

WATER COMMISSION OF THE TERRITORY OF HAWAII
1915-1917

Act 36, Session Laws of 1915, gave Governor Lucius E. Pinkham the authority to appoint a 3-man commission to collect and examine available data and information relating to water resources. It was to also conduct a study on existing laws related to the diverting, developing, using, conserving, holding and wasting of water and make recommendations and draw up any needed legislation.

Arthur G. Smith, George K. Larrison, district engineer at the U. S. Geological Survey office in Honolulu, and Thomas Sedgwick, who was working as a "statistician" for the Honolulu Water Commission, received their commissions on November 16, 1915. They developed a plan of operation covering surface waters and artesian wells and retained one of the foremost water authorities, A. E. Chandler, State Water Commissioner of California, from May to November 1916, to study the legal aspects of Hawaii's water supply. His report may be found in any one of the sources listed below.

R. C. Rice and R. D. Klise, both experienced hydraulic engineers employed at the local Geological Survey office, and Commissioner Sedgwick collected all data used by the group.

Although the deadline stated in the originating Act was January 1, 1917, Governor Pinkham received the Commission's report on January 25, and it was printed within that year.

Materials on the Water Commission of the Territory of Hawaii are very sketchy and limited.

The files consists of only three folders: Report to the Governor, Miscellaneous Letters, and Water Rights - 1908.

See Also: Report of the Water Commission of the Territory of Hawaii (Act 36 Legislature of 1915) to His Excellency the Governor of Hawaii. 1917. 53 pp. (filed with other government publications)

Governor Lucius E. Pinkham's files. Territorial Departments - Water Commission. For additional information about water in Hawaii, see also the Honolulu Water Commission, 1915-1917.

Box No: COM43-1