ANNUAL REPORT

of the

RECREATION COMMISSION

City and County
of Honolulu

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
RECREATION COMMISSION
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CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU

RECREATION COMMISSION

Herman V. von Holt, Chairman

Mrs. Phoebe Heen Amoy, Vice-Chairman

Supervisor Charles S. Crane — Mrs. J. P. Morgan

Adam Ornelles — Mrs. Flora Hayes

Howard Mosher — E. C. Corn

W. Harold Loper

Commission Staff

Arthur K. Powlison, Superintendent Municipal Recreation

Jack Botelho, Assistant Superintendent and Secretary

Personnel: Thirty-three municipal playground directors.

Thirty-nine W. P.A. playground directors.

Twenty-five N. Y. A. student assistant play leaders

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Jan. 1987

THE RECREATION COMMISSION CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Honorable Mayor George Fred Wright
and Board of Supervisors
City and County of Honolulu
Honolulu, T. H.

The Recreation Commission is pleased to submit herewith its annual report for 1937. We would appreciate your kind consideration of its contents.

Especially noteworthy has been the continued support of the Federal government in supplying recreation leadership through the W. P. A. and N. Y. A. Without the assistance of these workers our work would have been seriously impaired and curtailed. The Commission therefore wishes to point out the fact that the City and County staff has bot been augmented for three years. This presents a handicap in the development of our recreation system.

The problem of buying adequate supplies on an average of seven dollars ($7.00) a playground per month is one which the Board can solve.

We know of no city which is accomplishing more on less money than Honolulu.

On behalf of the Recreation Commission I wish to thank you for your support of recreation activities during the year and anticipate your continued support for 1938.

Respectfully,

Herman T. Von Holt
Chairman, Recreation
Commission

ADMINISTRATION

Playgrounds under Supervision by years:

1925----- 9	1932-----22
1926-----13	1933-----22
1927-----15	1934-----33 (More FERA workers &
1928-----14	1935-----39 (school playgrounds)
1929-----19	1936-----32
1930-----20	1937-----36
1931-----22	

Playground Attendance by Years:

1925--- 25,329	1932--- 673,238
1926--- 26,448	1933--- 682,043
1927---290,848	1934--- 808,043
1928---348,024	1935---1,058,682
1929---348,012	1936--- 902,380
1930---629,358	1937--- 916,456
1931---629,358	

1937

Day Attendance	---	717,307
Night "	---	199,149
		916,456

Recreation Budget:

1925---$15,000	1931---$24,086
1926---$15,072	1932---$20,127
1927---$16,713	1933---$17,812
1928---$17,699	1934---$19,314
1929---$22,760	1935---$23,000
1930---$22,380	1936---$25,300
	1937---$29,388

ANNUAL BUDGET

Statement of Expenditures

January 1, 1937 to December 31, 1937

Total Appropriation for year - $29,388.00

Salary Allotment		$ 23,292.00
Salary Expended		22,962.00
Salary Lapsed	$	330.00
Re-appropriated to M. S. & I.		290.00
To General Fund	$	40.00

M. S. & I. Allotment	$ 6096.00	
To M.S.& I. from Salary Account, 1st qtr.	150.00	
To M.S.& I. from Salary Account, 3rd qtr.	140.00	6386.00

Maintenance:			
Auto Allowance	$ 997.15		
Auto Expenses	586.34		
Lights and Power	222.72		
Office and Supplies	252.96		
Printing	113.38		
Telephone	19.70		
Tools, Lumber, Chairs	207.64		
Water	102.75		
Miscellaneous: Keys	26.90		
Lighting Equipment	16.21		
Photos	49.32		
First Aid Equipment	39.92		
Insurance (Truck)	111.79		
Incidentals	238.86	2936.24	
Rural Recreation:			
Koolauloa-Koolaupoko	436.84		
Wahiawa	262.14		
Waialua	293.03		
Waianae	159.16	1151.17	
Five rural districts received approximately $19.19 each per month.			
City Recreation:			
Trophies, Awards, Engraving	92.71		
Junior Republic	97.77		
Quiet Games	204.78		
Sporting Goods	1890.48	2285.74	6373.15
Twenty-nine playgrounds received approximately $6.56 each per month.			
To General Fund		$	12.85

PLAYGROUND DAY ATTENDANCE

1 9 3 7

ALA (12 months)	42133	LANAKILA (11 months)	28777
BERETANIA (12 months)	29590	LIKELIKE SCH. (12 months)	14978
BINGHAM (12 months)	5315	MCCULLY REC. CENTER (11 mos)	22317
DOLE (12 months)	26255	MILLER ST. (9 months)	7948
FERN (11 months)	9482	MOTHER WALDRON (12 mos.)	40576
KAILUA (10 months)	7815	PAPAKOLEA (12 months)	8967
KAIMUKI (12 months)	37034	PAUOA SCHOOL (12 months)	12554
KAIULANI PARK (12 months)	10385	PUUHALE SCH. (12 months)	15145
KAIULANI SCH. (11 months)	16216	PUUNUI (12 months)	7513
KALAKAUA (11 months)	23996	PAUOA PARK (8 months)	11711
KALIHI-KAI (12 months)	26937	PAUOA VALLEY (11 months)	6755
KALIHIWAENA (12 months)	19095	WAHIAWA (12 months)	22582
KAMAMALU (12 months)	30430	WAIKAHALULU (8 months)	4398
KAPAHULU (12 months)	37516	LIFOLIHO SCHOOL (3 months)	1325
KAPIOLANI (12 months)	17959	KANEOHE (4 months)	6457
KAULUWELA (12 months)	119280	WAIPAHU (4 months)	6100
KAWAIAHAO REC. CENTER (Girls) (12 months)	19791	CENTRAL INTERMEDIATE(2 mos)	.510
KAWAIAHAO REC. CENTER (Boys) (12 months)	18353	PALOLO TRIANGLE(2 months)	1112
		Grand Total	717307

NIGHT RECREATION ATTENDANCE

BERETANIA (2 months)	9011	KAMAMALU (10 months)	5570
DOLE (3 months)	1804	KAULUWELA (.1 month)	660
FERN (9 months)	12308	KAWAIAHAO REC. CENTER (12 months	37175
KAIMUKI (4 months)	5534	MCKINLEY (6 months)	3362
KALIHI-KAI (3 months)	4775	MOTHER WALDRON (4 months)	34488
KALIHIWAENA (3 months)	6866	PAPAKOLEA (11 months)	4857
KALIHI-UKA (11 months)	18379	PAUOA PARK (12 months)	53712
		PUUNUI (3 months)	648
		Grand Total	199149

PLAYGROUNDS

The success of a playground program may be partly determined by the number of participants and attendance on the playgrounds. In 1925 when the Recreation Commission was organized under Ordinance 185 there were nine playgrounds with 25,329 children in attendance and in 1937 there were thirty-six playgrounds with a total attendance of 916,456 children and adults.

The playground season for the year opened on January 2nd and was kept open throughout the year. Besides the routine activities of citywide sports' programs in basketball, football, volleyball, soccer, etc., many varied and interesting programs, meets and contests were held.

The outstanding project of the year was the culmination of the summer program, a gigantic Kids' Circus the first of its kind ever produced by local amateurs, in which nine-hundred children and adults participated and twelve thousand spectators enjoyed. The proceeds from this circus was used to build the first unit of the Playground Camp at Waimanalo Beach.

CITYWIDE LEAGUE ATHLETICS

Barefoot football in the 125 and 140 pounds, the Junior Republic leagues, was the most popular sport of the year for boys and men. A new feature was added to the citywide volleyball tournament with the addition of a Junior and Open Doubles Championships which attracted athletes from all over the island.

Men's baseball, playground ball for midgets, Soccer, Junior Republic softball, volleyball; basketball 120 and 135 pounds, menehune basketball, night recreation novice and open leagues, were the leading activities for men. These leagues were directed by the director of night recreation or director of Junior Republic leagues. The managers of the various teams met with the league director who drew up the schedules and when necessary secured volunteer officials. The menehune league was so popular that some teams were turned down due to lack of indoor court facilities.

With the women the introduction of "Fistball"(a game played like volleyball) proved to be the hit of the year. Basketball, and volleyball were also played.

LEAGUES PROMOTED IN 1937

ACTIVITIES	LEAGUES	TEAMS	INDIVIDUALS	SPECTATORS
Activities for men:				
Baseball	2	24	437	4500
Basketball	8	83	1094	14235
Barefoot football	3	24	840	105000
Barefoot soccer	1	4	88	850
Volleyball	3	33	118	26470
Softball	5	49	850	5196
Act. for women:				
Basketball	1	3	30	150
Fistball	2	12	120	500
Volleyball	2	12	84	250
Total	27	244	3625	157151

SWIMMING

A event much looked forward to by the playground children under sixteen years is the monthly Age Group Championship meets sponsored annually by this Commission and supervised by the Aquatic director.

Two thousand two-hundred thirty-one (2,231) children under sixteen years participated in the twelve monthly age group championship meets held at the Natatorium during the year 1937 with a spectator attendance of four thousand three-hundred fifty-five(4355). Eight medals were presented to the first four high point winners in the boys' and girls' divisions. Medals were of gold, silver and bronze.

The annual learn-to-swim program for school children in the fifth grades of the city schools who could not swim was sponsored under the supervision of the American Red Cross jointly with the other recreational organizations and the Department of Public Instruction. Five schools out of a total of twenty-five were assigned to this Commission. Two hundred thirty-six children turned out for this campaign. Of this group two hundred or ninety (90) per cent passed the Red Cross beginner's test, the highest by any other recreation group. A total of 1,119 children were instucted during this campaign.

During the summer the playground learn-to-swim campaign was carried out very successfully. Six hundred twelve children were then instructed.

A teacher's course on Beginning Swimmers was another new feature in the swimming activity. Fourteen directors received certificates of competency in theory and water work.

Corrective swimming classes, novelty, dual and beginners classes were also held.

Outstanding swimmers participated in the Junior Chamber of Commerce invitational meet, Duke Kahanamoku and Waialua Triangle meet. These swimmers represented the Citywide Athletic Association.

Swimming Activities	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	TOTAL SPECTATORS
Corrective swimming	793	
Dual, Novelty, meets	229	
Beginners	782	
Teacher's class	126	
Age group championship meets	2,231	
Learn-to-swim(schools & playgrounds)	6,928	
Other meets	56	15,355
	11,145	

SENIOR ATHLETICS

Although the chief aim of the Commission is mass participation in all activities, one club is designated by the Commission for the promotion of senior athletics. The Citywide Athletic Association takes in all the outstanding athletes from the younger boys'

and girls' clubs of the playgrounds and the graduates of high schools allowing them to compete in all the amateur sports spnsored by the local A. A. U.

The amateur boxing season is the drawing card for all boys interested in the fistic art. After vieing for honors in the dual and triangular smokers, the boys are entered in the Amateur boxing Tournament of Oahu and the Territorial finals. A minimum of six championship boxers are sent annually to the National Tournament. The Citywide Athletic Association was represented by fifty-two pugilists during the season. Twenty-three thousand fans showed their enthusiasm by weekly turing out for the fights.

Track and field meets have been growing keener every year. After competing in the annual Diamond Head Marathon, a distance of five miles, the team of twenty entered the Fourth Annual Around Oahu Relay Marathon, running a total of eighty-four miles. Ten thousand fans showed their appreciation by greeting the boys with band music, at various places along the highway. It really ia a gala event and all rural people look forward to this meet annually.

Aside from competing in the A, A. U. meets, the association sponsored its own meet for midgets, junior and senior boys. One hundred six girls enjoyed their annual meet which was run on a color scheme team so as to encourage participation instead of competition. Two hundred ten young men competed in the Junior Republic Relay carnival. A total of 14,575 spectators turned out for the various meets.

An activity that is conducted purely on volunteer basis is that of Tennis. There are only five public tennis courts under the jurisdiction of this Commission. These courts are mostly used for practice purposes and the tournaments are held either at Kapiolani or Beretania courts. A total of sixteen tournaments conducted by August Guerrero attracted six hundred ninety men and women to participate.

CONTESTS, PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Programs, contests, special day observances are tentatively set at the beginning of the year and committees are selected to carry them out.

Mother Waldron Playground, a very lovely and adequately equipped playground, was opened by the Park Board for the use of the community in a much needed area and the children joined enthusiastically in the opening program attended by the Mayor and Board of Supervisors.

Special holiday celebrations were held throughout the year, at various play areas. Twelve different contests were sponsored beginning with the annual New Year Play Festival and ending with a Doll's Show in December. The following table depicts the date, place and number of participants and spectators:

DATE	EVENT	PLACE	Participants	Spectators
Jan. 9	10th Annual Play Festival	Pier 2	186	450
Feb. 12	Bingham Birthday	Bingham	50	
Feb. 12	Puuhale Birthday	Puuhale	75	500
Feb. 19	5th Annual Song Contest	Kapiolani	300	2500
Mar. 12	Moonlight Story Hour	Waikahalulu	33	
Mar. 25	Easter Egg & Hen Contest	Aala	140	30
Mar. 25	Beretania Play Day	Beretania	209	
Mar. 25	Inter-Island Women's Play Day	Molokai	14	
Apr. 15	Second Annual Cat Show	Aala	22	150
Apr. 18	Papakolea Play Night	Papakolea	200	
Apr. 30	Pauoa Play Night	Pauoa Park	350	
May 7	Second Annual Hula Contest	Kapiolani	72	3000
May	Beretania Birthday	Beretania	118	600
May	Aala Playground Birthday	Aala	450	
June 10	Kamehameha Miniature Parade and Programs	Aala	128	1000
June 19	Kite Contest	Wright Field	70	
July 3	Fishing Contest	Pier 3	61	
July 17	Third Annual Crabbing Contest	Pier 27	75	
Aug. 15	Horseshoe Championship	Beretania	8	150
Aug. 26	First Community Kids' Circus	Civic Auditorium	900	12000
Sept. 20	Mother Waldron Opening	Mother Waldron	892	3400
Nov. 12	Second Story Telling Contest	Kapiolani	18	500
Nov. 13	Eighth Model Boat Contest	Ala Wai Canal	100	50
Nov. 20	Kapahulu Birthday	Kapahulu	42	162
Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Festival	Kapiolani	147	2000
Nov. 25	Aala Thanksgiving program	Aala	24	
Nov. 26	Third Annual Dog Show	Mother Waldron	38	400
Dec. 22	"Doll Shop" and "The Heavenly Host" Nativity Pageant	McKinley High Sch. Auditorium	95	450
Dec. 29	Second Annual Doll Show	City Hall Patio	147	135

PAGEANTS, MUSIC, RADIO, STORY TELLING

The nativity pageant, "The Heavenly Host" was the only production of the year besides the circus. Many students assigned to the recreation project from the National Youth Administration participated in this pageant. The cast was made up of University, junior and high school students who are also leaders on the playgrounds. A truly cosmopolitan group of the many races represented here made up the cast. It was one of the most exquisite pageants ever staged due to its color effects and special scenery.

Through the courtesy of Station KGU a total of six-hundred forty-five persons either sang or spoke over the weekly Playground Quarter Hour broadcasts during the year. This quarter hour of Hawaiian music has been broadcast for the past six years on each Saturday noon.

In addition to these weekly broadcasts the Kalaupapa Program is featured the last Sunday afternoon of every month. This program is specially dedicated to the inmates of Kalaupapa Settlement. Over to-hundred fifty radios are to be found within the Settlement.

A new experience to many directors was the recording of their own voices telling what their part in the recreation program was. Each director was introduced by the Superintendent. During intervals the directors' chorus sang.

Seven concerts were given by the Playground directors and children at: The Territorial Blind School, Army and Navy YMCA., Kaahumanu P. T. A., Windward Oahu Community Association conference and the Moanalua School.

Weekly Hawaiian music rehearsels have been held and the children as well as directors have eagerly responded to them. Music for the song and hula contests have all been taught at these rehearsels.

For the past two years an official story teller assigned to the Commission has been visiting all of the playgrounds telling stories. Children have been encouraged to write original stories and for the past two years contests have been held; the winners of the boy and girl divisions given the privilege of speaking over Station KGU. A total of seven thousand five-hundred fifty-five children were entertained by the story teller during the year. Dole Playground was presented a silver cup for good conduct during story hour by Mrs. Aloha Tower, the story teller.

SUMMER DIVERSIONS

Hikes, picnics, excursions, camping and water showers provided a diversified program for the eager youngsters just out of the public schools. Every playground had its own program, supplemented by citywide contests and the circus.

Hikes were made to the following points: Tantalus, Manoa Cliff, Punchbowl, St. Louis Heights Hill, Diamond Head Crater, Manoa Falls, Kapena Falls, Palolo Valley, Kailua, Waimano Valley, Kalihi Valley, Nuuanu Pali and Kaalawai Beach. A total of 451 children were taken on these various trips.

Excursions were made to the flower show at the Honolulu Academy of Arts, the sugar mills, Foster Garden for nature study, Army and Navy Day exhibits, Pineapple factories, tour of the churches in the city, Moanalua Gardens and Thomas Square for nature study. Nine hundred fifty-nine children benefited by these excursions.

Each playground went on a minimum of one picnic during the summer. Hanauma Bay, Moanalua Gardens, Kailua, Waialae Beach, Waianae, Ala Moana and Waikiki Beach were selected pinnic sites.

Although a camp site has been definitely set aside for the development of a municipal playground camp, only one building has thus far been erected. The Mayor and Board appropriated $400.00 for the development of the camp. The proceeds from the Kids' Circus was also used for the camp. Outdoor camping was enjoyed by one hundred fourteen children during the course of the summer.

Through the cooperation of the Honolulu Fire Department, the Board of Water Supply, the Commission has been able to sponsor water showers on eighteen of the larger playgrounds for the past six years. Much enjoyment is derived from the sprikler and also the water tug-of-war. Hundreds of spectators and parents gather to witness this event.

COURSES

The Recreation Commission annually sponsors a Playground and Recreation Training Course for those on the staff and others aspiring to become directors. One hundred twenty-one persons actively participated in the fifteen sessions. Outside speakers were invited . The Academy of Arts arranged six series of lecture and demonstration classes for the benefit of the directors.

A course for those wishing to learn the latest football rules was offered to the junior and senior officials of the city by the Commission. This is an annual winter course.

NIGHT RECREATION

There are only four well lighted municipally operated playground areas within the city. Six other areas are only fairly lighted.

The most adequately lighted area is the new Mother Waldron Playground which is considered equal to any mainland lighted playgrounds. It was officially turned over by the Park Board in May 1937. Pauoa Park is the next best with Kawaiahao Recreation Center and Kalihi-uka following .

What is really needed is several lighted tennis courts. Outside islands and plantations are leading Honolulu in this respect. A tennis court with a meter system will pay for itself. The total night attendance speaks for itself with 199,149 taking part in 1937.