



AUGUST 21, 1959 | STATEHOOD DAY

The road to becoming the 50TH STATE

The call from Congress



Elmer Cravalho received the call on March 11, 1959, after the Senate voted to make Hawai'i a state. The red, white and blue phone that he used on that day is pictured.



INSIDE

The statehood era brought with it both good and bad, as Hawai'i continued to seek equality

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The Hawaiian Renaissance stirred a renewed interest in traditional arts, culture

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Real-life celebrities and fictional characters alike flocked to the newly formed state

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THE 50TH STATE

TOURISM LEADS ECONOMY

Statehood and the arrival of jet travel put the visitor industry in a dominant position in the Islands

BY MICHAEL TSAI
Advertiser Staff Writer

In 1959, military spending outstripped the combined revenue generated by Hawai'i's sugar and pineapple industries, the pillars upon which Hawai'i's modern economy had been built. That year, tourism ranked a distant No. 3.

In less than two years, however, tourism would overtake both military spending and agriculture to become Hawai'i's dominant economic mover, a position it has yet to relinquish.

The shift occurred with startling swiftness, thanks to statehood and the introduction of high-volume, relatively low-cost jet travel between Hawai'i and the Mainland.

"Statehood and jet travel catapulted us," said former First Hawaiian Bank CEO Walter Dods, who graduated from high school and entered the job market in 1959. "They were the start of dramatic, positive increase in Hawai'i's economic situation."

"Historically, Hawai'i was a capital-short state," Dods said. "It was an awakening to have money come in for the construction of hotels and infrastructure. Outside capital poured in, which had a tremendous impact on the economy."

The number of tourists traveling to Hawai'i skyrocketed after statehood and maintained an upward trajectory for more than four decades, declining only once between 1960 and 1990. From 1960 to 1970 alone, visitor arrivals jumped from 296,000 a year to 1.7 million. By the 21st century, that figure had increased to more than 7 million.

The boom in tourism was met with a surge in development, funded in part by Mainland investors whose confidence in the market was bolstered by Hawai'i's new status as a state.

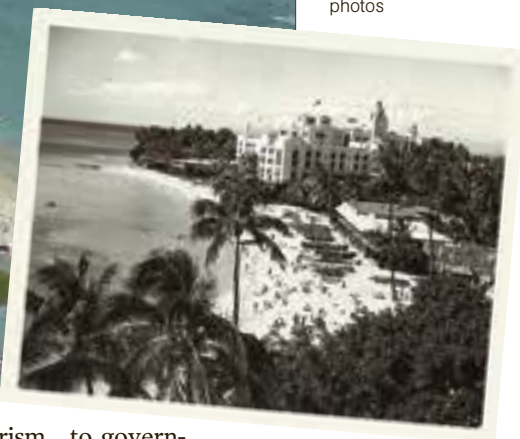
"Local banks embraced statehood and allowed funds to flow, which helped in the ability to attract big Mainland lenders," Dods said. "If you had a \$50 million project, we could fund maybe \$10 million. The rest had to come from larger banks on the Mainland. We needed those banks to work



LEFT: Visitors to Hawai'i often pay a visit to Waikiki Beach. Tourism has been the state's dominant industry almost since statehood.

BELOW: The Royal Hawaiian hotel had few neighbors on Waikiki Beach in 1958. The tourism boom sparked a surge in development.

Advertiser library photos



with us, and they were willing."

The rise of tourism had immediate benefits and far-reaching implications.

In 1960, the local building industry hit a new high with \$164 million in building permits, an increase of \$35 million over the previous year.

For 1961-62, the state's operating budget increased by \$10 million to nearly \$104 million.

The growth of the economy led to a surge in population, as well.

"At 20 percent growth per year, every three years it doubles," said James Mak, a professor of economics at the University of Hawai'i and author of "Developing a

Dream Destination: Tourism and Tourism Policy Planning in Hawai'i."

"Incredible rates of economic growth drove up income," Mak said. "In 1959, the average income was relatively low, about 20 percent below the national average. By 1970, we had caught up."

During the transition from an agriculture-based economy to a service-based economy, the local population increased dramatically.

"People migrate to jobs," Mak said. "And in Hawai'i, jobs were created that the local population couldn't fill."

Mak said the initial growth spurt was made possible by a laissez-faire approach

to government. He said that while the local government did not heavily regulate the growing tourism industry, it did invest in ways that ultimately helped tourism, such as building infrastructure on the Neighbor Islands and establishing UH's travel-industry management program "for labor force training."

Eventually, however, the pace of growth proved unsettling, even disruptive, to the local community. Projects like Henry J. Kaiser's Hawai'i Kai development plan threatened to displace existing rural and

SEE ECONOMY, PAGE 12

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-Mark Snyder, Chief Marketing Officer for Kmart

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ECONOMY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Eventually, however, the pace of growth proved unsettling, even disruptive, to the local community. Projects like Henry J. Kaiser's Hawai'i Kai development plan threatened to displace existing rural and agricultural communities.

Mak said permitting and other regulatory policies were put into place to slow the rate of development. These policies, he said, would eventually become impediments to business and economic development as the rate of growth dropped off.

"Because we were growing so rapidly, they wanted to slow it down," Mak said. "But today, we're still doing the same thing at a time when we want to accelerate growth."

LOOKING TOWARD JAPAN

Local government officials and private business leaders identified early on the value of cultivating the Japanese market as a source of tourism business, and business

and real estate investment.

As Mak noted, Japan eased travel restrictions on its citizens after the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 1964. Riding a wave of economic prosperity themselves, Japanese tourists flocked to the Islands.

Under Govs. George Ariyoshi and John Waihee, the state continued to promote Japanese tourism and investment through the 1970s and '80s.

Japanese tourists remain highly valued because, on average, they tend to spend more while on vacation than visitors from the Mainland.

In 1985, the U.S. dollar was significantly devalued in relation to the Japanese yen as part of the so-called Plaza Accord between the United States, Japan, West Germany, France and the United Kingdom.

The result for Hawai'i was a massive increase in Japanese investment, particularly in the local real estate market. The impact for residents was a spike in housing costs that, in combination with a higher-than-average cost of living, drove many to seek more affordable lives on the Mainland.

At the height of Japan's influence on

SEE ECONOMY, PAGE 12

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THE 50TH STATE

THEN & NOW

Makiki, Kapi'olani area expands over 50 years



ABOVE: The view of the residential and business district along Ke'eumoku Street toward Ala Moana Beach Park in September 1960.

LEFT: The Kapi'olani district, shown from Pu'u 'Ualaka'a State Park on Aug. 5. What's new are the numerous high-rises and abundant vegetation.

Top photo: Advertiser library photo;
Left photo: **KENT NISHIMURA**
| The Honolulu Advertiser

ECONOMY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Hawai'i, Japanese contributed \$3.8 billion to the local economy and accounted for 11 percent of total real estate value in the Islands.

VOLATILITY OF TOURISM

Such heavy reliance on Japan, and on tourism overall, was reflected in recessionary periods after Asian markets tumbled in the 1990s, the 9/11 attacks, the SARS outbreak and other tourism-inhibiting events.

Such volatility has prompted the state to invest in a variety of industries — including high-tech and aquaculture — in hopes of providing more economic stability during low periods in tourism. But achieving this goal has been problematic.

"Anybody who has any sense wants a diversified economy," Dods said. "But that's easy to say and hard to do."


Dods said no single industry is likely to provide the sort of economic stability the state seeks. Instead, he said, the answer likely lies in nurturing and protecting the tourism industry while at the same time developing "smaller niche markets" uniquely suited for Hawai'i.

For Mak, who agrees that tourism "makes the most sense" as Hawai'i's leading industry, the key to future prosperity lies in diversifying tourism itself and acting upon new opportunities, as the state has done in its recent efforts to cultivate Chinese visitation.

"The Hawai'i economy is down right now because tourism and construction are down, but this is not insurmountable," Mak said. "We are facing difficulties, but not difficulties that will last beyond two to three years."

Reach Michael Tsai at mtsai@honoluluadvertiser.com.

That was THEN



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50 YEARS OF STATEHOOD | HONOLULUADVERTISER.COM/STATEHOOD

THE 50TH STATE

HAWAIIAN RENAISSANCE

Enduring resolve to maintain cultural and political identity sowed seeds of sovereignty movement

BY MICHAEL TSAI
Advertiser Staff Writer

There are myriad measures by which to quantify the Native Hawaiian experience of the statehood era.

Compared to the general population, Native Hawaiians in their homeland account for disproportionately high rates of poverty, infant mortality, homelessness, incarceration, drug and alcohol abuse, and chronic disease, while recording disproportionately poor results for longevity, high school completion, college enrollment, career advancement and overall income.

However, a more basic measure may reveal the most compelling narrative of the past 50 years of Hawaiian history: In 1970, the first year in which the U.S. Census combined pure Hawaiians and part Hawaiians into a single category, the total Native Hawaiian population in Hawai'i stood at 71,274. By 2000, the total had increased to 239,655.

Adjustments in the way census data is collected may account for some of the statistical phenomenon.

However, it may also be argued that the nature of census reportage — self-identification — would suggest that the change reflects not just an increase in the actual number of pure and part Hawaiians, but an increase in the number of people willing to identify themselves on the basis of their Native Hawaiian heritage.

Given the dramatic changes within the Native Hawaiian community during this period, particularly within the overall context of the 116 years since the overthrow of the Monarchy, it's an argument worth consideration.

While the passage of statehood was widely viewed as the end of the territorial era and the beginning of a new age of full American citizenship, many older Native Hawaiians of the time saw it as the latest in a continuum of events that had all but erased their unique social, political and cultural identity.

Today, Hawaiian scholars and activists



ADVERTISER LIBRARY PHOTO | January 1993

Marchers headed toward the 'Iolani Palace grounds during a centennial protest of the 1893 overthrow of the Hawaiian Monarchy.

assert that statehood was only made possible by the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Monarchy orchestrated by American businessmen in 1893 and the subsequent annexation of Hawai'i by the United States — under dubious circumstances — seven years later.

By 1959, however, knowledge of these events was largely suppressed by an educational system that emphasized Americanization as inevitable progress and a post-World War II social and political climate that valued conformity to a homogeneous set of American ideals.

Thus, activists say, an older generation of Native Hawaiians who still remembered

Hawaiian political independence was coerced into silence and a younger generation was raised in protective ignorance of their cultural heritage.

By the mid-1960s, a renewed interest in traditional Hawaiian arts and culture was beginning to emerge.

The so-called second Hawaiian Renaissance (which referenced an earlier re-examination of Hawaiian arts and culture under King David Kalākaua) was led by musicians such as the Sons of Hawai'i, Gabby Pahinui and Hui 'Ohana, such scholars as Mary Kawena Pukui, kumu hula George Na'ope (founder of the Merrie Monarch Festival), navigator Nainoa Thompson and

others seeking to perpetuate and advance traditional Hawaiian knowledge and culture.

The renaissance also would lead to the resurrection of the Hawaiian language, which had all but disappeared from academic curricula in the preceding decades. The foundation of Hawaiian immersion schools in the 1980s has helped to produce a new generation of Hawaiian-literate scholars, who in turn have reclaimed overlooked knowledge and records through their examination of antiquarian Hawaiian texts.

As Hawaiian arts and culture were mak-

SEE IDENTITY, 14

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THE 50TH STATE

IDENTITY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

ing a comeback, young Native Hawaiians inspired by the civil rights movement of the 1960s and the worldwide struggles by indigenous peoples to attain social justice turned their attention to land struggles brought about by the tourism-propelled development boom of the 1960s and '70s.

APOLOGY BY THE U.S.

In Kalama Valley, Waiāhole/Waikāne and other fronts across the state, academics, farmers, activists and others organized to resist development projects that threatened to displace entire communities and further alienate Native Hawaiians from land and sea. These early struggles would eventually splinter and evolve into movements against militarism, environmental destruction, American "colonialism" and other perceived threats.

The successes of these movements, while few and far between, were significant, perhaps none more so than the U.S. military's return of Kaho'olawe to Hawaiian control.

In a larger sense, the cultural and political activism of the period helped to restore a sense of Hawaiian pride, which would later manifest in the modern Hawaiian sovereignty movement.

Over the past two decades, advocates for Hawaiian independence and self-determination have bolstered their positions through close study of modern Hawaiian history, ultimately concluding that the



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The voyaging canoe Hōkūle'a, shown with Diamond Head in the background in 1974, still serves as a reminder of the rich Hawaiian culture and traditions.

overthrow, annexation and statehood were each achieved illegally.

In 1993, thousands of Native Hawaiians and their supporters staged a tense, emotional four-day observance of the 100th anniversary of the overthrow. Activist and physician Dr. Kekuni Blaisdell credits the "Onipa'a" event for exerting political pressure on Hawai'i's Congressional delegation to take their grievances to Washington.

This ultimately resulted in the 1993 Apology Resolution, introduced by Sen. Dan Akaka and approved by Congress and former President Bill Clinton, in which the U.S. government acknowledged its complicity in the overthrow.

Blaisdell and a coalition of other Hawaiian leaders are now calling for similar acknowledgement of the illegality of annex-

ation (because it was enacted by Congress through simple resolution) and statehood (based on the exclusion of other voter options set forth by the United Nation's designation of Hawai'i as a non-self-governing territory).

SEEKING SELF-DETERMINATION

While many Hawaiians have comfortably reconciled the contradictory aspects of their native and American identities and favor continued membership in the union, others are committed to realizing Hawaiian self-determination.

Just what form that may take remains in dispute, with some favoring autonomy with state and federal systems (similar to that of Native American and Inuit peoples), others full independence as a king-

dom, republic or democratic nation.

"It's important for us to pursue self-determination and independence but how we do that depends on what we decide collectively," Blaisdell said. "I'm not into kingdoms, but some people are."

Lilikā Kame'eleihiwa, former director of the University of Hawai'i's Kamakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies, said a necessary first step would be for the state and federal governments to adopt the U.N.'s Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which includes provisions for self-determination and the return of sovereign lands.

"If 50 years of statehood have been so good for our people, the Native Hawaiians, the indigenous people this land, who have lived here for the past 100 generations, then let the state Legislature adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, that 144 nations of the world have voted in favor of on Sept. 13, 2007, and let the Hawai'i state Legislature call upon President Barack Obama to have America adopt the UNDRIP," she said.

"Then let America follow the international standards set by the (UNDRIP). ... Let all the Hawaiians who move away from Hawai'i return home to land that they can live upon."

While visions of independence take many different forms, some Native Hawaiian activists believe that a community of people proud of their Hawaiian heritage and empowered to act on their own behalf will help to determine where Hawai'i goes in the next 50 years.

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THE 50TH STATE

POP CULTURE PARADISE

After statehood, Hawai'i's presence continued to grow in the U.S. — on screen, in books and music

BY MICHAEL TSAI
Advertiser Staff Writer

Gidget visited, of course, but so did Elvis Presley, Lawrence Welk, and even a little menace named Dennis.

It took Wilma and Betty winning a TV contest to bring the Flintstones over from Bedrock.

The Bradys coat-tailed their way on dad Mike's business trip only to find themselves hexed by a malevolent tiki.

(Gomer Pyle won a trip to Hawai'i, but gave it to Sgt. Carter.)

One way or another, it seemed, anyone who was anyone — be they real-life celebrity or fictional character — made it a point to visit Hawai'i in the years immediately before and after statehood.

Hawai'i had already established a considerable presence in American popular culture through a variety of avenues — classic South Pacific cinema; the popular syndicated radio program "Hawai'i Calls"; its use as a backdrop for films such as "From Here to Eternity" and TV shows like "I Love Lucy"; the exotica genre of music popularized by Martin Denny. But it was the promise and eventual realization of statehood that truly brought Hawai'i to the forefront of national attention and further cemented, for better or worse, popular images and conceptions of the Islands as a laid-back paradise that persist today.

According to Bishop Museum collections manager DeSoto Brown, national awareness of Hawai'i's bid for statehood, and the widely held assumption that statehood would eventually be granted, was reflected in popular and niche magazines of the mid-1950s.

"There was a lot of publicity in news, fashion and travel magazines," he said. "There was even a farm magazine from 1954 that had a Hawai'i story in it. It was a subject of great discussion at the time."

Brown said the gist of the articles was essentially the same: Hawai'i statehood was a significant topic of the time; the territory was highly Americanized and an attractive destination; congressional approval was simply a matter of time.

"It was inescapable as a subject," Brown said.

But the images of Hawai'i proffered by the media prior to statehood weren't always positive.

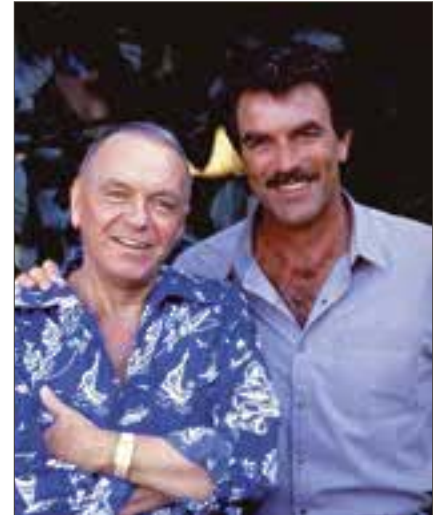
The original version of John Ford's controversial propaganda film "December 7" depicted Japanese residents of Hawai'i as spies.

Edward Ludwig's 1952 film "Big Jim McLain" featured John Wayne and James Arness as federal agents investigating communist infiltration of Hawai'i labor unions, a storyline that Brown said was directly related to the statehood debate.

Yet by 1959, the political implications of Hawai'i's entry to the union in film and other popular media had been largely glossed over in favor of an older vision of the Islands as benign and welcoming, an image dating back to the ship tourism days of the 1920s and '30s and resurrected in myriad forms by modern tourism efforts.

This image was easy to fold within the mass-market focus of the popular media, and the result was an explosion of Hawai'i-themed articles, specials, films, comics and other media.

Hawai'i statehood continued to be a popular entry point for magazine articles, if not the actual subject of the



ABOVE: Frank Sinatra, left, with actor Tom Selleck, made a rare acting appearance as a retired detective tracking a killer in Hawai'i on "Magnum, P.I." in February 1987.

LEFT: Elvis Presley, visiting Hawai'i in August 1965, was one of the many stars who flocked to the state.

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SEE POP, PAGE 16

THE 50TH STATE

POP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

pieces, for years to come. For example, Brown said, a homemaking magazine might run stories on how to have your own lū'au or how to replicate a lānai.

The approach for such projects typically fell in line with the description music blogger Joe Sarno used to describe the concurrent "exotica" musical genre: "a middle-class American take-off on alien culture."

ROMANTIC NOTIONS

Much of the same could be said of the Hawai'i depicted in TV sitcoms of the '50s through early '70s.

For shows like "The Brady Bunch," the requisite Hawai'i-vacation episode offered an innocuous break from the norm, with the added comedic benefit of transposing familiar characters into an island setting and culture perceived as safe (by virtue of its statehood status) yet still highly exotic, if only in caricature.

Hawai'i was portrayed in similarly innocent but exotic terms in popular music.

Brown points to "Travelin' Man," the Jerry Fuller song popularized by Ricky Nelson, which includes in its verses the lines: "Pretty Polynesian baby over the sea/I remember the night/when we walked in the sands of the Waikiki/and I held you oh so tight" — lines which perpetuate the idea of Hawai'i being as distant as the other locales mentioned in the song (Mexico, Berlin, Hong Kong and Alaska) while also conjuring the oft-repeated image of the young island girl as an exotic, romantic object.

But not all depictions of Hawai'i were so lightweight.

James Michener's best-selling historical novel "Hawaii," released in 1959, incorporated significant elements of Hawai'i's controversial history with the United States.

Also making its debut in 1959 was the detective drama "Hawaiian Eye" (starring Anthony Eisley, Robert Conrad, Connie Stevens and Poncie Ponce), which offered a slightly more realistic portrayal of the islands as a modern American state. The show was one of several detective series patterned after the successful "77 Sunset Strip" and set in "exotic" locations. (In truth, the show was shot on a Hollywood soundstage.)

The mid- to late-1960s saw a continu-



Advertiser library photos

James Michener's best-selling historical novel "Hawaii" incorporated significant elements of the state's controversial history with the United States. The book came out in 1959.



"Hawaii Five-O," featuring Jack Lord, was a wildly popular crime drama of the 1960s and '70s that was filmed in the Islands.

ance of romantic notions of the islands, but also stronger emphasis on Hawai'i, Honolulu in particular, as a modern, international city where skyscrapers rise above the gently rocking palms.

This was the Hawai'i of "Hawaii Five-O," the wildly popular crime drama of the '60s and '70s that played on an evolving image of the Islands as a paradise with its own set of contemporary urban problems.

The show displayed a gritty side of Hawai'i rarely considered in popular media. It also mediated the exoticness of the Islands, depicting non-white characters in a more realistic light as people with jobs, goals, obligations and lives not so different than those of the prominent white leads.

Alas, it was a notion of Hawai'i seldom explored in the decades to come.

By the 1980s, the Hawai'i-based series of note was "Magnum, P.I.," the mostly breezy detective drama that saw Tom Selleck playing out a variety of male wish-fulfillment scenarios as a well-funded malihi private investigator unraveling crime in a scenic tropical paradise.

NATURAL BACKDROP

In recent years, TV series and films set specifically in Hawai'i have not fared nearly as well as those that simply use Hawai'i for scenery.

While ABC's "Lost," which is filmed but not set in Hawai'i, has used the diversity of Hawai'i's natural and urban environments to maximum effect over a successful five-year run, other series set in Hawai'i — including dubious offerings like "Hawaii" and "North Shore" — have failed to gain traction.

Likewise, while the original "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and the "Jurassic Park" films have gone on to huge box office success, Hawai'i-set films like "50 First Dates," "Pearl Harbor" and "The Big Bounce," have produced spotty results.

Still, the broad diversification of popular media over the past few decades has ensured that Hawai'i remains a fixture in the national consciousness.

Cable television has made celebrities of

everyone from Duane "Dog" Chapman of "Dog the Bounty Hunter" to Ruthie Alcáide of MTV's "The Real World." (Hawai'i is also a favorite stop-over for the Food Network and HGTV.)

The rise of independent filmmaking, made possible by advances in affordable digital technology, had an early start in Hawai'i thanks to Kayo Hata's heroic efforts to make "Picture Bride." Today, local filmmakers such as James Sereno and Brett Wagner, as well as up-and-coming auteurs from the University of Hawai'i's Academy for Creative Media, continue the project of telling stories of Hawai'i and the Pacific from the inside.

During the statehood era, Hawai'i has also laid claim to a broad ensemble of music stars, from Bette Midler and Yvonne Elliman to the Pussycat Dolls' Nicole Scherzinger and Jason Reece of the band And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead.

Hawaiian music remains largely a regional commodity, but it also has produced its share of international stars, none more significant than the late Israel Kamakawiwo'ole, whose medley of "Over the Rainbow/What a Wonderful World" has been used in scores of films, television shows and commercials internationally. Kamakawiwo'ole, whose "Alone in IZ World" once beat out new releases by Sheryl Crow and Bruce Springsteen on Amazon's top-sellers chart, was even featured (twice) on America Online's home page.

While Hawai'i has produced scores of prominent athletes since statehood, including current phenoms such as Michelle Wie and the Philadelphia Phillies' Shane Victorino, its sporting identity remains surfing — and it has the mass media library to prove it.

Hawai'i's history as the birthplace of surfing and its role in the ongoing evolution of watersport have been evident in a wide variety of media, from Bruce Brown's seminal surf pic "Endless Summer" to the surf-pop of Jack Johnson to the thousands of grainy DIY surf videos circulated via YouTube.

So closely associated is surfing to Hawai'i, it has been the de rigeur shot for nearly every visiting production in the statehood era. Even Greg Brady gave it a try — before almost dying in a nasty wipeout.

Darn tiki.

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A BOLD BID FOR EQUALITY

Statehood was seen as moving beyond colonialism; how well it worked depends on whom you ask

BY MICHAEL TSAI
Advertiser Staff Writer

Born of a desire to shed "second-class" status as a U.S. territory (and with it the social, economic and political encumbrances it perpetuated) and shaped by governmental and popular responses to the larger forces of history, the statehood era in Hawai'i has seen equal measures of good and bad from a half-century of rapid development, political awakening and social upheaval.

Hawai'i's first congressional delegate, Robert Wilcox, was elected largely on his pledge to seek statehood for Hawai'i. And in 1919, Prince Jonah Kūhiō introduced the first Hawai'i statehood bill to Congress. But it would take another 40 years of advocacy from local politicians, territorial delegates and others with compelling (if at times competing) motivations before both houses of Congress and the president would extend an official invitation to join the union.

Statehood proponents had much to overcome: lingering questions about the loyalty of its multi-ethnic populations, fears of Communist infiltration of its organized labor movement, and the concern of Southern Democrats that official representation from a liberal state might tip the scales in favor of impending civil rights legislation, as well as the ambivalence of Native Hawaiians old enough to recall the loss of their political independence.

It was a daring political gambit facilitated by territorial representative John Burns — in which the Alaska and Hawai'i statehood bids were joined, with Alaska entering first and Hawai'i following the year after — that finally resulted in a decision on Hawai'i statehood reaching the desk of President Dwight Eisenhower and ultimately Hawai'i polling stations.

Only 35 percent of eligible voters turned out for what was widely viewed as a rubber-stamp vote of approval in the June 27, 1959, statehood plebiscite. Of those who voted, 94.3 percent chose immediate statehood.

Historians note that statehood became



Advertiser library photo

Admission Day was a festive occasion for most Island kids. Statehood came after 40 years of efforts to move a bill through Congress.

an option only by virtue of the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy (so deemed by the 1993 Apology Resolution) in 1893 and the United States' subsequent annexation of Hawai'i in 1898.

The promise of statehood so often proffered was that it would directly remediate


many of the problems Hawai'i experienced as a territory.

Hawai'i as a territory did not have a vote in Congress, its governor and judges were appointed by the president, and voting rights were restricted. Statehood, it was exhaustively argued, would allow the popu-

lation to partake in the liberties and opportunities guaranteed to full citizens of the United States while benefiting from an influx of federal investment that would help to assure future growth and prosperity.

SEE EQUALITY, PAGE 4

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Aloha Surf Hotel	Newtown Square & Commercial	Waikiki Beach Tower
Waikiki Resort Hotel	Newtown Villa	Pearl Regency
Bay View Estates	Royal Summit	Waikiki Sunset
Pearl Villa Estates	Village Park	Kuhio Mall
Hillside Terrace	Waikiki Beach Tower	Bishop Manoa
Newtown Industrial Park	Pearl Regency	Manoa Gardens
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THE 50TH STATE

EQUALITY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

The timing of statehood would prove significant for Hawai'i's political future, coming just five years after the so-called Democratic Revolution in which returning nisei war veterans led an election-day takeover of the territorial house and senate.

NEW STATUS, NEW TECHNOLOGY

Nisei war hero Daniel Inouye was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1959 and to the Senate in 1962. Inouye helped raise Hawai'i's political profile through his involvement as keynote speaker at the 1968 Democratic National Convention, member of the Senate Watergate Committee and first chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Now the third-highest-ranking Senate member and chairman of the powerful Senate Committee on Appropriations and subcommittee on defense, Inouye continues to exert his influence to the economic benefit of his home state, particularly with regard to federal defense spending (the second-biggest revenue generator in the state).

Yet it was technology more than political will that sparked the most immediate and dramatic change in Hawai'i's fortunes after statehood.

Hawai'i's entry to the union coincided with the dawn of commercial jet travel, which allowed for faster, high-volume air travel at reduced fares.

On Aug., 1959, just three days after Eisenhower officially welcomed Hawai'i as a full member of the United States, Pan American Airways started Boeing 707 jet service between the Mainland and Honolulu, taking advantage of the new Honolulu International Airport, which was built specifically for jet travel in February of that year.

As tourism quickly overtook military spending and agriculture as the state's leading economic driver, Hawai'i experienced rapid population growth (spurred in part by a massive in-migration of workers to meet labor demand) and a subsequent boom in development.

In 1960, Hawai'i's population stood at 633,000. A decade later, it had grown to



ASSOCIATED PRESS LIBRARY PHOTO | Aug. 21, 1959

President Dwight Eisenhower proclaims Hawai'i a state on Aug. 21, 1959. From left, seated: Vice President Richard Nixon, Eisenhower and House Speaker Sam Rayburn. Standing: Lorrin Thurston, Hawai'i statehood commission chairman; Edward Johnsten, representing Governor-elect William Quinn; Interior Secretary Fred Seaton; Senator-elect Oren E. Long; and Daniel Inouye, representative-elect.

770,000, and by 1980 it had reached 965,000.

The explosive growth of the tourism industry had immediate benefits to the overall economy.

Prior to statehood, Hawai'i workers made roughly 20 percent less than their Mainland counterparts; by 1970, they had bridged the gap, as noted by University of Hawai'i economics professor James Mak.

STRUGGLE TO ADJUST

With growth, however, came growing pains as conflicts erupted over land development, infrastructure and other concerns.

Native Hawaiians, in particular, seemed to suffer the most in the shift from agriculture to a tourism-based economy and amid the resulting increased demands for land and other resources.

The Hawaiian sense of disassociation was exacerbated by a continued slide in overall well-being. As Hawaiian scholars point out, Native Hawaiians still fare poorly in significant demographic measures

like infant mortality; incidence of diabetes, heart disease and other ailments; level of education; imprisonment; substance abuse and others.

The displacement of entire communities of Native Hawaiians from lands newly designated for commercial and residential development helped to spur the emergence of modern Hawaiian activism and the re-examination of native arts, culture and politics known as the second Hawaiian Renaissance.

Starting in the 1960s, renewed Hawaiian scholarship and cultural exploration led to a blossoming of Hawaiian music, hula, language studies and other cultural practices.

Inspired by the civil rights movement and other struggles for social justice, Hawaiian activists engaged in a series of protests against development projects, military land use and other issues. Their success in convincing the military to return control of Kaho'olawe was a watershed moment that helped to provide momentum for the nascent Hawaiian sovereign-

ty movement.

In 2009, Hawai'i is radically different than it was at the dawn of statehood. The population has nearly doubled at 1.2 million, placing increased stress on an aging infrastructure. Agriculture has been replaced by tourism, which in turn has reshaped the physical, social and political landscapes of the Islands. An already ethnically diverse community has continued to evolve with mass influxes of Filipinos, Koreans, Vietnamese, Samoans, Tongans, Micronesians and other peoples. Native Hawaiians, once punished for practicing their culture, have found new pride in their ethnic identity and new motivation to seek self-determination.

And as residents pause to reflect on a most dynamic 50 years of statehood, the question remains:

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THE 50TH STATE

AGRICULTURE'S DEEP ROOTS

After the long reign of sugar and pineapple ends, small farms catering to local market crop up

BY MICHAEL TSAI
Advertiser Staff Writer

There was, the joke goes, diversified agriculture in Hawai'i even before the demise of the plantation system: You could have your sugar raw, granulated or powdered or your pineapple sliced, wedged, chunked or juiced.

Indeed, through much of the 20th century, the strength of Hawai'i's agricultural industry — and thus the overall strength of its economy — waxed and waned on the fortunes of King Sugar and Big Pineapple.

Today, however, Hawai'i agriculture is defined along the same lines as the state's population — by its broad diversity, its adaptability, and its ability to rise to challenges unique to Hawai'i's geographic isolation.

"It's not just two crops anymore," said Sandra Kunimoto, chair of the state Department of Agriculture. "It's so much more consumer driven, not just a commodities market. Whoever would have thought that we would have these niche markets? There are a lot of opportunities for small farms to make their mark."

It is difficult to overestimate the role of the plantations in the development of modern Hawai'i. Early fluctuations in the market in the early part of the century led to a consolidation of power by the so-called Big Five, who each leveraged their substantial resources to keep the entirety of their operations — from recruiting and importing labor to planting, harvesting and processing to trucking, shipping and delivery — within their organizations. And in so doing, the companies contributed to shared infrastructure like roads, railways, buildings and shipping lines.

But by 1959, a year in which military spending accounted for the largest share of the local economy, the plantations had already begun to wobble as they lost market share to foreign producers and found their dubious if effective labor practices challenged by increasingly powerful organized labor movements (for example, a 90-day sugar strike in 1958 closed sugar mills in



Kohala, Kahuku, Kilauea and 'Ewa Beach).

With statehood, the local agriculture industry became eligible for an influx of federal funding for programs such as farm credit, natural resources and statistical services. However, neither these funds, nor favorable changes in the tax structure in the 1960s, could prevent local agriculture from being overtaken by the new, rapidly advancing tourism-based economy.

In 1959, an estimated one out of every 12 workers in Hawai'i was somehow connected to the sugar industry and more than 220,000 acres on four islands were devoted to sugar crops. Production peaked in

SEE CROPS, PAGE 6



ABOVE: Workers pick pineapple at Maui Pineapple Co.

ADVERTISER LIBRARY PHOTO | July 23, 1998

LEFT: The Island sugar industry experimented with a cane-cutter machine.

ADVERTISER LIBRARY PHOTO | Jan. 19, 1960

GENTRY HOMES RECEIVES KOA AWARD FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY

(Ewa Beach, HI) - Gentry's green building efforts were recently recognized with the Kapolei Outstanding Achievement Award (KOA) for Environment, an annual award given to the 'business, organization, or individual best demonstrating awareness and sensitivity to the environment through a program or event that preserves, protects or restores natural resources in the Kapolei area.'

"Gentry Homes has made a presence in Hawaii for over 41 years," said Bob Brant, President and CEO of Gentry. "Our vision statement, 'People building quality homes and communities for a better Hawaii,' and our commitment to offer the best value in new home construction in Hawaii has never been stronger." Gentry's relationship with the Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star program started in 2005, when 100% of all Gentry homes included solar hot water systems. Since then, hundreds of homes in Ewa by Gentry have been built with new energy saving technology. This has saved the community thousands of dollars in deferred energy consumption, and has also helped to lower energy costs for individual homeowners. "We continually improve in all areas to build homes that are more comfortable, affordable, and energy efficient."

Today, Gentry Homes is a leader in building green. Brant credited the late Tom Gentry for setting the pace in residential construction. "When Tom started building homes in Hawaii, he was always on the cutting edge of land use planning, and home design and construction. He would be proud that we have continued his tradition of being one step ahead of the game in terms of innovation and 'doing the right thing.'" In addition to solar water heating, Gentry incorporates other green features in the building of its homes, including sustainable Borate-treated termite-resistant lumber from managed forests, and the use of building materials and products that contain no ozone destroying chemicals. There are water conservation features in the exterior landscaping, and Gentry offers an optional photovoltaic energy system. As an Energy Star Partner, the company has chosen to include HECO-approved solar hot water heating, 16 SEER central air conditioning that provides up to 30% more energy efficiency, Icynene open cell foam insulation that is endorsed by the Envirodesic Certification program, dual glaze / Low E high performance vinyl windows with superior UV protection, compact fluorescent lighting that is used throughout 90% of the home; dual flush toilets that can save up to 25,000 gallons of potable water a year for a family of four; and more.

All of the homes are designed with interior spaces that promote good airflow and cross ventilation, and light colored interiors provide substantial natural sunlight and illumination to all of the main living areas; "Our new Gentry homes are much more efficient than older homes and the savings are substantial!" said Rick Hobson, Vice President of Sales & Marketing. "The money you might initially save on buying a lower priced used home may be spent on increasing monthly electricity costs and on-going home maintenance and repair. Homeowners are realizing the new features that are included in every Gentry home provide cash savings through lower electric bills. The energy saving appliances and other green features can save the homeowner hundreds of dollars each month. That savings will remain consistent for years to come and can provide some economic relief in today's market."

Gentry Homes has also been recognized as a leader in waste management. Since 1996 when Gentry committed to reducing waste disposal costs, the company's efforts have been highly successful. From site design and development to waste disposal and recycling, Gentry has successfully incorporated waste saving products, methods, and techniques into every phase of housing development. Gentry's comprehensive approach focuses on reducing waste by evaluating material selection and purchasing procedures; identifying specific waste reduction strategies to incorporate into standard practice; and instituting a recycling program to capture remaining waste.

In addition to being a leader in green building and waste management, Gentry is conscious about conserving our precious potable water resources. All common areas in Ewa by Gentry, as well as various condominium associations within Ewa by Gentry, are irrigated with brackish water fed from wells, not with potable water. Ewa by Gentry has been designed with convenient and attractive walkways and bikepaths to encourage exercise and alternative transportation modes. "We do our best to improve the environment by making our homebuyers less dependent on imported fossil fuels and more dependent on renewable energy. Building Green is certainly a 'feel good' endeavor and Gentry Homes is proud and honored to be the recipient of the KOA Environment Award," said Brant.

In addition to the KOA award, Gentry Homes has also received the BuiltGreen and Renaissance Awards from the Building Industry Association of Hawaii, and the prestigious Energy Star Award from the EPA.



The Tides by Gentry, new Gentry homes enable homeowners to be less dependent on imported fossil fuels, and more dependent on renewable energy.



Latitudes by Gentry. All of the energy efficient features save the homeowner cash savings through lower electric bills.

Halealea features spacious executive homes up to 3,809 sq. ft. located next to the 27-hole Hawaii Prince Golf Course. Gentry's President & CEO Bob Brant says "We continually improve in all areas to build homes that are more comfortable, affordable, and energy efficient."



THE 50TH STATE

CROPS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

1966 with 1,234,121 tons of raw sugar. Production would continue to average more than 1 million tons of raw sugar per year, but there was a precipitous drop beginning in 1986. The period from 1990 to 2002 would prove the most dramatic, from 55 farms producing 820,000 tons of raw sugar to just two farms yielding 270,000 tons, as fixed prices and rising labor costs left the local industry unable to compete with foreign growers.

The pineapple industry fared no better. At its peak, Hawai'i growers produced better than 80 percent of the world's canned pineapple. But by the late 1960s, production began to decline and the 1970s saw the number of pineapple canneries in Hawai'i diminish from nine to just three.

COFFEE CROPS

To be sure, the agricultural industry produced more than just sugar and pineapple. By the late 1950s, coffee growers had recovered from the near-collapse of the industry in 1929 to produce some 15 million pounds of green coffee beans. Castle & Cooke began planting macadamia nut trees in 1949 and by the mid-'50s had already made significant inroads in the U.S. market.

With the decline of sugar and pineapple — and the subsequent availability of broad tracts of farmable land — the agricultural industry has undergone a dramatic transformation with a proliferation of smaller farms (many operating on leased plots of 5 acres or less) and a radical diversification of crops — seed corn to shallots, Tahitian limes to hydroponic cucumbers.

Although a distant third behind tourism and federal spending, agriculture still generates \$2.9 billion to the local economy and directly and indirectly accounts for approximately 42,000 jobs.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, there were approximately 7,500 farms operating in Hawai'i in 2007. However, that figure is based on the definition of a farm as an entity with potential sales of at least \$1,000 per year. The state Department of Agriculture sets the standard of definition at \$100,000 in gross revenue, arriving at a more likely figure of 500 farms.



Advertiser library photos

ABOVE: Kona coffee beans. By the late 1950s, local coffee growers produced 15 million pounds of green coffee beans.

LEFT: Canning on Lāna'i in 1968. At its height, Hawai'i growers produced more than 80 percent of the world's canned pineapple.

Local farmers say they have benefitted from a renewed appreciation for local growing and the need for Hawai'i to reduce its dependence of imported goods, appreciation brought about by recent food-contamination scares and the rise of green-living and sustainability movements.

"When I first got into it, farmers were treated like second-class citizens," said Dean Okimoto, owner and president of Nalo Farms and president of the Hawai'i

Farm Bureau. "Now it's cool to be a farmer. That's the way it should be. You can have all the accountants and lawyers, but when it comes to sustainability, what do they do to sustain your life?"

Okimoto's father, a World War II veteran who served with the storied 100th Regimental Combat Team, began farming guava and papaya in 1953 on 10 acres of sugar cane land in Waimanālo.

Okimoto had graduated from the University of Redlands when he decided to return to Hawai'i and give farming a try.

"I didn't think about the decline in agriculture until I was in it for a few years," Okimoto said. "The sugar mills were all going down and pineapple was declining. That's when I thought, 'Something's wrong

here. Something has got to happen."

Okimoto's vision of the future began to take shape through conversations with Roy Yamaguchi, the local chef who pioneered Pacific Rim cuisine. Yamaguchi lamented the fact that fresh lettuce, tomatoes and corn had to be imported despite ample land and year-round temperate weather in Hawai'i.

Okimoto's Nalo Farms has helped to fill that void, and in the process helped to promote the quality of locally grown produce by supplying its products to local restaurants like Roy's.

And while agriculture is no longer a dominant economic driver in Hawai'i, Okimoto said it can continue to play a significant role in the overall economic picture. In fact, he said, agriculture and tourism "go hand in hand," as a robust agricultural industry helps to keep the environment green (a selling point for tourism) while tourism provides immediate customers and overall exposure for Hawai'i agriculture.

Still, Okimoto said small farms cannot exclusively meet all of the challenges posed to the industry, particularly in its efforts to decrease dependency on imported food.

"You've got to be able to feed not just the rich, but the whole community," he said. "We have to develop 1,000-acre farms so some of what is grown is exported and some stays here to be sustainable. You also need (large) capacity to afford infrastructure like processing plants and irrigation systems."

SEE CROPS, PAGE 7



On Oct. 11, 1939 Sears opened its first store in Hawaii which was located on Kapiolani Blvd. where the old Kodak building used to stand. It was a catalog store that displayed appliances and automotive products & employed 10 associates.



CROPS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

GENERATIONS OF FARMERS

Many of the small farms that constitute today's Hawai'i agriculture scene are run by farmers like Okimoto whose agricultural roots extend two, three, even four generations.

Melvin Matsuda and Clyde Fukuyama are both third-generation farmers who grew up together in Kahuku. Matsuda said his father, Shinichi, worked full time at the Kahuku sugar plantation and farmed on the side, growing fruits and vegetables for local distribution, much like the Fukuyamas did.

In 1986, the childhood friends merged their family farms under what is now Kahuku Brand.

"Agriculture always has its opportunities," Matsuda said. "But it's better if you have the experience and the mindset for it. If you're just starting, you need the start-up capital and the equipment. You might need a two- or three-year bankroll because it takes time to get going. It's not easy."

Today, Kahuku Brand is well established with two farms stretched over some 300 acres of leased land in Kahuku and Hale'iwa.

Like other successful farms, Kahuku Brand has extended into other areas, such as value-added products and agritourism, to help ensure its future survival.

Matsuda's 30-year-old daughter Kylie now heads the subsidiary Kahuku Farms, drawing on her education in tropical agriculture.

"When I was in college, there wasn't that big push to buy local," said Kylie Matsuda. "In recent years, though, there's been more interest in who farmers are and where the food comes from."

Interest has been building for Kahuku Farms' line of value-added products, which include food items like mango tea, liliko'i jelly and mango scone mix to bath and beauty products like mango-papaya soap and mango body butter cream.

"I'm optimistic," Matsuda said. "There's room to grow by filling more of the local need, rather than importing. The market is there, and people are asking for local products."

Reach Michael Tsai at mtsai@honoradvertiser.com.



ADVERTISER LIBRARY PHOTO | July 26, 2001

Dean Okimoto picks lettuce at his Nalo Farms in Waimānalo. "Now it's cool to be a farmer," he says. "That's the way it should be."

"When I was in college, there wasn't that big push to buy local. In recent years, though, there's been more interest in who farmers are and where the food comes from."

KYLIE MATSUDA | head of Kahuku Farms

On Dec. 8, 1941 Sears opened a new retail store on Beretania St. - the week of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. This store featured the island's first escalator. There was a "lake" on the roof of the building- one acre in size and 6" deep. Sears rooftop "lake" was used to augment the store's air conditioning system. It was stocked with Tilapia and any kid who purchased an aquarium was given a couple of fish from the "lake".

On Aug. 13, 1959 the Ala Moana store opened with 2 floors. It was 250,000 sq. ft., had 52 departments and 1200 employees. This was an exciting time for Hawaii - a new Sears store, a new shopping center, Statehood, the arrival of the 1st jet plane which led to the tourist boom. In 1967 Sears added a 3rd floor to the Ala Moana Store.

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Ground breaking for Sears Ala Moana

MILITARY-HAWAII TIES

The longtime relationship continues to benefit both parties despite strained past, current conflicts

BY MICHAEL TSAI
Advertiser Staff Writer

When Col. Mike Lundy, commander of the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, first arrived in Hawaii, he was struck by what he saw as a “phenomenally close” relationship between the U.S. military, the local government and the community at large.

“Of all the places I’ve been to in 23 years of service, Hawaii has the most unique relationship with the military,” Lundy said. “There is no separation. People see us every day. We’re part of the daily life here.”

It’s a relationship that has endured despite a strained past that includes U.S. military involvement during the overthrow of the Hawaiian Monarchy in 1893 (162 armed sailors and Marines from the USS Boston took up positions on land in support of a group of conspirators led by Honolulu Advertiser publisher Lorrin Thurston), the imposition of martial law during World War II, and modern conflicts over land use and environmental concerns.

And as supporters and critics both concede, it’s a relationship perpetuated largely out of mutual necessity: strategic for the military, economic for the state.

“Hawaii has a tremendous amount of strategic value,” Lundy said. “You can’t underplay that a bit. Hawaii is the optimal power projection platform. It gives us an unbelievable ability to project forward. That’s why it will always be important to maintain a presence here.”

Historians note that U.S. annexation of Hawaii, which had been rejected by President Grover Cleveland, who favored a reinstatement of Queen Lili’uokalani, was pursued by Cleveland’s successor William McKinley as a means of giving the U.S. a base of operations during the United States’ war with Spain in the Pacific.

Forty-three years later, Hawaii’s high value as a strategic location for U.S. Navy operations made it a target for the Japanese attack that ultimately drew the United States into World War II.

The war years brought a surge of mili-



ADVERTISER LIBRARY PHOTO | May 15, 2001

The nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis sat shoehorned into its berth at Hotel Pier at Pearl Harbor, in full view of the USS Arizona Memorial and the USS Missouri. The military is part of the daily life in Hawaii, Col. Mike Lundy said.

tary personnel, defense funding and development to the Islands. And, from 1940 to 1944, the population doubled, rising from 429,000 to 858,000. The close of the war in the Pacific found population figures fell almost as quickly as they rose (even though tourism steadily increased as returning soldiers and others passing through Hawaii during the war increasingly chose the Islands for their family vacations).

Thus began a cycle of influx and withdrawal that would repeat through the Korean conflict, the Vietnam War and the post-9/11 war of terrorism as the military repeatedly found justification for bolstering its forces for deployment in Asia and the Pacific.

Even during those periods when operations in Hawaii were scaled back, military spending tended to rise steadily due to the increasing cost of living and the development of new and expensive technologies.

“Statehood didn’t really change anything,” said Charlie Ota, vice president of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii’s Military Affairs Council, which serves as the official liaison between the military and the state. “What determined military presence in Hawaii was what was happening in Asia and the Pacific. What’s happening now in North Korea, India and with terrorist cells in the Philippines and Indonesia has created an environment in which the military needs to maintain a strong military presence here.”

That presence includes some 250,000 military personnel from the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard. The U.S. Pacific Command, established as a unified command in 1947, is the oldest and largest of the U.S. unified commands with an area of responsibility that covers roughly half of the Earth’s surface.

At last tally, defense spending ranks sec-

ond only to tourism as the top revenue generator for the state, contributing some \$8.2 billion each year with direct and indirect impacts totaling \$12.2 billion.

The military also accounts for more than 110,000 jobs and an estimated \$7.6 billion in household earnings in Hawaii.

“The military has had a significant impact on the economy and the workforce,” said Ota, who served in the Air Force for 25 years. “On top of that, they are a tremendous contributor to the community through their participation with local charities like Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Great Aloha Run and other causes. And on top of that, they support 265 public schools through partnerships and help to improve public education by working with the (Department of Education).”

Lundy said community outreach,

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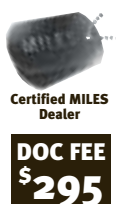
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THE 50TH STATE

MILITARY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

whether through formal programs or by simply attending neighborhood board meetings to listen to concerns, is part of the military's responsibility to its host community.

"This relationship is absolutely vital to our national defense," he said. "And it's important for us to remember that we have to be good neighbors."

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE

Kathy Ferguson, a professor of women's studies and political science at the University of Hawai'i, identified myriad ways in which the military contributes to the state — from direct investments in facilities to job creation to community service projects — but said the overall impact of the military's presence requires examination of more than just the obvious benefits.

"Each of these contributions has a downside that we often don't hear about," Ferguson said. "The biggest one is the environmental destruction. The militarization of our schools and university (Hawai'i has one of the biggest JROTC programs in the country) skews education toward uncritical accounts of history and politics. All those military families do more than put money into the local economy. After all, they spend much more at the PX than in local stores. When they do live off base, they put pressure on local housing markets, driving prices up."

She continued: "The impact aid from the federal government that is supposed to offset the cost of educating military kids in local schools is a very small fraction of the actual cost. The military's 'good neighbor' projects are often welcome in financially pressed schools and communities, yet why is it that the military, and not the educational system, has money to paint schools? Why does the military, and not local government, have resources to repair bridges? The seeming largess of the military's 'good neighbor' projects makes people grateful for small favors and keeps them from asking larger questions about who has resources and who does not."

Ferguson said the implications of the state's reliance on tourism and military spending are "huge," in that such reliance



ADVERTISER LIBRARY PHOTO | May 10, 1967

The moment of truth: R&R men arrived and greeted their wives warmly in 1967. Hawai'i's relationship with the military goes back a long way and benefits both parties.

perpetuates investment in those areas at the expense of research and development in possible alternatives. This, in turn, makes the state economy especially vulnerable to fluctuation in either industry.

"Because the military is the biggest polluter in the state, the environmental damage to our fragile ecosystem is extensive," she said. "We are caught in the contradictions: Our biggest industry, tourism, depends on 'selling' our beautiful environment to visitors while our second biggest industry, the military, damages that environment. To become less dependent, we need to invest in alternatives, but we don't have or aren't willing to dedicate resources to alternative ways of life because all the

money is tied up in the military and tourism."

GATEWAY TO THE REGION

Ota said the amount of land designated for military use has declined exponentially since World War II, accounting for about 4 percent of all land in Hawai'i. Ota said he considers the military "the best stewards of the land and natural resources, better than any agency in Hawai'i."

"The military understands that what they do can harm the environment, but by the same token you can't put an American soldier in harm's way without preparing him for combat," he said. "They do what is necessary and then try to remediate

whatever damage there is as much as possible."

Ferguson also noted the role of Hawai'i's senior U.S. senator, Daniel Inouye, in assuring a steady flow of federal defense projects to the Islands. Inouye, a decorated war hero who served with the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team, has served in Congress since Hawai'i became a state and has wielded significant influence through his roles as chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations and Subcommittee on Defense.

"He has an iconic status, as a wounded veteran who helped break the barrier for Japanese-Americans in the U.S. military, as well as an effective political presence," Ferguson said. "He has more or less single-handedly organized an enormous flow of resources to our state from military coffers, a situation that both brings in resources while binding the state's economy to this often destructive institution. When the senator retires, it will be very difficult for any other elected official to maintain this relationship at this level."

Ota said the long history of the military in Hawai'i serves as a demonstration that both the military and its host community are learning to live together in ways that are mutually beneficial.

"In the past, the military did things environmentally and culturally that we would not consider appropriate today," Ota said. "But we've progressed to understanding things better and working together better. It's about learning and understanding how to cooperate so that we can all do the right thing."

As Adm. Timothy Keating, commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, wrote in an e-mail statement to The Advertiser:

"Hawai'i is the gateway to the Asia-Pacific region making it an ideal home for U.S. Pacific Command's Headquarters and other important military headquarters and units. More importantly, more than 110,000 service members and their families call the Hawaiian Islands home; we raise our families here; our children learn and play here; and we are part of the communities in which we live. Nowhere else is 'ohana more vividly displayed than in the eyes of our families and neighbors when our Marines, soldiers, sailors, and airmen return from deployments to our island home."

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