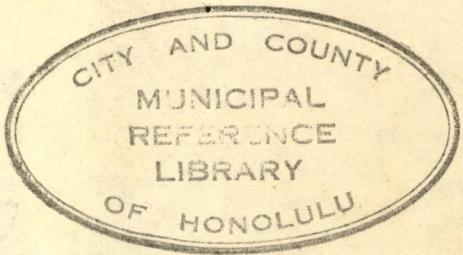
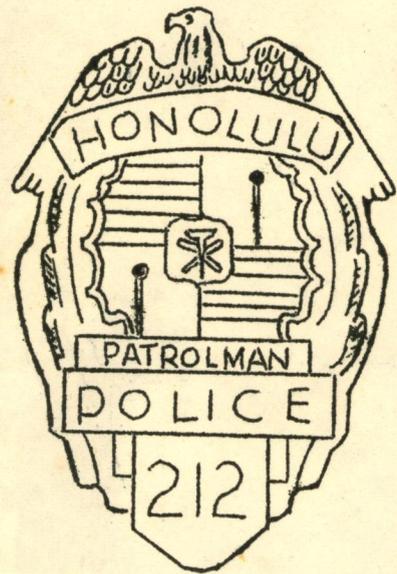


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OF THE
POLICE SYSTEM IN HAWAII



PREPARED BY
Charles Duarte, Lieutenant

PLANS AND TRAINING DIVISION

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT

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EVOLUTION OF POLICE SYSTEM IN HAWAII

The origin of the Honolulu Police Department can be traced back to 1834 when King Kamehameha III organized the first police force. This is only four years after a metropolitan police, the symbol for the public of the English police system, was organized in London, England. It is ten years before a municipal police force was established in New York City, of which the present New York Police Department is developed.

Mr. Kronenberg was appointed the first Chief of Police with a staff of two men. Nine years later in 1843, a police corps for the islands was organized. It was comprised of a Captain, Sergeant, Corporal and twenty-four privates.

In 1845, the King appointed a Marshall of the Hawaiian Islands for the supervision and control of the respective sheriffs of the several islands appointed by the respective governors in his nominations. At that time, police work included the inspection of hotels, inns, victualian houses, billiard parlors, and houses of ill fame, enforcement of all laws and patrolling of the wharves during the shipping season. During the same year, the police were incorporated into a military system of the government.

In the spring of 1850, all soldiers who were on the police force were removed from the latter office and replaced by full-time police officers. By July of 1861, there were fifty-nine officers on the force and the budget was set at \$12,120.00 per year, increasing each year until 1890 when it was set at \$62,500.00. This compares to the present cost of police department operation of \$2,515,968.70.

From the days of the monarchy, the rank and file of the patrolmen of Hawaiian ancestry proved themselves worthy of commendation; their physical statures, quiet and somber habits together with their innate cheerfulness, were assets to the department.

In 1902, High Sheriff Brown installed an electrical police alarm system which added to the effectiveness of the force. In 1904, the police station of Honolulu was equipped with an up-to-date rubber tire police wagon with two pairs of horses; one team for the day shift and one for night service. The Patrol Wagon served as an ambulance as well as a bus for the transportation of prisoners. From 1902 until 1932, there was a continuation of the sheriff and the county system. In all, there were 19 heads of the police department from its origin until 1932. The police department of Honolulu had long been a political machine whose purpose consisted of perpetuating in office the group in control, rather than safe-guarding lives and property of Honolulu residents. As a result, the people felt that first in the list of objectives for this community should be a thorough clean-up of the Police Department.

A special session of the Legislature in January 1932, passed an act creating a Police Commission and a Chief of Police set-up to replace the administration of a sheriff. On January 27, 1932, Charles F. Weeber was appointed Chief of Police, the appointment being made with the understanding that Mr. Weeber accept it for an indefinite period. Upon the resignation of Mr. Weeber on August 9, 1932, William A. Gabrielson was appointed Chief of Police by the Commission to succeed Mr. Weeber.

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Both the Army and Navy and their contractors were already at work on extensive construction projects for National Defense at the beginning of 1941. The population of Honolulu had been growing for the past ten years, and the influx of men from the mainland, many with their families, to work on government construction projects, added to this growth in an abnormal way. In an attempt to meet the increasing problems confronting the Department, the Police Commission authorized the organization of an Emergency Police Reserve in July, 1941. The reserve force originally had an authorized strength of 150 men, which was increased to 200, then to 300 men.

The ability of the Department to cope with the situation resulting from the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941, proved the value of the Reserves and the extensive preparation. The whole Department worked without regard to hours, and throughout the month of December "days off" were cancelled.

The Governor of Hawaii declared Martial Law on December 7th and the Police Department operated in close cooperation with the military authorities.

Chief of Police William A. Gabrielson remained in office until 1945 and was replaced by William Hoopai, a veteran of many years of police service. The Department functioned throughout the year with a shortage of 15% of its authorized personnel, thereby, imposing a burden of unwieldy proportions upon those responsible for a complete and efficient policing of the community.

Of significance to the Department was the retirement from service of Chief of Police William Hoopai and the elevation of Deputy Chief of Police Dan Liu to the position of Chief of Police in 1948. Many new features were introduced during the ensuing years with the support of the new administration.

Improvement in police courtesy and service to the community is emphasized. Consideration of the public is being given particular emphasis. Administrative contacts with the public have been constant and maximum. Such contacts were both local and national in scope. In the levels of the rank and file, constant emphasis has been placed on the unflinching application of courtesy, good judgment and efficient service.

Vigorous and unrelenting enforcement is being applied to vice conditions, especially as concerns morals, narcotics and gambling. With the concerted effort and cooperation of other government agencies and with the courts meting out severe sentences upon conviction, vice conditions, both flagrant and clandestine were noticeably reduced.

THE POLICE ORGANIZATION:

The Governor of the Territory of Hawaii appoints each of the five members of the Honolulu Police Commission to serve for staggered terms of five years. Each appointment must be confirmed by the Senate of the Territorial Legislature. Commissioners serve without remuneration.

The Police Commission appoints the Chief of Police. Officers competing for promotion to all other positions, including executive and supervisory capacities, are appointed to higher ranks by the Chief of Police after their establishment of eligibility through promotional examinations given by the Civil Service Commission of the City and County of Honolulu.

Applications for police service are processed through the Civil Service Commission. Recruits are appointed by the Chief of Police from the eligible list furnished by said Commission. Basic requirements for police applicants are as follows:

"Must be between 21 and 30 years of age; at least 5'9" tall and weighing 150 pounds; a high school graduate or equivalent; of good moral character; and a resident in the Territory of Hawaii for three consecutive years prior to application".

In no other place in the world are there as many people with varying social backgrounds and culture represented in business enterprises, industries, commerce and community life, as are to be found in the Territory of Hawaii. The Island of Oahu with Honolulu as the capital city has an established cosmopolitan population, working together with a blended spirit of good-will, mutual understanding and cooperation in a manner ideally representative of democracy in action. In keeping with this racial composition of the community itself, a material cross-section of the people is represented among the personnel of the Honolulu Police Department.

The Island of Oahu is 604 square miles. The total population is 339,110. The total police officer personnel is 462 with an authorized strength of 480 police officers, which would number 1.31 officers per square mile and 1.37 officers per one thousand population. The cost of the Police Department operation in 1954, including salaries, operating expenses and maintenance, totalled \$2,943,996.03.

DIVISIONAL FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

TRAFFIC DIVISION

Traffic control for Honolulu and the Island of Oahu has developed into a police and public concern of steadily growing seriousness. The Island of Oahu consists of 604 square miles, 85 square miles of which comprise the city limits of Honolulu. Similar to any other American community, it faces a traffic problem of trying to accommodate its 130,428 registered motor vehicles on approximately 600 miles of inadequate streets and highways. As of January 1953, compared to January 1943, motor vehicle registration showed an increase of 79,203 not including military vehicles.

More than ever before, traffic supervision continues as a primary function of the police who are working with the engineers, educators, legislators, and the courts to combat one of the greatest social problems.

The Accident Prevention Bureau, composed of thirty trained traffic accident investigators, investigated a total of 6,852 traffic accidents in 1953.

The following excerpt from a letter by a claims examiner of a large and well-known insurance company's branch in California gives an idea of the type of investigation done by the accident investigators:

"So far as the police department in Honolulu we may state that we appreciate the thoroughness and fairness with which they investigate and report on automobile and traffic matters and accidents. Their work is far superior to the work of any police department in the entire United States that has come to the attention of the Pacific Coast Department".

The primary function of the solo motorcycle squad is traffic law enforcement. They are assigned on a combination type of line, area and at rest or spot patrol basis of traffic control. Much time is spent on special activities such as the "coning" of main thoroughfares to create more lanes of traffic to expedite traffic flow and alleviate congestion at peak hours.

The function of traffic direction in police traffic supervision is the responsibility of the personnel of the Traffic Intersection and the Parking Enforcement detail. In the absence of an independent motor vehicle department, the important driving licensing function is undertaken by the Examiner of Chauffeurs Bureau. In 1953, this bureau handled a total of 30,206 operator license applicants.

The Traffic Violations Bureau is responsible for the receiving of citations and bail money from violators either at the counter or through "bail by mail" procedure. Other responsibilities of this bureau include the maintenance of a current file on motor vehicle registrations and other traffic court conviction records.

The Taxi Control Bureau personnel conducts annual inspections of all taxi cabs in business with regard to their observance and compliance with taxicab ordinances in effect. Likewise, investigations are conducted on all complaints against taxicab operators.

The Junior Police Organization, which was established in 1921, is comprised of 3,750 boys and girls commissioned as Junior Police Officers who perform a remarkable community service. The Junior Police Officers cover 468 different street intersections and locations in the neighborhood of their respective schools. They are trained by police to handle movement of vehicular traffic and to assist in the safe crossing of streets by students during periods before and after school hours.

The Police Department during 1954 conducted an educational program in the majority of public and private schools on the island, reaching students in both the grammar and high school levels.

UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

The Uniform Patrol Division, although undermanned during the major part of 1954, was able to provide minimum coverage twenty-four hours a day for the protection and security of the whole community. It is the largest unit of the Honolulu Police Department. A fundamental police objective is the prevention of unlawful activity, and it is readily understandable that the patrol unit is actively responsible for the fulfillment of this purpose.

Since its officers are on duty and available throughout the day and night, and because mobility is such as to assure the average resident with prompt service, the Patrol Division's opportunity for enhancing department prestige becomes self-evident. This is important since, in great part, upon the actions of this division is judged the general quality of service rendered by the police department. By the very nature of its activities, the Patrol Division is afforded the opportunity to receive and train new officers for eventual advancement to division needing specialized personnel.

The Country Police Division, while an organization of patrol activity virtually identical with that operating from Honolulu headquarters, is distinguished somewhat in that conditions of a different nature are occasionally to be confronted. Patrolling alone in isolated area and over long distances, these officers are often required to individually handle situations which would elsewhere have the support of adjoining beatmen.

Three police districts comprise the Country Division. Sub-stations are located in Pearl City, Wahiawa, and Kaneohe. Steadily increasing population and home construction in the country area have added much to the work load of country police.

The Dispatch Bureau is the department's center of communications and on an average busy eight-hour watch logs a total of 1,700 radio calls to and from mobile units.

INVESTIGATION

The Detective Division, with a complement of fifty-two officers, is the investigative arm of the department and is responsible for all crimes of theft, fraud, and violence. The average detective is a police officer who has come up from the ranks through perseverance and diligent application. While there is often much glamour and sensationalism attached to the investigations that this division is required to conduct, there is much tedious and routine effort of which the general public is not cognizant. Essentially investigative police work consists of the investigations at the scene of a crime with all its divergent phases, such as, the preservation and recovery of evidence, the apprehension of offenders, interview of victims and witnesses, recovery of stolen property, the writing of reports and preparation of cases for submittal to the public prosecutor's office, and the eventual presentation of testimony in court at the trial of the offender.

The division is broken down to component parts called "details". They consist of the homicide; theft, which includes burglary; larceny and malicious conversion (auto theft); obtaining money by trickery and device, such a forgery and gross cheat, bunco-fugitive; robbery; pawnshop and general details.

VICE DIVISION

The Vice Division, although the smallest enforcement division, has the highly important task of suppressing vice activities in Honolulu. The principal vice problems with which the community has always had to contend are narcotics, prostitution and gambling. A relentless enforcement program against these elements has largely eliminated the bulk of prostitution and with it, has partially discouraged opportunities for illicit distribution and use of narcotics.

CRIME PREVENTION

Although its activities are varied and numerous, this division is primarily concerned with the prevention of juvenile delinquency. Working in close conjunction with the schools in both urban and rural area, an educational program is carried on in all levels from the kindergarten through high schools.

Established originally with a staff of one sergeant and a part-time office secretary, the division has grown to its present staff of seventeen officers composed of a captain, lieutenant, two sergeants, eight detectives (two women), two policewomen and three motor patrolmen. In 1941, the Territorial Legislature enacted a law permitting the Crime Prevention Division to refer juvenile offenders to any "proper agency for treatment". Prior to that time, it was mandatory to refer all juvenile offenders to the Juvenile Court. On this basis a significant progressive step for the division in its work with juvenile offenders was taken. The division gradually became an integral part of the total community services to juvenile offenders.

During the department's sixth year as sponsor of the Police Activities League, this organization has extended a helping hand to many boys and girls. The objective of the Police Activities League is to develop better boys and girls today so that they may become better citizens tomorrow.

PLANS AND TRAINING DIVISION

Inaugurated in January, 1949, the division presents a relatively new departure as compared with the other divisions in the department. In order to provide the community with the most efficient police service, police recruits must be given proper police schooling and training before they assume their duties as police officers, and regular officers must be given constant in-service training throughout their career as a refresher to keep abreast with up-to-date developments in the police field.

To meet the above objectives through the accomplishment of these important training phases is the responsibility of the Plans and Training Division. In keeping with the department's progressive policy, the Plans and Training Division continues to increase the quantity and quality of our recruit training program.

PERSONNEL DIVISION

The Personnel Division represents an integral part of the complement performing special functions indispensable to the smooth operation of internal affairs and fostering better relations between the members of the department and general public.

Other than to process applicants for positions in the department, the Personnel Division has maintained pertinent records pertaining to temporary, provisional, probationary and permanent employees in the department. Members of the division have served as liaison for the department with other government departments and civic organizations insofar as personnel relations were concerned.

RECORDS DIVISION

The Records Division, in accumulating a vast amount of pertinent and valuable information from all different bureaus and divisions, has truly become the official memory of the department. The data, collected over a period of years, have enabled the department to observe, analyze, and evaluate factors covering internal and external affairs and problems of the department, the crime trends for the different periods and areas, as well as the nature, quantity and quality of police services rendered to the community. The following bureaus are included in the Records Division:

Identification (Fingerprinting and Photography)

Statistics

Complaints and Warrants

Permits and Registration (Firearms and Explosives)

Property and Evidence Bureau

FINANCE BUREAU

Aside from the handling of finances of the department, the Finance Bureau is entrusted with funds of the Honolulu Police Relief Association, the Police Officers' Accommodation Fund, the Honolulu Police Federal Credit Union, the Police Activities League, and the Police Pistol Range.

The bureau is also responsible for the maintenance of equipment and the filing of an annual inventory with the city government. All purchases of equipment, materials, and supplies for departmental use are handled by the bureau.

CIVIL DEFENSE

With its location, its harbors, vital war installations, and industrial areas, Oahu is a potential war target. In any emergency, the police are vested with the tremendous task of controlling confusion, panic and lawlessness often attendant to social breakdown under conditions of disaster. Other disaster units would be hampered in and around critical areas without police direction, supervision and surveillance.

In three exercises held during 1953, the department worked closely with the Hawaiian Defense Command and the Territorial and Oahu Civil Defense agencies. The exercises included simulated atomick attack, military invasion and tidal wave.

POLICE RESERVES

One hundred seventy-five active reserves devoted 55,200 hours to police work during 1953. In supplementing normal functions to the regular police as a means of insuring trained and experienced assistance during emergencies, the reserves are rendering invaluable service to the community. Police schools and classes are conducted for the reserves throughout the year with regular officers serving as the instructors. Under their club organization, the "Keys and Whistles", these reserve officers assure a continuing evaluation and interest with respect to police service.

In conclusion it should be stated that the Honolulu Police Department has progressed to a point where it is recognized as one of the most advanced departments in the United States. Much of the department's development is attributed to the conscientious and prolific direction of Chief Dan Liu.

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Honolulu. Police Dept. Plans and Training
Division.

Evolution of the police system in Hawaii.
Prepared by Charles Duarte, lieutenant, Plans
and Training Division, Honolulu Police De-
partment. [Honolulu, Dec. 1954]

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Duarte, Charles.