

Unemployment Rates in Hawaii During the 1930's

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Unemployment rates in the United States reached unprecedented levels during the depression of the 1930's. The percentage of the civilian labor force that was either unemployed and seeking work or employed on work relief projects rose from 3.2 in 1929 to 24.9 in 1933, and remained above 10 from 1931 through 1940.¹ Joblessness was a critical problem throughout the nation, in Hawaii as well as on the mainland.

This prolonged period of unemployment has received surprisingly little attention in many general histories of Hawaii. Such well-known works as *Hawaii: A History*, by Kuykendall and Day, *Hawaii: A Pictorial History*, by Feher, Bushnell and Joesting, and *Shoal of Time*, by Daws, almost totally ignore the subject. Only Joesting's *Hawaii: An Uncommon History*, among recent works, accords it more than a passing mention.²

This apparent lack of concern may simply reflect a similar attitude among some contemporary authorities. A committee of the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce in 1930 queried 120 business firms and government agencies and concluded that the "unemployment situation in Honolulu" was "not acute."³ Two years later the chairman of the Governor's Committee on Unemployment reported that "the unemployment situation in Hawaii is not nearly as serious as it is on the mainland, either in regard to numbers or living conditions."⁴ Not until 1933 was the subject brought up in *Annual Report of the Governor of Hawaii to the Secretary of the Interior* (when unemployment was described as "widespread").⁵ The *Hawaiian Annual* likewise withheld any reference to joblessness until 1933, when it observed that "Hawaii is fortunately free from any very serious unemployment problem."⁶

Hard statistics were notably lacking in contemporary reports. The *Annual Report of the Governor*, which routinely presented comprehensive tables on a wide range of subjects, and beginning in 1933 included data on work relief activities, at no time during the depression contained any estimate of the unemployment rate. The *Hawaiian Annual*, similarly a standard reference for social and economic statistics, was likewise mute on the extent of unemployment. The annual statistical compilations of the Chamber of Commerce of

Honolulu (called *Business Statistics* during the mid-1930's and later *General Information About Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A.*) completely disregarded the subject of unemployment. Even the periodic reports of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics on Island labor conditions, issued twice during the decade, were relatively uninformative regarding joblessness.⁷

Unemployment rates were left unmentioned, not through any willful desire to conceal them, but because accurate statistics were unavailable, on the mainland as well as in Hawaii. The 1930 decennial census was the first full-scale effort to obtain national and state unemployment data, but its definitions and methods were in many ways unsatisfactory. Annual editions of *Statistical Abstract of the United States* during the 1930's were seriously deficient in current official data on unemployment rates. Modern concepts and techniques for measuring unemployment were in fact not introduced until the end of the decade, and annual rates for the depression were estimated only through indirect means at a much later date.⁸ Both for Hawaii and the nation as a whole, the true extent of unemployment—certainly the severest problem of the decade—was largely unknown.

This is not to say that the situation was one of total ignorance. Working from scattered surveys, work relief reports and general impressions, contemporary officials occasionally offered crude estimates. Except for a little known and generally unsuccessful effort by Romanzo Adams near the end of the depression, however, no one has tried to trace the trend of Island unemployment, in comparable quantitative terms, over the decade.⁹

The earliest estimates of unemployment preceded the onset of the depression by several months. As early as February 1929, local periodicals were calling attention to evidence of "an over-supply of labor" (or shortage of jobs), particularly in construction.¹⁰ One article commented:

The recent decision of the committee of the Chamber of Commerce to drop the movement for a central employment bureau on the ground that there is little unemployment about which to be concerned and that the present agencies are quite sufficient seems to be a flight of fancy in the face of fact.

Just what the unemployment situation is in Hawaii is not definitely known. No one with interest and means has taken sufficient trouble to find out. . . . The head of one of the largest employment agencies declares that there are some ten thousand people to the best of his knowledge and belief who are in need of employment.¹¹

A similar estimate was cited by Hiscock in his 1929 survey of health and welfare in Honolulu. Hiscock wrote: "One committee estimated on the basis of fairly extensive records that during the summer of 1929, there were some 10,000 unemployed, representing the semi-skilled group as well as laborers."¹² Whether this estimate referred to Honolulu workers, all Oahu, or the entire territory was not stated. Whichever was the case, the figure seems excessive; 10,000 out-of-work Oahuans, for example, would have meant an unemployment rate in excess of 15 percent, a level far greater than that attained even in the midst of the depression.

The earliest actual count of the jobless was the decennial census of April 1, 1930. In this census, each person 10 years old and over was asked whether

he was a "gainful worker," and if so, whether he was currently unemployed. The "gainful worker" concept used in 1930 was different from the "labor force" concept adopted in 1940, including (for example) some retired and seasonal workers omitted in 1940 but excluding unemployed workers seeking their first jobs. The count of unemployed persons—those "out of a job, able to work, and looking for a job"—in Hawaii referred only to those on salary, wage, or commission, but on the mainland also included self-employed persons and unpaid family workers. The published rates included members of the armed forces in the denominator; limiting calculations to civilian gainful workers produces the following comparative data for 1930:¹³

<i>Geographic area</i>	<i>Number unemployed</i>	<i>Percent unemployed</i>
Continental United States . . .	2,429,062	5.0
Territory of Hawaii	2,738	2.2
Island of Oahu	1,941	3.3
City of Honolulu	1,648	4.3

It is thus evident that unemployment in the territory, at least at the beginning of the 1930's, was relatively low, and well below the national level. This was of course less than six months after the stock market collapse which precipitated the depression. Adams later wrote: "When the census of April, 1930, was taken, the effects of the depression were felt in Honolulu, so far as employment was concerned, to only a moderate extent. The stable employment situation in Hawaiian agriculture tended to stabilize business in the city. The expenditures, on account of the army and navy, were fairly steady."¹⁴

Thereafter, matters began to deteriorate. Pineapple production, a mainstay of the economy, plummeted in 1931. So did construction. Agricultural workers moved in increasing numbers into urban Honolulu, adding to already high jobless totals.¹⁵ "Unemployment began to make itself seriously felt in Hawaii in 1931," a government report later noted. "On September 30 of that year Governor Lawrence M. Judd appointed a Committee on Unemployment to study the situation. A survey conducted by this committee, in cooperation with established social service organizations, demonstrated the need of definite action to relieve unemployment. On March 1, 1932, an unemployment relief bureau and headquarters office was established to register unemployed men and to carry out work relief measures in cooperation with the Social Service Bureau of Honolulu."¹⁶ J. R. Cox, chairman pro tem of the Committee on Unemployment, announced in December 1931 that his group's survey had revealed "4,015 totally unemployed persons in the city of Honolulu, including 3,646 men and 369 women, and 1,321 men who are partially employed."¹⁷ Definitions and methodology were not disclosed. The unemployment rate indicated by this survey was approximately 8.6 percent of the civilian labor force.¹⁸

Matters continued to worsen throughout 1932. Adams wrote: "In 1932, at

about as low a point as was reached at any time, considering the presence of men discharged from the pineapple plantations, there was set up a system of work relief. . . . Many of the unemployed could not [however] qualify for such work because their need was not sufficiently serious."¹⁹ In April, the *Honolulu Advertiser* announced that "unemployment in Honolulu . . . is worse than it ever has been in the history of the Territory. . . . The best estimates of the number of unemployed employable men on Oahu yesterday placed the total at approximately 3,000." Thus, "approximately 10 percent of the employable persons on Oahu are out of work."²⁰ (A total of 3,000 jobless Oahuans would actually have indicated a 4.2-percent unemployment rate.²¹) Ten days later the *Advertiser* reported: "The latest survey of the registered unemployed at the five main free employment agencies shows that the number has jumped from 3,000 to 4,368 net, allowing for all possible duplications, in Honolulu alone, with at least 1,000 more jobless estimated to be in the outside islands."²² Assuming that this estimate of 4,368 applied to all Oahu rather than "Honolulu alone" (Honolulu District is the area southwest of the Koolau Mountains, between Red Hill and Makapuu Point), the indicated unemployment rate was 6.1 percent for Oahu and 3.7 percent for the entire Territory.²³ As bad as these rates appeared to be, however, they remained far lower than the corresponding mainland rates. For the United States as a whole, unemployment had increased from 3.2 percent of the civilian labor force in 1929 to 8.7 percent in 1930, 15.9 percent in 1931 and 23.6 percent in 1932.²⁴

Federal and territorial governments, social agencies and industry initiated various programs to combat the deepening depression. "One direct step to reduce unemployment was taken in 1932 and 1933," wrote Joesting. "During those years over 10,000 Filipino laborers, who had come to the Islands as field workers, were sent back to the Philippine Islands."²⁵ New government agencies were established to set up emergency jobs for the unemployed: "As the need for unemployment relief activity of wider scope became evident, the legislature of 1933 created, in June of that year, the Territorial Unemployment Relief Commission, and established a tax of one half of one per cent on compensation and dividends in the territory, to finance the work of the commission. Meanwhile the Federal Emergency Relief Administration had been created and had begun operation, and the Territorial Unemployment Relief Commission was designated to administer FERA funds in Hawaii, as well as those of the federal Civil Works Administration, which was established in Hawaii in December, 1933."²⁶

Conditions remained deeply depressed through 1933. On October 3, H.A. Mountain, executive director of the Unemployment Relief Commission, reported to his members that unemployment on Oahu was approximately 5,000 including 1,200 men on work relief.²⁷ This suggested a rate of 6.8 percent or so, with 5.2 percent fully unemployed and 1.6 percent on public emergency work. A month later, Governor Judd offered "a conservative estimate of unemployed at present which cannot be accurate" of 10,000.²⁸ This total, which apparently referred to the entire territory, indicated a rate

around 6.9 percent. Adams later noted that, "excepting as it was affected by the return of the Filipinos, 1933 seems to be the year of largest unemployment."²⁹ Certainly this was the case on the mainland, where an all-time high of 12,830,000 persons—24.9 percent of the civilian labor force—was either unemployed or on work relief projects, on the average, during the year.³⁰

No estimates were made of Island unemployment rates during 1934, 1935 and most of 1936, but available evidence suggests that joblessness remained at high levels. Referring to the various federal work relief agencies, Adams wrote: "The number on the rolls of these organizations in January 1934 was 4,639. . . . Rapidly the number increased up to 8,748 in March, 1934, after which there was a temporary decline. . . . The annual averages of the monthly numbers reported for the Territory by the various work relief organizations [other than the National Youth Administration] . . . are as follows: 1934, 6,222; 1935, 6,963; 1936, 7,920; 1937, 5,938; 1938, 5,023; 1939, 4,326. The number as of December, 1939, had been reduced to 3,291."³¹ These totals of course excluded many persons who were unemployed, seeking work and not on public emergency work. At the national level, meanwhile, unemployment dropped to 21.7 percent of the civilian labor force in 1934, 20.1 percent in 1935 and 16.9 percent in 1936.³²

The first full-scale survey of unemployment in Honolulu since the 1930 census was undertaken between December 10, 1936 and early February, 1937. Intermediate and high school students completed forms for their own families and canvassed 7,000 homes in the city; full-time paid workers and volunteers completed the job.³³ This survey, when adjusted for obvious underreporting, revealed Honolulu to have approximately 5,822 fully unemployed persons (about 10.5 percent of its civilian labor force) and another 1,062 (or 1.9 percent of the labor force) in CCC, WPA, or NYA jobs.³⁴ The overall rate of 12.4 percent thus estimated for December 1936 was the highest of the decade, either for Honolulu, Oahu or the territory, although still well under the national level for 1936.

The next effort to measure joblessness was the National Unemployment Census, conducted late in 1937. This census involved a voluntary registration of unemployed and partly unemployed persons, contacted through cards left by postal carriers at every address in the country on November 16, 1937. Results were as follows:

<i>Geographic area</i>	<i>Number unemployed³⁵</i>			<i>Percent of civilian labor force³⁶</i>		
	<i>Un- employed</i>	<i>Totally unemployed</i>	<i>Emergency workers</i>	<i>Un- employed</i>	<i>Totally unemployed</i>	<i>Emergency workers</i>
Continental						
United States	7,845,016	5,833,401	2,011,615	14.5	10.8	3.7
Territory of						
Hawaii . . .	6,849	3,104	3,745	4.5	2.0	2.5
Island of Oahu	4,572	2,490	2,082	5.6	3.0	2.5
City of Honolulu	4,017	2,258	1,759	6.6	3.7	2.9

Elsewhere, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated the national unemployment rate at 14.3 percent for 1937, and noted: "The results of the Census of Partial Employment, Unemployment, and Occupations in 1937 could not be used for the present estimates because the methods used in this Census were not comparable with those used in 1930 and 1940 and because the female worker rates shown in the 1937 Census appeared inconsistent with those shown in all other available data."³⁷ With regard to the Hawaii data from this census, BLS tersely commented, "The returns were incomplete."³⁸ Nationally, at least, the 1937 unemployment rate was the lowest since 1930.

The following year was less encouraging. The U.S. rate, which had averaged 14.3 percent in 1937, rose to 19.0 percent in 1938.³⁹ In the Islands, Sanford L. Platt, director of the territorial employment service, estimated total unemployment for all four counties at 8,601, including 5,794 on Oahu.⁴⁰ These estimates indicated rates of 5.6 percent for the territory and 6.8 percent on Oahu, both well above those computed from the National Unemployment Census of the previous winter. Near the end of 1938, Platt reported unemployment on Oahu to be 5,000.⁴¹ This suggested a rate around 5.9 percent.

Conditions remained depressed throughout 1939. The U.S. unemployment rate was 17.2 percent, somewhat better than the 1938 rate but above those of 1936 and 1937.⁴² The file of unemployed persons in active status with the Territorial Unemployment Compensation Board stood at 9,294 as of June 30, 1939, amounting to approximately 5.9 percent of the civilian labor force.⁴³ (The Unemployment Compensation Law had been enacted by the 1937 legislature; benefits were first made available in January 1939.⁴⁴) In December, the Education Committee of the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce joined with the Human Resources Committee of the Territorial Planning Board to survey unemployment on Oahu. Lists were obtained from the Territorial Employment Service and employers on job applicants; these applicants were then reviewed for duplications and queried, by a mailed questionnaire, as to their current status. After allowing for nonresponse, the survey team concluded that 8,006 Oahuans were unemployed as of December 15, 1939, while another 1,309 were engaged in public emergency work.⁴⁵ The unemployment rate was thus about 10.6 percent, including 9.1 percent fully out of work and 1.5 percent on WPA and other make-work projects.

The sixteenth decennial census, conducted as of April 1, 1940, provided the next opportunity to measure unemployment, both in Hawaii and on the mainland. This census introduced the labor force concept, replacing the gainful worker concept of earlier enumerations. Persons 14 years old and over were classified into one of four major categories: (1) employed, except on public emergency work; (2) on public emergency work; (3) seeking work; and (4) not in the labor force. Results are shown in the next table.⁴⁶

Regular monthly and annual estimates of labor force and unemployment data were initiated in 1940, in Hawaii as well as on the mainland. The estimates for Hawaii were prepared by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations from data on workers covered by the Hawaii State Employment Security Law, applicants for unemployment compensation benefits and

<i>Geographic area</i>	<i>Number unemployed</i>			<i>Percent of civilian labor force</i>		
	<i>Un-employed</i>	<i>Seeking work</i>	<i>Public emergency work</i>	<i>Un-employed</i>	<i>Seeking work</i>	<i>Public emergency work</i>
Continental						
United States	7,623,416	5,093,810	2,529,606	14.5	9.7	4.8
Territory of						
Hawaii . . .	7,436	5,110	2,326	4.6	3.2	1.4
Island of Oahu	5,174	3,774	1,400	5.7	4.2	1.5
City of Honolulu	4,614	3,427	1,187	6.7	5.0	1.7

census and other data on uncovered workers, such as the self-employed. As of June 30, 1940, for example, the file of unemployed persons on active status with DLIR included 9,130 names, a decline of 164 in twelve months but still well above the census count of 7,436 unemployed and public emergency workers.⁴⁷ The average number of unemployed persons in the territory in 1940 was estimated at 7,232, or 4.4 percent of the civilian labor force.⁴⁸ The corresponding U.S. rate was 14.6 percent.⁴⁹

The depression for all practical purposes ended in 1941. Both in Hawaii and on the mainland, the rapid expansion of national defense programs absorbed many of the jobless. Others were inducted into the armed forces, which were likewise undergoing rapid enlargement in preparation for possible war. Long before the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, it had become necessary for defense officials to bring in large numbers of civilian workers from the mainland, to supplement the limited local labor force available for work at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and other installations. Unemployment dropped sharply, a trend continued until the closing days of the war:⁵⁰

<i>Year</i>	<i>Hawaii</i>		<i>United States : percent</i>
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	
1941	6,500	3.6	9.9
1942	2,430	1.1	4.7
1943	1,886	0.9	1.9
1944	1,600	0.7	1.2
1945	1,500	0.7	1.9

The unemployment statistics of the 1930's, summarized in the foregoing pages, obviously had many shortcomings. Survey methodology, population coverage, definitions and completeness varied widely from year to year. Estimates only occasionally encompassed the entire territory and more frequently referred only to Oahu or Honolulu proper. Major gaps are evident: estimates are unavailable for Honolulu from 1932 to late 1936, and for the

rest of the territory from 1934 to the end of 1937. Even for the mainland, the estimates (made retrospectively by indirect procedures) reveal many deficiencies.

Notwithstanding the limitations of these statistics, however, certain broad conclusions are possible. The most significant may be corroboration of the opinion that unemployment in Hawaii during the depression, while severe, never came close to the appallingly high rates recorded on the mainland. The highest levels estimated for Hawaii as a whole were 6.9 percent in 1933 and 5.9 percent in mid-1939. On Oahu, unemployment apparently rose to 6.8 percent in 1933 and 10.6 percent in 1939. The Honolulu rate reached 12.4 percent in 1936. None of these rates compared to the corresponding national figures, and certainly not to the national peak of 24.9 percent, attained in 1933. The frequent assertions by contemporary authorities that unemployment during the 1930's was less critical in Hawaii than for the country as a whole thus seem to have been justified.

Two other conclusions may be drawn from these data. First, unemployment rates in Honolulu were considerably higher than those for rural Oahu or the Neighbor Islands. Second, the worst years of the depression in Hawaii may have been 1936 and 1939, rather than 1932 or 1933 as on the mainland.

Thirty-five years have passed since the last days of the depression, and, while mainland unemployment rates have never again approached their levels of that period, unemployment in the Islands has on several occasions rivalled the rates of the '30's. For the nation as a whole, annual rates in the postwar period peaked at 5.9 percent in 1949, 6.8 percent in 1958, 6.7 percent in 1961, 5.9 percent in 1971 and 8.5 percent in 1975.⁵¹ In Hawaii, however, unemployment during the 1949 dock strike reached 15 percent, and was also substantial in 1954 and for an extended period beginning in 1971. Peak months were as follows:⁵²

<i>Month and year</i>	<i>Number unemployed</i>	<i>Percent of civilian labor force</i>
November 1949	28,434	15.0
June 1954	15,359	7.8
March 1976	32,600	9.0

It is thus evident that Hawaii, while weathering the 1930's more successfully than the rest of the nation, has more than once since then undergone employment crises comparable to those of that critical era.

UNEMPLOYMENT AS A PERCENT OF THE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE,
FOR THE UNITED STATES AND HAWAII: ANNUAL AVERAGES, 1929 TO 1975

Calendar year	Hawaii : job basis ¹	United States ²		Calendar year	Hawaii ¹		United States : excluding emergency workers ²
		Including emergency workers	Excluding emergency workers		Job basis	Person basis	
1929	...	3.2	3.2	1953	4.9	...	2.9
1930	...	8.7	8.7	1954	6.0	...	5.6
1931	...	15.9	15.3	1955	5.0	...	4.4
1932	...	23.6	22.5	1956	4.4	...	4.2
1933	...	24.9	20.6	1957	3.7	...	4.3
1934	...	21.7	16.0	1958	3.4	...	6.8
1935	...	20.1	14.2	1959	3.1	...	5.5
1936	...	16.9	9.9	1960	3.0	...	5.6
1937	...	14.3	9.1	1961	4.1	...	6.7
1938	...	19.0	12.5	1962	4.7	...	5.6
1939	...	17.2	11.3	1963	4.8	...	5.7
1940	4.4	14.6	9.5	1964	3.9	...	5.2
1941	3.6	9.9	6.0	1965	3.4	...	4.5
1942	1.1	4.7	3.1	1966	3.2	...	3.8
1943	0.9	1.9	1.8	1967	3.5	...	3.8
1944	0.7	...	1.2	1968	2.9	...	3.6
1945	0.7	...	1.9	1969	2.7	...	3.5
1946	1.1	...	3.9	1970	3.6	4.5	4.9
1947	1.5	...	3.9	1971	...	6.3	5.9
1948	4.9	...	3.8	1972	...	7.3	5.6
1949	11.0	...	5.9	1973	...	6.8	4.9
1950	9.4	...	5.3	1974	...	7.6	5.6
1951	4.3	...	3.3	1975	...	7.2	8.5
1952	4.3	...	3.1				

¹ Annual averages not available on job basis before 1940 and on person basis before 1970. In estimates on job basis, labor force data are effected by double counting of persons holding more than one job.

² Based on persons 14 years old and over, 1929-1962, and persons 16 years old and over thereafter. Person basis for all years.

SOURCE: Michael R. Darby, "Three-and-a-Half Million U.S. Employees Have Been Misled: Or, an Explanation of Unemployment, 1934-1941," *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 84, No. 1, Feb. 1976, pp. 1-16, espec. table 3 (p. 8); U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Long Term Economic Growth 1860-1965* (ES4-No. 1, 1966), Series B2, p. 191; *Monthly Labor Review*, Vol. 99, No. 2, Feb. 1976, p. 67; Hawaii State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, records.

NOTES

- ¹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1957* (Washington, D.C., 1960), p. 73.
- ² Edward Joesting, *Hawaii: An Uncommon History* (New York, 1972), pp. 290-292.
- ³ HSB, April 16, 1930, pp. 1 and 8.
- ⁴ HSB, July 29, 1932, p. 6.
- ⁵ *Annual Report . . . 1933*, p. 1.
- ⁶ HAA 1933, p. 142.
- ⁷ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Labor Conditions in the Territory of Hawaii, 1929-1930* (Bulletin No. 534, March 1931), pp. 124-125, and *Labor in the Territory of Hawaii, 1939* (Bulletin No. 687, June 1939), p. 226.
- ⁸ U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics*, pp. 67-68.
- ⁹ Romanzo Adams, *Unemployment in Honolulu* (dittoed, April 26, 1940).
- ¹⁰ "A Central Employment Bureau for Hawaii", *The Friend*, Vol. XCIX, No. 2, February 1929, p. 28; Peter Entau Chu, "Unemployment in Honolulu", *The Honolulu Mercury*, Vol. I, No. 1, June 1929, pp. 38-40; "Unemployment in Hawaii", *The Friend*, Vol. C, No. 4, April 1930, p. 76.
- ¹¹ "The Chamber of Commerce and Unemployment", *The Friend*, Vol. XCIX, No. 5, May 1929, p. 100.
- ¹² Ira V. Hiscock, *A Survey of Health and Welfare Activities in Honolulu, Hawaii* (New Haven, 1929), p. 149.
- ¹³ Calculated from the following reports of *Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930: Unemployment, Vol. I, General Report* (1931), p. 6; *Population, Vol. V, General Report on Occupations* (1933), p. 20; *Outlying Territories and Possessions* (1932), pp. 77, 89 and 91.
- ¹⁴ Romanzo Adams, *op. cit.*, p. 4.
- ¹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 5.
- ¹⁶ Federal Emergency Relief Administration, Territory of Hawaii, *Emergency Relief in Territory of Hawaii, U.S.A.* (Honolulu, January 1, 1935), p. 3.
- ¹⁷ HSB, December 19, 1931, last edition, p. 2. See also Edward Joesting, *op. cit.*, p. 291.
- ¹⁸ Based on annual labor force estimates in Robert C. Schmitt, "Estimates of Civilian Labor Force for Hawaii, 1930 to 1940" (typescript, March 17, 1976; filed in HHS Library).
- ¹⁹ Romanzo Adams, *op. cit.*, pp. 9-10.
- ²⁰ HA, April 22, 1932, pp. 1 and 9.
- ²¹ Computed from Schmitt, *op. cit.*
- ²² HA, May 2, 1932, p. 1.
- ²³ Based on civilian labor force estimates for 1932 in Schmitt, *op. cit.*
- ²⁴ U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics*, p. 73.
- ²⁵ Joesting, *op. cit.*, p. 291. See also Adams, *op. cit.*, p. 5.
- ²⁶ Federal Emergency Relief Administration, *op. cit.*, p. 3.
- ²⁷ HSB, October 4, 1933, p. 3. The breakdown given in this article actually added to 6,000 (instead of 5,000) unemployed persons.
- ²⁸ Wire from Governor Judd to J. S. Wright, secretary to Delegate McCandless, November 19, 1933; in AH, Judd file (U.S. Departments: Emergency Relief: Federal Civil Works Administration).
- ²⁹ Adams, *op. cit.*, p. 6.
- ³⁰ U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics*, p. 73.

- ³¹ Adams, *op. cit.*, p. 10.
- ³² U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics*, p. 73.
- ³³ [U.S.] National Youth Administration, [Hawaii], *Report on the Honolulu Employment Survey* (1937), p. 1.
- ³⁴ *Report of the Relief and Welfare Commission of the Territory of Hawaii to the 1937 Legislature* (March 30, 1937), Part III, "Analysis of Census of the District of Honolulu." For somewhat different figures and general comment on this survey, see Adams, *op. cit.*, pp. 16, 17 and 19. Rates shown here were based on labor force data of the survey itself rather than the estimates in Schmitt, *op. cit.*
- ³⁵ *Census of Partial Employment, Unemployment and Occupations: 1937, Final Report on Total and Partial Unemployment, U.S. Summary* (1938), p. 1, and *Hawaii* (1938), pp. 1 and 16. This census also reported the number partly unemployed (3,219,502 in the United States, 1,752 in the Territory, 1,222 on Oahu and 1,100 in Honolulu).
- ³⁶ Computed from labor force estimates in U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics*, p. 70, and Schmitt, *op. cit.*
- ³⁷ Stanley Lebergott, "Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment, 1929-39: Estimating Methods," *Monthly Labor Review*, Vol. 67, No. 1, July 1948, pp. 50-53; see footnote 12, p. 52. The BLS estimates are those cited in the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics*, p. 73.
- ³⁸ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Labor in the Territory of Hawaii, 1939*, p. 226.
- ³⁹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics*, p. 73.
- ⁴⁰ HSB, August 11, 1938, p. 1.
- ⁴¹ HA, December 8, 1938, p. 1.
- ⁴² U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics*, p. 73.
- ⁴³ *Annual Report of the Territorial Unemployment Compensation Board, July 1, 1939 to June 30, 1940*, p. 19.
- ⁴⁴ *Annual Report of the Territorial Unemployment Compensation Board, July 1, 1937 to June 30, 1938*, pp. 5-7; HA, December 8, 1938, p. 1.
- ⁴⁵ Education Committee, Honolulu Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with Human Resources Committee, Territorial Planning Board, *Unemployment Survey, Honolulu and Rural Oahu, December, 1939* (February 1, 1940), p. 19.
- ⁴⁶ U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940, Population, Vol. III, The Labor Force, Part 1, U.S. Summary* (1943), p. 3, and *Population, Second Series, Characteristics of the Population, Hawaii* (1943), pp. 13, 18 and 30; *U.S. Census of Population: 1950, Vol. II, Characteristics of the Population, Part 1, U.S. Summary* (1953), table 52, p. 100, and *General Characteristics, Hawaii*, Bulletin P-B52 (1952), table 19, p. 18. Rates shown here are based on the civilian labor force, and exclude "military labor force" for the United States, Hawaii and Oahu and "soldiers, sailors, marines, and coast guards" for Honolulu.
- ⁴⁷ *Annual Report of the Territorial Unemployment Compensation Board, July 1, 1939 to June 30, 1940*, p. 19.
- ⁴⁸ Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, "Labor force estimates 1939-1957" (memorandum from Teruo Yoshida to Robert Schmitt, October 4, 1965).
- ⁴⁹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics*, p. 73.
- ⁵⁰ Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, "Labor force estimates 1939-1957", U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics*, p. 73.
- ⁵¹ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Handbook of Labor Statistics 1974* (Bulletin 1825, 1974), p. 27, and *Monthly Labor Review*, Vol. 99, No. 2, February 1976, p. 67.
- ⁵² Hawaii State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, "Labor force estimates 1939-1957"; *Labor Area Summary* (monthly issues, January 1975-April 1976) and records. Data for 1940-1969 are on a "job" basis and thus somewhat overstate the

size of the labor force while understating unemployment rates. Data for 1970-1976 are on a "person" basis and thus comparable to decennial census statistics.

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