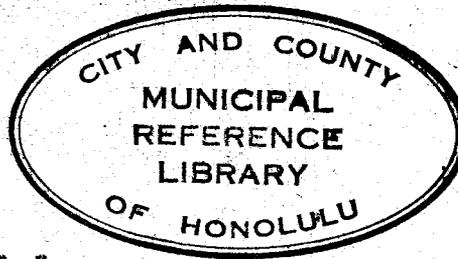


Honolulu.

REPORT OF THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION.

YEAR 1923.



December 31, 1923.

To the Honorable Mayor,
City and County of Honolulu,
Honolulu, Hawaii.

Dear Sir:

I beg to submit the following report of the work of the City Planning Commission for the year ending December 31, 1923, and of the expenditures of monies appropriated for this purpose by the Honorable Board of Supervisors of the City and County of Honolulu.

Appropriation for Salaries and Expenses .. \$5,000.00,
Expenses 2,147.45

The personnel of the Commission remains the same as last year, J. D. McInerney and H. R. Macfarlane being reappointed at the expiration of their term of office, June 30, 1923:

Appointed members-

- J. D. McInerney, President
- H. R. Macfarlane
- P. D. Spalding
- G. P. Donison
- A. R. Keller

Ex Officio-members-

- Mayor John H. Wilson
- City Engineer Frederick Ohrt

Early in January, after long and detailed study, the street layout for Kapalama Section was approved by the members of the Commission and submitted to the Board of Supervisors.

During the sessions of the Territorial Legislature the Commission attended two hearings. The first, on April 26, was before the House Committee on County Affairs, where the relative order of importance of the three projects, - King Street Widening, School Street Extension and Queen Street Extension, was discussed.

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especially in their relation to immediate relief of traffic congestion on King Street where is concentrated all travel between Honolulu and Schofield. To care for these projects, authorization was given to the City and County to float a bond issue up to \$750,000, the distribution of same being left to the Board of Supervisors.

The second hearing was before the Judiciary Committee of the Senate on April 23, in connection with the proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance, under the provisions of which the supervisors would have power to restrict as well as extend the fire limits. The Commission voiced its disapproval of this amendment, feeling that it would be an entering wedge to undermine the efficiency of the Zoning Ordinance, and although the bill passed the Senate, it fortunately did not receive the signature of the Governor.

In order that the City Planning Commission should be given legal standing in the eyes of the Legislature, Senate Bill No. 157 was introduced, authorizing an amendment to the revised laws of 1915 enabling the Board of Supervisors to create a City Planning Commission with specific powers, and the same was passed as Act 150. The amended paragraph reads as follows:

"7A. To create a city planning commission to be charged with the duty of formulating rules and plans to regulate the future growth, development and beautification of the City and County of Honolulu in its public and private buildings, streets, parks, grounds and vacant lots, and to perform such other duties as the board of supervisors may prescribe; and to recommend the establishment of building zones."

Much time has been spent during the year in follow up work on questions arising from enforcement of the street plans for the reclamation district at Waikiki which have been approved by the Waikiki Reclamation Commission, the City Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. In each case that has come before the Commission for discussion emphasis has been laid on the vital importance to the plan as a whole of preserving the wide rights of way, even when the immediate building of permanent roads is neither practicable nor necessary.

With the widening of the Waikiki Drainage Canal from 150 feet to 250 feet, accomplished through the last legislature, changes in development plans for the upper side of the canal has been under study. If the plan suggested by Mr. Bigelow, chairman of the Waikiki Improvement Commission is followed, the proposed sea wall on the upper side of the canal would be done away with, and the proposed boulevard running parallel to the canal abandoned. In its place they would suggest: first, that the bank be permitted to slope gradually to the edge of the water; second, that the parking strip be planted to rare trees and shrubbery, creating there a tropical garden such as Honolulu has long felt the need of, and which can now be found only in private estates; and in the third place, they would build through this park a winding drive, with possibly a bridle path. The lower side of the canal would

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remain as heretofore planned, with retaining wall and boulevard.

A beginning has been made on a survey of the city with reference to sites for future parks and playgrounds.

In September the Commission members were guests of the Honolulu Realty Board at one of their dinner meetings, where an attempt was made to secure a closer cooperation between the two organizations. The main object under discussion at the meeting was the "Zoning Ordinance".

Many copies of the maps of the approved street plans for both Waikiki and Kapalema sections have been distributed during the year to interested property owners. The office of the secretary in the Kapiolani Building has on hand an extra supply of these maps which are available on call.

The most important problem facing the Commission during the past year has been the lack of permanent street locations and grades for the City of Honolulu. The street plans approved by the Commission and recommended to the Board of Supervisors have been paper plans only; and until some steps are taken by the Board to make possible a comprehensive engineering survey of the city, it is practically impossible to demand conformity to them.

On October 18, the Honolulu Chapter of the American Association of Engineers brought the matter to a definite head in its recommendation to the Board asking that an appropriation of \$2000 per month be set aside to cover the cost of surveys required to fix street lines and grades under the supervision of the City Planning Commission. It is earnestly hoped that the Board of Supervisors will include this appropriation in its 1924 budget, so that a beginning on this important survey may be made, and the results embodied at a later date in a comprehensive City Plan for the City of Honolulu.

Respectfully submitted-

J. B. McInerney, President
CITY PLANNING COMMISSION.

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Honolulu. City Planning Commission.
Annual report. Honolulu: 1920-1958.

Annual.

Library holdings: 1920, -21, 1921-22, -23,
1923-24, -25 thru -27, -29 thru -33, -35 thru
-39, -41 thru -58.

Continued by: Honolulu. Planning Dept.
Annual report.

1. City planning - Oahu. 2. Honolulu - City planning.