45-1-4	Evidence: Index to Testimonies and Testimony, South Hilo Police, April 18 -21, 1913	362 - 471
COM-45-1-5	Evidence: Testimony, Kau Police, May 16 - 1913 and Charles E. King, May 31, 1919	472 - 560
COM-45-1-6	Evidence: Testimony, South Hilo Road Laborers, July 17 - 22, 1913	541 - 632
COM-45-1-7	Evidence: Testimony at Honokaa Court House, August 1, 1913 and Testimony of County Government [n.d.]	633 - 744
COM-45-1-8	Evidence: Testimony given before the Hawaii County Investigation Commission May 8, 9, 11, 1914	745 - 837
COM-45-1-9	List of County Officials, 1905 - 1913	838 - 840
COM-45-1-10	Honolii & Keaumoku Rd. Contracts, 1910	841 - 937
COM-45-1-11	Preliminary reports by Commissioner Williamson of road and police work, 1913	938 - 999
Volume III		
COM-45-2-1	Warrants and claim statements Hilo Mercantile Co., Ltd.	1000 - 1016
COM-45-2-2	Volcano Stables & Trans. Co., Ltd.	1018 - 1032
COM-45-2-3	Sundry Payroll & Vouchers	1033 - 1040
COM-45-2-4	List Assigned Warrants	1041 - 1074
COM-45-2-5	List Assigned Warrants	1075 - 1116
COM-45-2-6	County vs. Volcano Stables & Trans. Co.	1117 - 1126

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COM-45-2-7	County vs. Volcano Stables & Trans. Co.	1127 - 1130 plus 2 unnumbered pp.
COM-45-2-8	Territory vs. Sakai; Oct. 1912 - Ap. 1913 Territory vs. Takeguchi. Oct. 1912 - Ap. 1913 Territory vs. Kobayashi, Oct. 1912 - Ap. 1913	1131 - 1143
COM-45-2-9	County vs. Otto Rose, July 1913	1144 - 1155
COM-45-2-10	Territory vs. W.N. Purdy, February 1913	1156 - 1173
COM-45-2-11	Puna Payrolls, 1909 - 1913 including memoranda, correspondence, reports and warrants.	1174 plus ca. 96 unnumbered pp.
COM-45-2-12	Accounts of Norman K. Lyman with Olaa Sugar Company, Ltd.	ca. 25 unnumbered pp
COM-45-2-13	County vs. C.K. Maguire	1175 - 1182
COM-45-2-14	Memo re Lalakea	1183 - 1218
COM-45-2-15	County vs Lalakea	1219 - 1233
COM-45-2-16	Hilo Building and Loan Ass.	1234 - 1240
COM-45-2-17	Memo. Dist. Court South Hilo	1241 - 1250
COM-45-2-18	Memo. re W. Nahakuelua	1251 - 1259
COM-45-2-19	Confession of Enoch Brown	1260 - 1261
COM-45-2-20	Memo. Disappearing Beds	1262 - 1265
COM-45-2-21	Resolutions of County of Hawaii, July - November 1912	1266 - 1299
COM-45-2-22	Resolutions of County of Hawaii, September 1911 - July 1912	1300 - 1351
COM-45-2-23	Resolutions of County of Hawaii, January - October 1911	1352 - 1417
COM-45-2-24	Warrants and payrolls	pp. unnumbered.
COM-45-2-25	Reports and audit records, 1906 - 1913	pp. unnumbered
COM-45-2-26	Correspondence of Attorney General Wade Warren Thayer, March 19 - May 27, 1913	pp. unnumbered

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