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Notes Used for Land and Power in Hawaii  
by George Cooper

**Abstract**

The Democratic revolution that blossomed in the 1950s resulted in the great Hawaii land boom which began in the late 1950s. Many prominent politicians who professed to be anti-development joined huis and became leaders in land development.

**Background**

On March 10, 1982, George Cooper sent a copy of "Democrats and Huis" to his friend Reggie Gage on Kauai. It was accompanied by the following note: *Have prepared this in connection with my book with Gavan Davis. Thought you might find it interesting. Thrust of book is now land development, the Democratic Revolution of the 1950s and current power structure. Will do chapter on Kauai. Plan to spend about 2 weeks on Kauai later this year doing the research. Please keep this paper only for your reference. Sorry to send it to your office but I didn't have your home address.*

## **Scope and Content**

The notes used for Land and Power in Hawaii consist of only one document, “Democrats & Huis” by George Cooper, dated February 1982. This document has a table of contents which includes the following: Overview; How to read the charts; Table of Names; and Charts.

The following description of each of these sections will allow the researcher to access the material in this archive.

### **Overview**

The Democratic revolution of the 1950s saw the rise of many new Democratic politicians to power. Although most professed to be anti-development, most became members of hui that sprang up as a spin off from the Democratic revolution. These hui focused on land development which mushroomed into a land boom. The review of approximately 58,000 business partnerships between mid-1954 and 1982 contains those of hui made up of land developers, and land speculators making fortunes from the land development boom. According to the author every political figure, their advisors or family members were members of these hui and heavily invested in the land boom which led to enormous profits. By the 1970s, every key institution of political power was controlled by these land investors/developers starting with the governor’s office. Although there was some supposed antagonism among members of these hui, all enjoyed huge profits. By the 1970s and 80s, the Democratic revolution and the land boom saw the emergence of large, aggressive middle class. At first the political leaders used government power to help locally born Chinese and Japanese. However, as time went by power was used to their benefit. The author discussed the Nukolii land controversy on Kauai which when resolved gave a profit of four million dollars to the members of the hui that owned the land and managed to have it rezoned. The author’s final statement wraps up the situation: *The Clarence T. G. Chings and George Ariyoshis of the post-war years have written a new chapter with their aggressive development of the land. Their development activities and the new power structure they have formed, and its many ties to development, are the central theme of this book.*

### **How to read the charts**

The charts are keyed to government officials, not the hui. Also the charts are based on official and unofficial power groups. Abbreviations used on the charts are explained.

### **Table of Names**

The table of names contains 214 names that are alphabetized and are the names of all officials that appear on the charts.

**The Charts**

There are 51 pages of charts. The headings are as follows: Government Official, Hui Name, Other Prominent Hui Members, Hui Business Purpose, Years, and Notes.

The groupings include John Burns, Frank Fasi, George Ariyoshi, and Tom Gill; Labor, Liberals, Congress, Land use agencies, Education, Culture & the Arts, Police, City, County Councils, Mayors, Hawaiians, Legislative leaders, Legislators, Judges, and Agency Directors and Deputy Directors.