HAWAIʻI
POLITICAL HISTORY
DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

Volume I

Center for Oral History
Social Science Research Institute
University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa

June 1996
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POLITICAL HISTORY
DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

Volume II

Center for Oral History
Social Science Research Institute
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

June 1996
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These are slightly edited transcriptions of interviews conducted by the Center for Oral History, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. The reader should be aware that an oral history document portrays information as recalled by the interviewee. Because of the spontaneous nature of this kind of document, it may contain statements and impressions which are not factual.

People are welcome to utilize, in unpublished works, short excerpts from any of the transcriptions without obtaining permission as long as proper credit is given to the interviewee, interviewer, and the Center for Oral History. Permission must be obtained from the Center for Oral History for published excerpts and extensive use of transcriptions and related materials. Transcripts and cassette tapes may not be duplicated or reproduced by any party without permission from the Center for Oral History, Social Science Research Institute, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, 2424 Maile Way, Porteus 724, Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96822.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank the interviewees and their families and the Hawai‘i State Legislature for their help and support in making this project possible.
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INTRODUCTION

The Hawai‘i Political History Documentation Project features interviews with forty-two former office holders, aides, appointees, party organizers, union officials, lobbyists, and political observers who share their perspectives on territorial and state politics in the islands.

In these volumes are life history interviews with many well-known and some lesser-known individuals who initiated, participated in, and/or closely observed many political developments of the last half-century. The interviews cover a diversity of topics: the interviewees’ family background, childhood, community, education, work, early political activities and observations, political career, political philosophy, political leadership, and reflections on political and social change in Hawai‘i. Included also are discussions of political parties, unions, legislative bodies, governors, and mayors. Individual politicians—their motivations, philosophies, goals, stand on issues, actions, mode of operation, relations with others—and their role in island history are also discussed.

Project Background and Methodology

The Hawai‘i Political History Documentation Project, initiated by KHET-Hawai‘i Public Broadcasting Authority, was funded by the Hawai‘i State Legislature in 1986 as part of the larger Film and Video Archive Project, an effort to preserve existing moving image collections in the state and produce new video documentation of significant sites and historic lives.

Initially, videotaped interviews with eighteen men and women were conducted by Christopher Conybeare, KHET’s executive director for news and public affairs, and political scientist Daniel W. Tuttle, Jr.

In 1989, KHET contracted the Center for Oral History to continue the project. COH staff (Warren S. Nishimoto and Michi Kodama-Nishimoto), together with Tuttle and political scientist Larry Meacham, conducted the documentary research and served as interviewers. A four-person crew from KHET, including a director, camera, sound, and light personnel, videotaped the interviews in a studio or at homes and offices of interviewees.

COH conducted interviews with more than twenty-five individuals. The interviews were conducted using a life history format. Politics was the major topic. Although no set questionnaire was used, interviewers followed an outline of topics designed specifically for the interviewee. Each outline was based on biographical information gathered during telephone or in-person pre-interviews and on research in primary and secondary sources.

All of the interviews were transcribed almost verbatim by COH-trained student transcribers; the transcripts were audio-reviewed against the audiotapes and edited for clarity and accuracy.

The transcripts were sent to interviewees for their review and approval. Some interviewees made extensive revisions, while others changed little or nothing at all. These changes were incorporated, and transcripts again edited and checked for accuracy. Names, dates, and questionable information were verified or, if necessary, removed from the transcripts.

Legal releases were secured for publication purposes. A few interviewees asked that their transcripts not be released at this time.
The Interviewees
Given the complexity of the subject matter, politics in Hawai‘i (ca. 1930–1990), limited access to interviewees due to age, death, or their ongoing participation in elective politics, limitations of budget, and the difficulties of matching interviewees' schedules with video time slots, it was understood from the beginning that this work would not be a comprehensive treatment of politics in the islands.

In selecting interviewees, first priority was given to the more senior participants in island politics who were knowledgeable about prewar Hawai‘i. Priority was also given to those who participated in or closely observed major postwar developments but had until now left few written records of their actions and thoughts.

Democrats, Republicans, and independents were sought as interviewees. Those who ran for county, territorial, state, or federal office as well as those appointed to positions were included. Individuals active “behind the scenes” as supporters, organizers, and advisors were also interviewed. Longtime observers of island politics were also asked to participate in this study. Interviewees were sought not only from O‘ahu, but from the Big Island, Kaua‘i, and Maui.

Interviewed were:
Toshio Ansa, Republican, Maui, council member and legislator
Yasuki Arakaki, Democrat, Big Island, ILWU organizer and leader
Tadao Beppu, Democrat, O‘ahu, legislator
Richard Caltito, Democrat, Maui, council member
Donald D. H. Ching, Democrat, O‘ahu, legislator
Hubert V. Everly, education lobbyist and educator
Hiram L. Fong, Republican, O‘ahu, legislator, U.S. Senator
S. George Fukuoka, Democrat, Maui, council member, legislator, judge
Joseph R. Garcia, Jr., Republican, Big Island, legislator, council member
Thomas P. Gill, Democrat, O‘ahu, legislator, U.S. Congressman, lt. governor
Helene Hale, Democrat, Big Island, county chair and council member
Richard Henderson, Republican, Big Island, legislator
Kase Higa, Democrat, Maui, party campaign chair, judge
John J. Hulten, Democrat, O‘ahu, legislator
Ernest K. Kai, auditor, attorney general, secretary of Hawai‘i
Elizabeth Kellerman, Republican, Con-Con, Republican national committeewoman
Herman Lemke, Democrat, O‘ahu, chair and council member
Chuck Mau, Democrat, party organizer
Katsugo Miho, Republican, O‘ahu, legislator, judge
Katsuro Miho, Democrat, O‘ahu, Wilson supporter, statehood commission
John E. “Stu” Milligan, Republican, Maui, legislator
Robert Oshiro, Democrat, O‘ahu, legislator, campaign organizer
William F. Quinn, Republican, governor
Pedro E. Racelis, Jr., Democrat, O‘ahu, party worker and precinct officer
William S. Richardson, Democrat, lt. governor, chief justice
James Ward Russell, Jr., Republican, O‘ahu, legislator
Toshio Serizawa, Democrat, Kaua‘i and Big Island, council member, legislator
Chiyozo “Joe” Shiramizu, Republican, Kaua‘i, council member
Adam A. “Bud” Smyser, Honolulu Star-Bulletin reporter and editor
Wilfred “Buddy” Soares, Republican, O‘ahu, legislator
Jack Suwa, Democrat, Big Island, legislator
Sakae Takahashi, Democrat, O‘ahu, legislator
Hannibal M. Tavares, Republican, Maui, mayor
Mike Tokunaga, Democrat, O‘ahu, party organizer, Burns supporter
Daniel W. Tuttle, Jr., political scientist
John T. Ushijima, Democrat, Big Island, legislator
Meyer Ueoka, Democrat, Maui, county attorney, magistrate, legislator, BOE
Arthur Davis Woolaway, Republican, longtime central committee member
Thomas Yagi, Democrat, Maui, ILWU organizer and leader
Vincent Yano, Democrat, O‘ahu, legislator
Wadsworth Y. H. Yee, Republican, O‘ahu, legislator
Masaru “Pundy” Yokouchi, Democrat, Maui, party organizer, Burns supporter

Transcript Usage
These volumes include a glossary of all non-English and Hawai‘i Creole English (HCE) words (which are italicized in the transcripts) and a detailed subject/name index. A biographical summary precedes each interviewee’s transcript.

Each transcript is identified by a series of numbers at the beginning of each transcript. This series of numbers include, in order, a project number, audio cassette number, session number, and year of interview. For example, 17-42-1-89 identifies project number 17, cassette number 42, recorded interview session 1, and the year, 1989.

All interviewees were encouraged to read their transcripts and make any deletions or additions they considered necessary before releasing their transcripts for publication. The transcripts, published in these volumes, represent the statements which interviewees wish to leave for the public record.

Wherever possible, COH staff have tried to verify statements. But, it must be noted that unverifiable and questionable statements may be found in these transcripts. All users of these volumes are encouraged to corroborate oral historical statements before quoting them as fact.

Transcript Availability
These transcripts are the primary documents presently available for research purposes. The videotapes and audio cassettes are in storage and not available for use without the written permission of COH and KHET-Hawai‘i Public Broadcasting Authority.

The Hawai‘i Political History Documentation Project is available at the following locations:

Hawai‘i
Hawai‘i Public Library (Hilo)
Hawai‘i Community College Library
University of Hawai‘i at Hilo Library
Kealakekua Community Library

Kaua‘i
Līhu‘e Public Library
Kaua‘i Community College Library

Lāna‘i
Lāna‘i Public and School Library

Maui
Maui Public Library (Wailuku)
Maui Community College Library

Moloka‘i
Moloka‘i Public Library
O'ahu
Bishop Museum Library
Hawai'i State Library
Kaimuki Public Library
Kāne'ohe Public Library
Pearl City Public Library
Honolulu Community College Library
Kapil'olani Community College Library
KHET-Hawai'i Public Broadcasting Authority

Leeward Community College Library
Windward Community College Library
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Hamilton Library
Sinclair Library
Center for Oral History
Ethnic Studies Program
Hawai'i State Archives

COH publications include:

Transcript collections
Waialua and Hale'iwa: The People Tell Their Story (1977)
Life Histories of Native Hawaiians (1978)
Waipi'o: Māno Wai (Source of Life) (1978)
The 1924 Filipino Strike on Kaua'i (1979)
Women Workers in Hawai'i's Pineapple Industry (1979)
Stores and Storekeepers of Pā'ia and Pu'unēnē, Maui (1980)
A Social History of Kona (1981)
Five Life Histories (1983)
Kalihi: Place of Transition (1984)
Ka Po'e Kau Lei: An Oral History of Hawai'i's Lei Sellers (1986)
Perspectives on Hawai'i's Statehood (1986)
Lāna'i Ranch: The People of Kō'ele and Keōmuku (1989)
Oral Histories of African Americans (1990)
Public Education in Hawai'i: Oral Histories (1991)
'Ualapu'e, Moloka'i: Oral Histories from the East End (1991)
An Era of Change: Oral Histories of Civilians in World War II Hawai'i (1994)

Books
Uchinanchu: A History of Okinawans in Hawai'i. Published in cooperation with the United Okinawan Association (1981)

Finding Aids
Catalog of Oral History Collections in Hawai'i (1981)

Other publications
Oral History Recorder newsletter (1984–

The staff of the Center for Oral History, Social Science Research Institute, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, believes that researching, recording, and disseminating the experiences of Hawai‘i’s people will stimulate further research and foster a better understanding of our islands’ history. COH is responsible for any errors in representing or interpreting the statements of interviewees.

Honolulu, Hawai‘i
June 1996