

# Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association

P. O. BOX 315

CABLE ADDRESS "HASP"

Honolulu, T. H.

Circular Letter No. 4  
Subject: Unit Housing.

September 15, 1920.

Grove Farm Plantation,  
Lihue, Kauai.

Gentlemen:

Housing conditions on the plantations have changed greatly during the past few years, largely on account of the change in the labor from single to married men. There is a vast difference between the housing of single men and families. The providing of suitable dwellings for families has led to the adoption of the unit housing system, i. e., one family to the house.

We recommend that all future construction of laborers' and semi-skilled married men's quarters be of the one-family single house type, with not less than two bedrooms, situated on a lot of approximately 5,000 square feet, with the necessary wash, bath house, and other sanitary arrangements on the premises. We find that on most estates enough of the small two-family houses exist to supply for some years to come the demands for housing couples with no children. As a matter of fact, a great many of the small two-family houses are overcrowded, which necessitates the building of the one-family dwellings.

Although many plantations have under way large building programs, they are not getting very far ahead owing to the fact that so many single-family dwellings are necessary. This is particularly true on those plantations which still have the obsolescent barracks type of dwelling in use.

It is up to the plantation to adopt or reject a policy of suitably housing their employees. It is needless for us to state that the adoption of such a policy is one of the factors essential to our labor problem. If this policy has been adopted the enormity of the housing problem must be appreciated. Do you realize that more dwellings are needed merely to house increasing families, and that the replacing of the average barracks with six or eight single houses does not provide for the natural increase? Are you getting ahead with a building program or are you still losing ground?

Very truly yours,

Industrial Service Bureau, H. S. P. A.

*Donald S. Bowman*  
Donald S. Bowman,  
Director.