

# C.T. 57

## "People's Movement"

by Gail Miyasaki  
Herald Staff writer

Census Tract 57 (C.T. 57) is the State of Hawaii's designation of a largely residential area in Kapalama next to the Honolulu Community College between King and Dillingham. Some 2600 people, mostly of Filipino and Japanese ancestry and with low or moderate incomes, reside in C.T. 57. However, there also exists side-by-side, apartment buildings, saimin stands, grocery stores, and some light industries such as the Rattan Art Gallery warehouse, Hawaiian Canoes run by Perry and son to repair racing canoes, Hawaii Cotton which spins the cotton fiber for "futons" and "zabutons," and the Hawaii Broom Company. (The Hawaii Hochi is also located in this area.)

Within the next ten years, these people and businesses will find themselves homeless due to the expansion of Honolulu Community College. The State has already purchased the properties which house 44 families.

As early as 1964, plans for expansion were made without the consultation or participation of the residents of C.T. 57, most of whom rent or lease their homes. Faced with eventual eviction, residents of C.T. 57 have formed an organization called the "C.T. 57 People's Movement" to resist the expansion and resulting destruction of their homes.

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On Saturday, February 24, members of the organization took representatives of the press on a tour of C.T. 57. They pointed out the following developments:

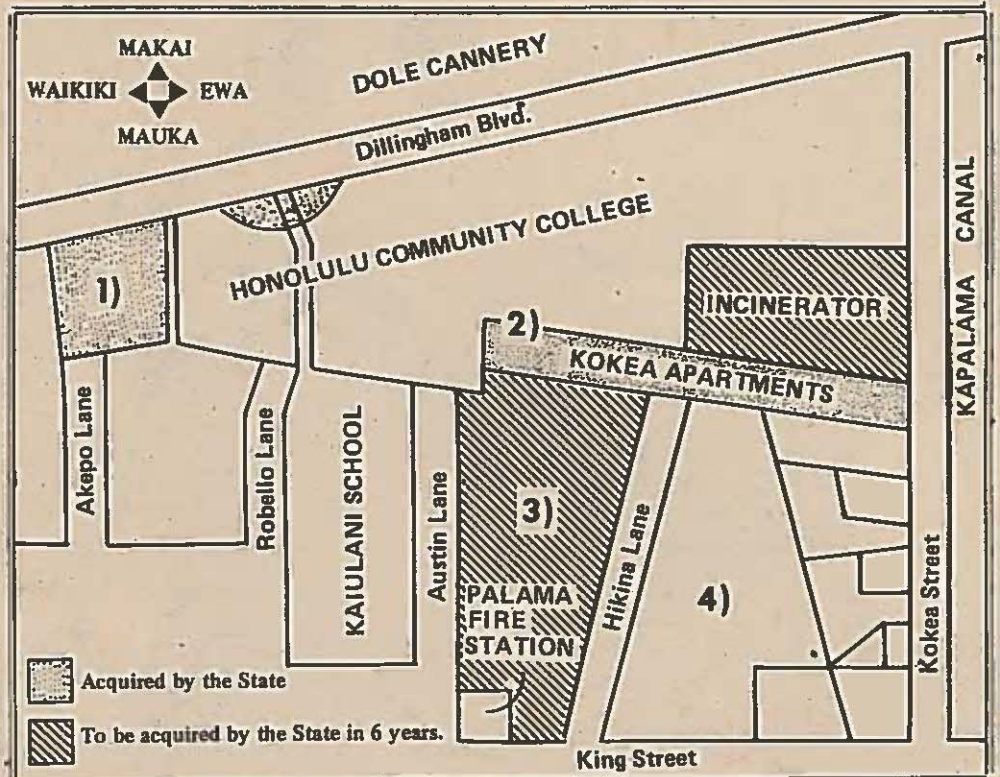
1) Akepo Lane - first area to be affected. The State has purchased the Fong property and is negotiating for the Thom property. 11 families now live on land to be made into a parking lot for HCC.

2) Kokea Apartments - second area whose status is still undetermined. State has purchased property which houses 33 families.

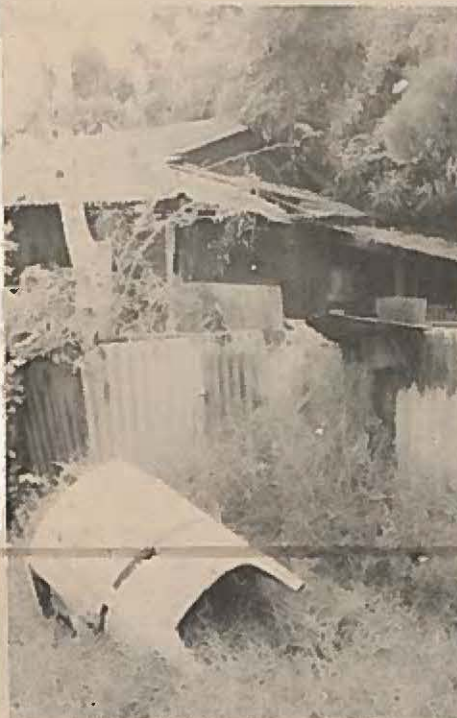
3) Hikina-Austin block - area across Tamashiro Fishmarket to be purchased by the State within the next six years.

4) Hikina-Kokea block - occupied by the City incinerator, McCallister Furniture, Bireley's, and the Hawaii Hochi; no definite plans.

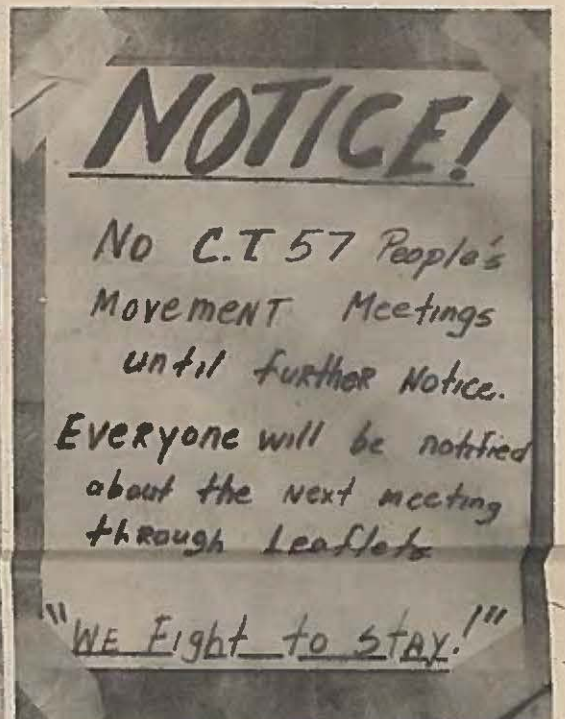
Representatives of the C.T. 57 People's Movement, Bobbi Madali, Zach Lastimado, Mary Enos, and Palmyra Tau'a on seeing the successful struggle of the Ota Camp residents in Waipahu, expressed hope that their "plight and voice will be understood and heard."



(Map is representational; not drawn to scale.)



"Some of our homes are in bad shape; others are old, but people have made the best of them. We have nowhere else to go and this is why we stay." (RESIDENTS of Hikina and Austin Lanes).

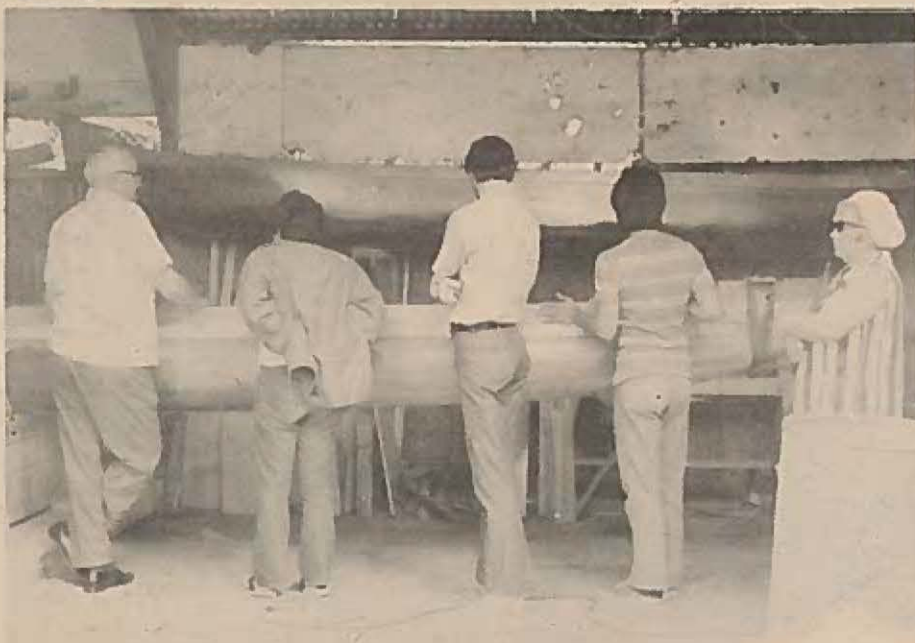


"I live here 30 years; I no move. Ota Camp stay, I stay," (LUCIO DEMAINE, Akepo Lane resident).



"We not rich; our lifestyle simple and same for 15 years." (FILIPINO RESIDENT of Hikina Lane).

"Don't know where those canoe clubs'll send their canoes for repairs; once the eviction comes, I'm done. I'll have to close shop." (GEORGE PERRY, Hawaiian Canoes).



"The parking lot of Honolulu Community College will be expanded and all those homes will have to go. The HCC hopes to expand 20 acres, all into residential and small business areas. They could build a layered parking lot on existing land or they could even consider all that land that the Dole Pineapple Cannery has. The pineapple industry is moving away from Hawaii to cheaper (labor) places like the Philippines and Taiwan. Why isn't their land considered? Are cars more important than people?" (C.T. 57 PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT REPRESENTATIVES).

PHOTOGRAPHS BY:  
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