

TERRITORIAL PLANNING BOARD
1938 - 1955

Motivated by the necessity for emergency planning to alleviate the effects of the depression, the National Resources Committee (called National Resources Planning Board after 1939) and forty-six state planning boards were established in the early 1930's. In Hawaii the Nineteenth Legislature in 1937 enacted Act 207 which authorized the establishment of the Territorial Planning Board. However, ventures into the sphere of civic planning had been made since the turn of the century: in 1906 the Civic Federation Committee on Streets, Parks and Public Works was established, in 1911 the Outdoor Circle was organized, and in 1915 the Honolulu Planning Commission was established.

Act 207 authorized the Governor to appoint nine members to the Territorial Planning Board. The superintendent of Public Works, president of the Board of Agriculture and Forestry, and the federal Public Works Administrator or representative of public works were designated as ex-officio members. Of the other six members who were appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, at least one had to be an architect and one an engineer. In 1939 the Legislature passed an amendment changing the membership of the Board, but the measure died by pocket veto.

The duties of the Territorial Planning Board were the preparation of a territorial master plan; advisement of territorial and local officials in coordinating territorial development; regulation, coordination and correlation of public works employment; collection and publication of information relating to proper territorial development; and responsibility for conferring and cooperating with federal and military officials in scheduling public works projects. The Board was responsible for the preparation of maps and planning studies and surveys to gather information on matters pertaining to the physical development of the Territory. Because it was charged with the approval of plans relating to public improvement, government agencies were required to submit written notices of contemplated construction to the Territorial Planning Board. The Board was further authorized to accept and use funds provided by the United States government, and was required to submit a report of its plans and recommendations biennially to the Governor and Legislature.

On January 10, 1938 Governor Poindexter appointed Charles D. Rosecrans, chairman, A. L. Burdick, Robert M. Belt, Ray Morris (architect), and Chester K. Wentworth (engineer) to the Territorial Planning Board. The ex-officio members were Louis S. Cain, superintendent of Public Works and Frank H. Locey, president of the Board of Agriculture and Forestry. The Board held its organizational meeting on February 10, 1938. Subsequently, monthly meetings were held which included public hearings and meetings on the outer islands.

The Territorial Planning Board, in practice, functioned as an administrative unit. On March 28, 1938 the Board appointed Joseph F. Kunesh as director to implement the provisions of Act 207. He headed a staff of five until his resignation in January, 1941, and was succeeded by Karl A. Sinclair.

The Territorial Planning Board received assistance from the National Resources Planning Board which provided general advisory and liaison services for state planning boards. In addition to the services of the National Resources Planning Board, the Territorial Planning Board had two advisory committees. Pursuant to a letter from Harold Ickes, chairman of the National Resources Committee, the Land Planning Committee, similar to those previously established on the mainland, was appointed by the Board. The Human Resources Committee was an outgrowth of a meeting called by Frank Midkiff to consider the problem of unemployment in Honolulu.

Following a technique of planned activity adopted from the National Resources Planning Board and existing state planning boards, the Territorial Planning Board initially concentrated on research before attempting to ascertain needed facilities. Accordingly, the first report of the Board to the Governor and Legislature was An Historic Inventory of the Physical, Social, and Economic and Industrial Resources of the Territory of Hawaii (Publication No. 1), which was an accumulation of data essential to planning. This was followed by its supplement, Existing Urban Resources and Facilities of the Territory of Hawaii (Publication No. 2).

In addition to the preceding publications, the Board published nine other reports. Surface Water Resources of the Territory of Hawaii, 1901-1938 (Publication No. 4) also focuses on research. One of the incentives for its publication was the prevention of costly duplication of effort in research and planning that required knowledge of the availability of water. Also pertinent to the subject of water is the "Report of a Subcommittee of the Land Planning Committee on the Molokai Irrigation Project" (Publication No. 3) which evaluates a report made to the Commissioner of Reclamation, Department of Interior.

At the first meeting of the executive committee of the Human Resources Committee, a decision was reached that the efforts of the committee should be focused on the unemployment problem. Collaborating with the Education Committee of the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce, an unemployment survey was conducted by John R. Sedgwick. The results are published in Unemployment Survey Honolulu and Rural Oahu, December, 1939 (Publication No. 5).

In the later publications the Board begins to implement Section 2 of Act 207. The following reports were mandated by the Twentieth Legislature: Lands for Our Public Schools, An Integral Part of the Territorial Master Plan (Publication No. 6) by Joint Resolution 4; Master Plan of the Town of Kapaa (Publication No. 8) by Senate Joint Resolution 11 which was included in Act 244 (General Appropriations Act); Master Plan of the City of Hilo (Publication No. 9) by Senate Joint Resolution 12, included in Act 244; and Report on the Executive-Legislative Quarters, Civic Center, City of Honolulu, Hawaii (Publication No. 10) by Senate Concurrent Resolution 8. For the Master Plan of the Town of Hanapepe (Publication No. 7) the Board of Supervisors of the County of Kauai solicited the assistance of the Territorial Planning Board when differences in viewpoint arose between the County and private interests during the development of a master plan for the town.

The last publication of the Board was Conservation and Development of National Resources: A Program for Hawaii (Publication No. 11), which included a proposed zoning enabling act. It served the multiple purposes of being the first statement of planning objectives by the Board, the second progress report to the Legislature, and answering a request from the National Resources Planning Board for participation in the national "Program for the Conservation and Development of the Resources of the United States."

Under Act 244, \$6,000 had been appropriated for a Park, Parkway, and Recreational Area Study, which was made in cooperation with the National Park Service to implement Public Law 770 $\frac{1}{2}$ [sic] (74th Congress). The study was nearly completed but was not published.

Other special studies and activities included joint sponsorship of a civic center planning contest with the Honolulu Planning Commission, and a development of the Kaimuki Library-Civic Center and the Keehi Lagoon seaport. During the compilation of the 1940 Census, the Board assisted the Census Bureau by supplying maps of centers of population that were prepared for the report on urban facilities.

During the regular session of the Twenty-first Legislature, by request of the Territorial Planning Board, a bill was introduced to appropriate funds for the acquisition of land sites for public buildings, thereby implementing the recommendations in Publication 10. The measure, however, died in committee.

The Twenty-first Legislature by Joint Resolution 22 mandated the preparation of a master plan for the construction of public school buildings. However, funds for the operation of the Board were deleted from the General Appropriations Act in the Senate, thereby leaving the Board without operating funds for the 1941-1943 biennium. On the advice of Governor Poindexter, the members of the Board continued to hold their commissions, and correspondence was continued on a limited basis by Chester K. Wentworth, acting chairman. When the Twenty-second Legislature (1943) failed to appropriate funds, with the consent of Governor Stainback and the superintendent of Public Works, the records and files of the Board were transferred to the newly created Legislative Reference Bureau at the University of Hawaii.

In 1954 the Territorial Planning Board was reactivated by Governor Samuel W. King. Unlike the previous Board, the emphasis of the new Board was on rural land utilization. However, in 1955 the Legislature failed to appropriate funds for the operation of the Board, and its activities lapsed. The same legislature enacted Act 264 which established the Economic Planning and Coordination Authority. It authorized the transference of all funds and equipment, including records, of the Territorial Planning Board to the newly created Authority.

The records include the minutes, reports, and correspondence of the Territorial Planning Board and its advisory committees. The correspondence consists primarily of material accumulated in the process of compiling data for the published reports. In addition, there are materials compiled for the reports which were not published.

In addition to the records of the Territorial Planning Board, the files include the correspondence of Joseph F. Kunesh, director, as a member of various committees in the community. These are generally filed by subjects. Also included in the files is the Industrial and Commercial Survey conducted by the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce in 1935-1936.

The records of the Territorial Planning Board (1954-1955), consisting of minutes, reports and recommendations to the Governor, are retained as a sub-series.

The records include the following:

Box number	
OGOV 18-1	Territorial Planning Board - Minutes Territorial Planning Board - Agenda Monthly Progress Report - Director to Territorial Planning Board Land Planning Committee - Minutes Land Planning Committee - Correspondence Land Planning Committee - Molokai Water Project Land Planning Committee - Farm Tenancy Land Planning Committee - Land Classification Land Planning Committee - New Crops Sub-committee Land Planning Committee - Pest Eradication Sub-committee Land Planning Committee - Miscellaneous Reports
OGOV 18-2	Human Resources Committee - Minutes and Reports Human Resources Committee - Unemployment Survey Human Resources Committee - Correspondence Communications from Director and Chairman to Members Correspondence of Members Correspondence - Members of Territorial Planning Board (confidential) Incoming Correspondence - C. K. Wentworth, acting chairman Outgoing Correspondence - C. K. Wentworth, acting chairman National Resources Planning Board (Washington, D.C. office) - Correspondence National Resources Planning Board (Berkeley field office) - Correspondence Works Projects Administration - Correspondence re white collar assistance National Youth Administration - Correspondence
OGOV 18-3	Development Program Written Notices of Construction
OGOV 18-4	First Progress Report - Correspondence (by specific studies) First Progress Report - Comments First Progress Report - Errata Supplement to First Progress Report Water Supply Studies, Hawaii, Island of Molokai. Summary of Records, 1939, Surface Water Resources of the Territory of Hawaii Unemployment Survey
OGOV 18-5	Lands for Our Public Schools Master Plan - Hanapepe Master Plan - Kapaa Master Plan - Hilo Report on Executive-Legislative Quarters Second Progress Report

Correspondence re Judiciary Building
 Correspondence re Civic Center Competition
 Correspondence re Kaimuki Library-Civic Center
 Correspondence - Bureau of the Census and others re 1940 Census
 Hawaii Bureau of Governmental Research-Chamber of Commerce: Committee
 of Users of Census Data
 Chamber of Commerce: Territorial and Municipal Affairs Committee -
 Subcommittee on Delimitation and Centers of Population
 Chamber of Commerce: Territorial and Municipal Affairs Committee -
 Housing Census Subcommittee
 Chamber of Commerce: Territorial and Municipal Affairs Committee -
 Agricultural Census Subcommittee and Population Census Subcommittee
 Correspondence re Aerial Survey Maps
 Correspondence with Twentieth Legislature
 Correspondence with Twenty-first Legislature
 General Correspondence with territorial departments
 General Correspondence with United States departments
 General Correspondence with American Society of Planning Officials
 Correspondence and Papers - National Defense Training Council
 General Correspondence - City and County of Honolulu
 General Correspondence - Honolulu
 General Correspondence - Hawaii
 General Correspondence - Maui
 General Correspondence - Molokai
 General Correspondence - Kauai
 General Correspondence with American Institute of Architects
 General Correspondence with Chambers of Commerce
 Correspondence with Honolulu Chamber of Commerce re Inter-Chamber
 City Health Conservation Contest
 Correspondence with Honolulu Chamber of Commerce re Occupational
 Opportunities Survey
 Miscellaneous correspondence with community and service organizations
 Correspondence with School Housing Committee of the Community Survey
 of Education
 Correspondence re Conservation Bulletins
 Correspondence re Copyrights
 Correspondence re Fulmer Act
 Correspondence Traffic Safety
 Correspondence Vocational Guidance
 General Miscellaneous Correspondence
 Miscellaneous papers re Planning
 Publicity: Press and Radio Releases
 Records of WPA workers
 Joseph F. Kunesh - Engineering Association of Hawaii, Traffic and
 Highway Committee
 Honolulu Chamber of Commerce - Index to Industrial and Commercial
 Survey
 Honolulu Chamber of Commerce - Industrial and Commercial Survey

OGOV 18-6

OGOV 18-7

OGOV 18-8

Bound and oversized volumes:

For volumes,
see page 7.

Account book - Territorial Planning and Legislative Reference Bureau
Data and Computations, Kapaa Master Plan
Plot Plans, Oahu Schools
Tax Maps

Territorial Planning Board - 1954-1955

OGOV 18-9

Minutes
Reports to the Governor: (includes)
Study and Analysis of Increase in Cost of Territorial Government
Operations
Hawaii Development Council
Study of the Tuna Fishing Industry with Recommendations
Territorial Employees
Armed Forces Expenditures
Inter-Island Ferry System
Per Capita Cost Federal, Territorial and County Governments
Establishing Economic Planning and Coordinating Authority
Summary Statement, Planning Board's Activities
Recommendations to the Governor: (includes)
Beach Sand Removal - Cessation
Federal Aid for Water Development
Inter-Island Transportation
Governor's Referrals
Governor's Requests

See also:

Subject Index:

Planning Board, Territorial

Government Publications:

Territorial Planning Board
House Journal 1939, 1941
Senate Journal 1939, 1941, 1943

Governor's Files

Joseph B. Poindexter - Planning Board, Territorial
Ingram M. Stainback - Planning Board, Territorial
Samuel W. King - Planning Board, Territorial

TERRITORIAL PLANNING BOARD

Container List

Volume No.

Title

OGOVI8 vol 1	Account Book
OGOVI8 vol 2	Plot Plans, Oahu Schools
OGOVI8 vol 3	Tax Maps: Island of Hawaii
OGOVI8 vol 4	Tax Maps: Kauai
OGOVI8 vol 5	Tax Maps: Maui County
OGOVI8 vol 6	Tax Maps: Oahu
OGOVI8 vol 7	Register of New Cars, Island of Hawaii