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Hawaii (Terr)
Territory of Hawaii
Department of Public Instruction

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Regulations re Foreign
Language Schools
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Passed
November 18, 1922

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**STATEMENT BY
THE GOVERNOR**

The following statement, by Governor Farrington, given out immediately after the governor had signed the new foreign language school regulations Saturday afternoon, is one which deserves special emphasis and public attention:

"This regulation represents the conclusions of the best educational leaders of Hawaii whose ideas and ideals are sincerely American and whose friendly attitude toward our alien people cannot be questioned.

"I anticipate no opposition from loyal Americans or those resident

aliens who are friendly toward our country.

"There is no more friendly spot for alien races under the flag, than here in Hawaii. Obviously we have no thought of allowing our friendship and tolerance to be abused so that there shall be established here alien principalities that foster a spirit of opposition to American institutions and defiance of those who support them. This is and since our admission into the Union always has been a thoroughly American Territory, an integral part of the United States, and we shall continue to go forward on American lines.

"The problem, if there be one, is not whether our alien races can assimilate, but rather whether they, with the door of opportunity wide open before them, are willing to assimilate."

STATEMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT

The legislature of the Territory of Hawaii, by Act 30, Special Session, 1920, directed that the Department of Public Instruction shall have full power to prescribe the courses of study and text books to be used in all foreign language schools in the territory, and further declared that the object of the Act is to regulate the foreign language schools so that the Americanism of the pupils shall be promoted.

"The Department of Public Instruction, having only negatively accepted the courses of study and text books found to be in use when Act 30 went into effect, deemed it necessary, in the fulfillment of its powers to prescribe the courses of study and text books, and to that end called into service a committee of fourteen made up of alien language school teachers and others, which committee in turn called into consultation and to act as a part of the committee five Americans recognized throughout the territory as thoroughly qualified to outline modern American standards of the best pedagogical procedure, and who were also well versed in the ideas and ideals of Americanism.

The Legislature specified that the Americanism of the pupils shall be promoted, and required of all applicants to conduct or teach in such language schools, a pledge to 'so direct the minds and studies of pupils in said school as will tend to make them good and loyal American citizens.'

The ideals of Americanism are of paramount importance throughout all the schools of Hawaii, because practically all the pupils are, under the laws of the United States, American citizens, and are therefore prospective voters in the Territory of Hawaii and all other parts of the United States.

The American educational leaders

serving as members of the committee,—(including Dr. A. L. Dean, president of the University of Hawaii, Dr. K. C. Leebrick, professor of history and political science at the University of Hawaii, A. F. Robinson, principal of the Punahou Junior Academy, Charles F. Loomis, secretary of the Citizenship Education committee of the Young Men's Christian Association, Dr. H. B. Schwartz, superintendent of Japanese work for the Methodist Board of Missions, who has a knowledge of the Japanese language and the Japanese educational system, and Mrs. Maud Tucker, of the Territorial Normal and Training school)—found in the course of their study, investigation and consultation, and especially through the discussions of the committee, that the courses of study in use in the alien language schools are poorly suited to efficient teaching, are wasteful of time and energy and tend to lay the foundations of alien ideals in the mind of the child, and retard the teaching of American ideals and institutions.

In the opinion of the joint committee, if all oversized classes were reduced and all alien and extraneous subject-matter were eliminated, it would be possible to achieve better results and in less time than in the past.

It was determined after thorough discussion and it was formally recommended to the Department of

Public instruction by the committee without a dissenting vote, that it is possible and will benefit the pupils to cover in a six-year course the elementary curriculum appertaining to the teaching of a foreign language previously covered in eight years, and that at the end of a six-year course of elementary school training the pupils will know as much or more of the alien language and will have spent less time in getting it.

The great majority of Hawaiian-born children of alien parents enter the public schools deficient in, or wholly ignorant of English, and in their homes English is a foreign language, and the work of the public schools in teaching these children English and other subjects is greatly hampered by their attendance at alien language schools.

The requiring of children of tender years to devote additional time in the school room to academic studies after the prescribed public school hours is detrimental to the health of the children.

It is recognized that the language of these children, as good American citizens, must be English, and the learning of any alien language is of secondary importance to them.

The committee in satisfying the standards of good pedagogy and sound Americanism, recommended a new course of study and recommended that new text books be prepared for the alien language schools,

which new text books are to be adopted gradually.

This modernized and more thoroughly Americanized course of study for the alien language schools is based upon the principles that children of pre-school, first and second grade ages, shall attend English-speaking schools exclusively, and that children of tender years shall not be confined for academic studies beyond public school hours.

Work on the preparation of the new text books will proceed immediately under the auspices of a committee to be named by the superintendent of public instruction and to be composed of members of high standing in the educational circles of the territory."

THE REGULATIONS

The department of public instruction, in order to safeguard the health and to promote the Americanism of the pupils of the public schools, and as empowered by Act 30, Session Laws, 1920, hereby adopts, as part of its rules and regulations, the following:

1—The course and courses of study in all foreign language schools shall be based upon the principle that every pupil shall have first satisfactorily completed the first and second grades of the American public school, or courses equivalent thereto, before

attending any foreign language school.

2—The procedure for putting into effect the course and courses of study based upon this principle shall be as follows:

(a)—Beginning January 1, 1923, and thereafter up to September 1, 1923, every pupil shall have first satisfactorily completed the American public school first grade or a course equivalent thereto before attending any foreign language school.

(b)—Beginning September 1, 1923, and thereafter, every pupil shall have first satisfactorily completed the American public school first and second grades, or courses equivalent thereto, before attending any foreign language school.

3—Beginning September 1, 1923, and thereafter, for grades one, two and three; and beginning September 1, 1924, and thereafter, for grades four and above; all new text books used in elementary foreign language schools shall be based upon the principle that the pupil's normal medium of expression is English and shall contain, as far as practicable, English equivalents for foreign words and idioms.