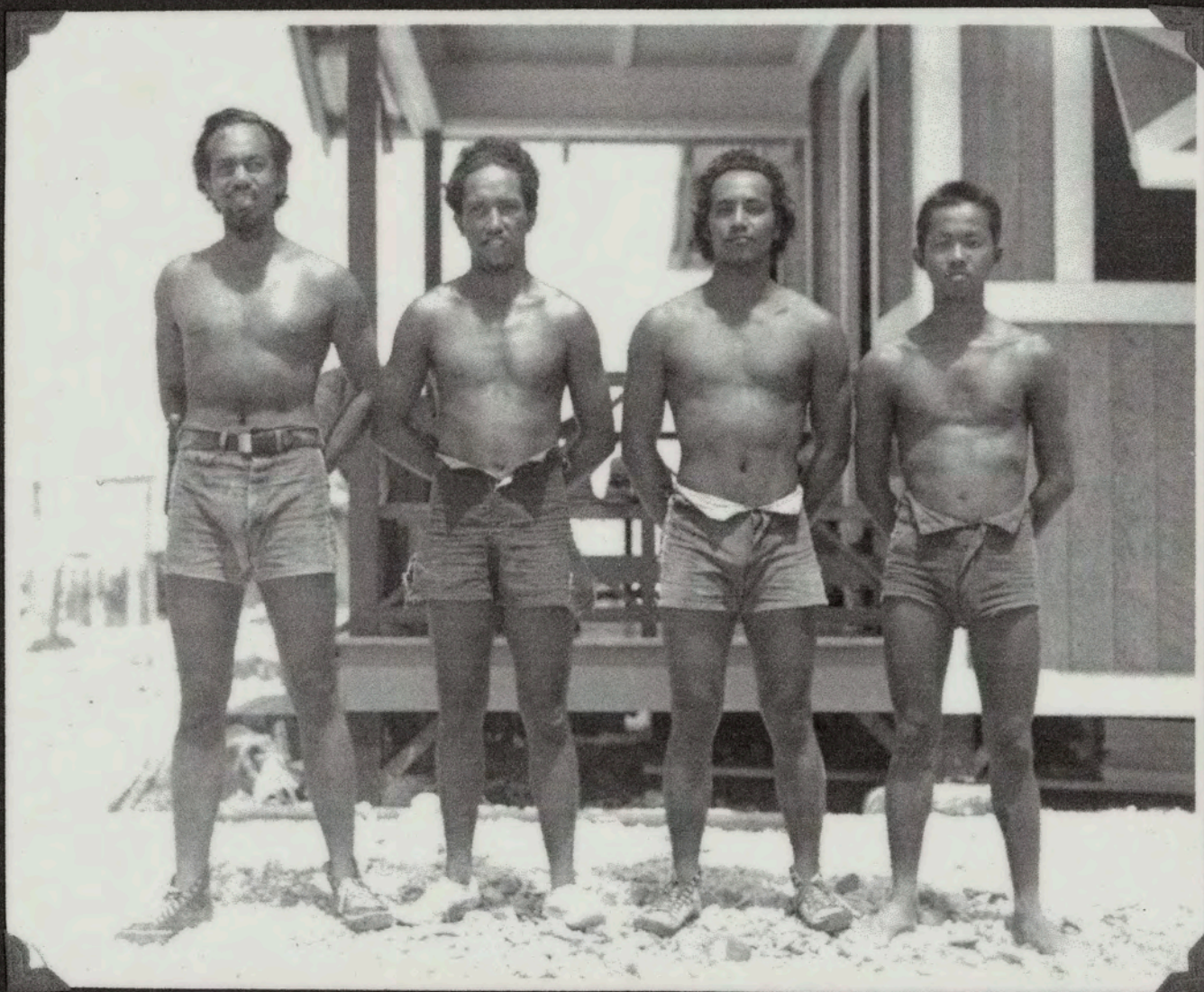


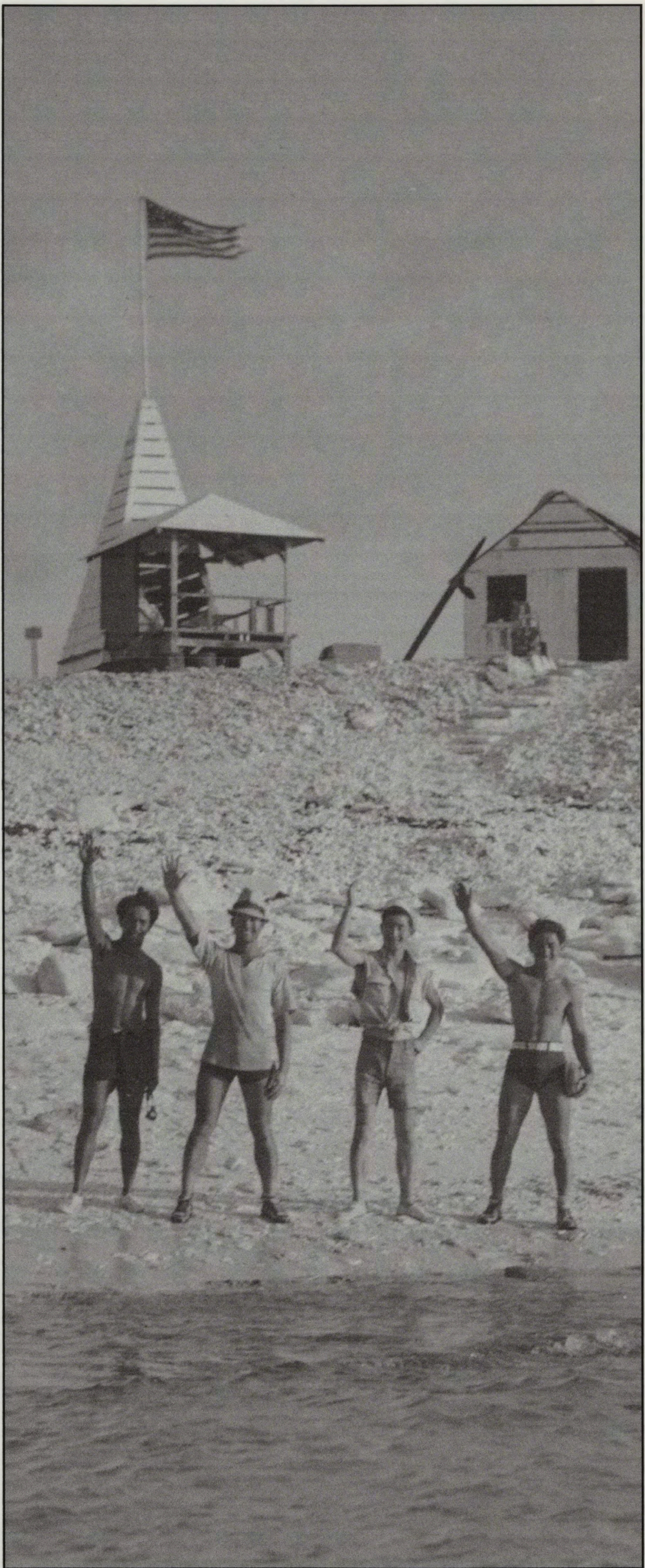


*Hawaiian Colonists, American Citizens*



*Hawaiian Colonists - American Citizens  
Kamehameha School Graduates  
Jarris Group 1937.*







INTRODUCTION MODULE

Mural  
(35.25" x 36")



# A TOP SECRET MISSION

On March 20, 1935, six young Kamehameha Schools graduates sailed from Honolulu Harbor aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Itasca* for destinations unknown. Carefully recruited for their physical and mental fitness, they believed they would be collecting specimens for Bishop Museum. Instead, they found themselves on remote desert islands in the middle of the Pacific, living for months at a time in total isolation. The ability of these young Hawaiian men, as "Americans," to survive would eventually enable President Roosevelt to claim jurisdiction over the islands of Jarvis, Baker, and Howland.

"A mission, to convey certain people and material to subject named islands has been authorized by the President of the United States. Attention is invited to the confidential nature of this order and the mission."

— Confidential memo from the Commandant, Naval Operations, to the Commander of the Western Area, February 27, 1935

"My folks had no idea where I was going. I myself didn't know where I was going... They told us, we have a project which is of top security and if you would like to join us, we would be happy to have you. We can't tell you about it until you get there."

— Abraham Piianaia  
Honolulu Magazine, Vol. XXIII, 1988

"No publicity was given to our expedition. Only close friends were there to bid farewell. There seemed to be a sort of secrecy attached to our departure. To us, there was nothing mysterious about collecting natural specimens and yet we could not understand what the ultimate purpose of the trip was."

— Journal of George West



The project's success depended on the ability of these young men to excel in their multiple role as Hawaiians, as Americans, and as Kamehameha School graduates.

Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives

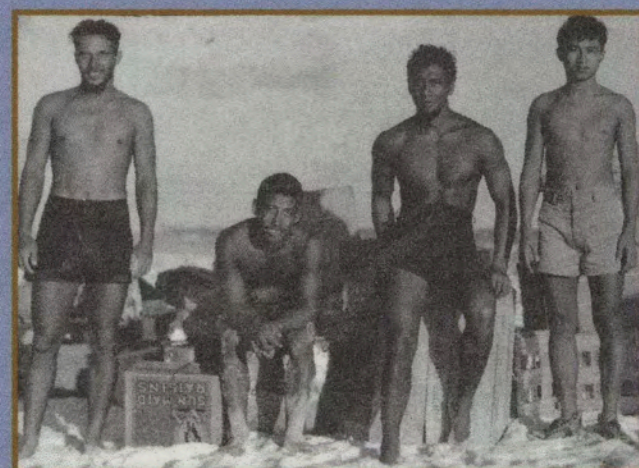
Howland colonists William S. Markham, Killamey Opiopio, Kini Pea, and James Kamakaiwi pose with Army personnel.

Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives



Left: Jarvis colonists wave goodbye to their supply ship, which they wouldn't see again for another two and a half months, January, 1937.

Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives



Four Baker Island colonists and their supplies, which was expected to last them for the next three months.

Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives



INTRODUCTION MODULE

1.A.1 Middle Panel  
(41" x 48")  
A Top Secret Mission



# THIS IS THEIR STORY

**T**he true nature of the project was to colonize the islands on behalf of the United States, first for commercial aviation interests, and later for militaristic purposes. By the project's end, 7 years later, over 130 young men would participate, the majority of whom were Hawaiian. These colonists endured unending sun, hostile seas, rats, sharks, and ultimately, enemy fire. This is their story, told in their own words. Their accounts are gathered from the daily logs that they kept, and from personal journals, published accounts, and interviews. Some of the words come from those long gone. Others come from those still remaining who can recall with clarity the months they spent on these remote desert islands, more than half a century ago.



The islands of Jarvis, Baker, and Howland, also known as the Line or Pacific Equatorial islands, were mid-way between Australia and California, making them attractive emergency landing points for trans-Pacific air travel.

**HUI** – Group, Society  
**PANALĀ'AU** –

Colony, dependency,  
territory, province, colonist.

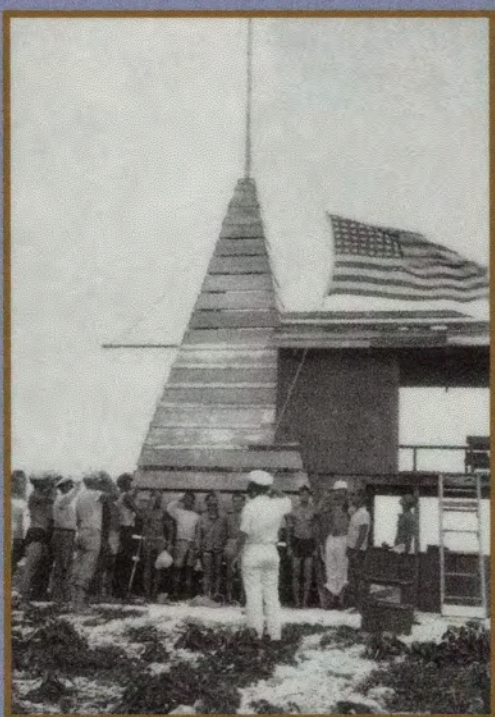
– Hawaiian Dictionary

"Two days out at sea and everything was finally made clear. Captain Meyer assembled us together. Staring at us for about five minutes he finally said, 'Boys, someday you're going to be mighty proud that you made this trip. ...You're going to colonize and help establish claim of three islands for the United States government. These islands are going to be famous air bases in a route that will connect Australia with California.'"

– Journal of George West

The first flag raising ceremony on Jarvis following President Roosevelt's claim of jurisdiction, 1936.

Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives



"...As far as I was concerned, it was an adventure, so no matter what it was, I would have gone anyway because curiosity and being young and adventuresome, I figured this is an opportunity of a lifetime."

– George Kahanu  
Interview, March 27, 2002



Commander Derby with Lt. Meyer and a group of Kamehameha boys from the 3rd expedition on the deck of the *Itasca*, discussing their future challenges as colonists, 1935.

Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives



INTRODUCTION MODULE

1.A.2 Right Panel  
(30" x 48")  
This Is Their Story



# SHIPBOARD ACTIVITIES

All in all, there were 25 expeditions consisting of 23 scheduled "tours" and two medical emergency trips. It typically took five days to reach Jarvis, and another three to reach Baker and Howland. Shipboard routines of briefings, preparing supplies and ship maintenance were interrupted by "polliwog initiations" for first-time Equator crossers, boxing matches, and Hawaiian-style jam sessions with guitars and 'ukulele. As compensation for their time aboard the ship and during their "tour", the colonists received \$3.00 per day, a large sum of money at the time.

"The skipper had full command of everything that went on, and we were told to begin with, that you obey or else. [We] helped with the cooking or helped take care of things after the cooking or whatever, because we were, literally, the crew. [We weren't] just somebody that was going on a special trip and would do nothing on board!"

— James Carroll  
Interview, April 3, 2002



William Yomes (left) and George Kahanu (right) face off during a boxing match aboard the *Itasca*. "It wasn't easy. You had to time your punches to roll with the ship." — George Kahanu, Sr.  
Photo courtesy of George Kahanu, Sr.

"The initiation began in full array...I was brought before the royal court of Neptune. I was ordered to kiss a block covered with some black stuff that didn't do me any good. I was ordered to open my mouth and they squirted some castor oil mixed with quinine into it. It was the worst thing I ever tasted...The royal barber gave me the works by cutting off all my hair in front, and gave me a few "rat ears" in the back of the head...We made the best of our haircuts by clipping each other's hair till it looked halfway decent. I was almost baldheaded."

— James L. Carroll  
January 15, 1936



Musical interludes on the ships help pass the time.  
Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives

## CHANGING DUTIES

As the years progressed, what was expected of the colonists focused less on collecting specimens and more on providing detailed weather information and radio transmissions. Such information became increasingly relevant in the tension-filled years preceding World War II.

Lt. Meyer and a group of Kamehameha boys on the deck of the *Itasca*, discussing their future challenges as colonists, 1935.



Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives



Gaining one's sea legs was not always easy, even for Hawaiian youth adept at ocean activities.

Reproduction of watercolor by James Carroll, a "spare" on the 4th expedition. Courtesy of Kamehameha Schools Archives.

"[On board] we were briefed on our duties as government employees, our rights under international law, and our rights as citizens of the USA. The briefing sessions were going on all day regarding safety precautions, survival practices...then first aid and many other practices of confinement and on upper air soundings, horizontal observations, ship and aircraft silhouette and identifications, underwater sounding and observations, bird banding, and atmospheric readings...I was asked to learn the International Morse code in the six days it took us to reach our first island and kept on learning. The first few days I couldn't tell a dot from a dash."

— Sam Kahalewai  
The Bee, 1974. Courtesy of Kamehameha Schools Archives



INTRODUCTION MODULE

1.B.1 Middle Panel  
(41" x 48")  
Shipboard Activities

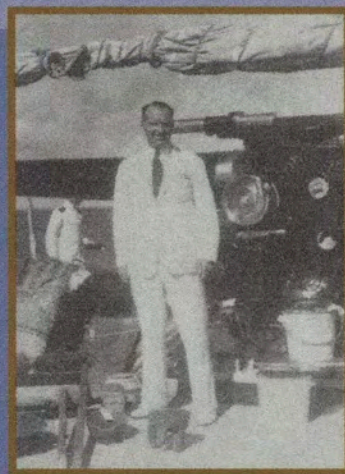


# ORGANIZING THE EXPEDITION

In early 1935, the task of organizing the expeditions fell to William T. Miller of the Bureau of Air Commerce. By order of the President, Mr. Miller was provided full cooperation: Coast Guard cutters transported the parties to the islands, the Navy provided supplies, and the Army established the initial camps, with the assistance of 6 young Hawaiians who could "look after such matters as fishing, boating, and other miscellaneous duties." By the second expedition, the soldiers were replaced, leaving each colony manned by four young Hawaiians.

"To date there is no public knowledge concerning the proposed plan for sovereignty over the islands of Jarvis, Howland and Baker. Newspaper correspondents will obviously demand an explanation from the Department of Commerce as to why these islands are being colonized. To say that it is for the purpose of installing air navigation facilities to aid ocean flying would obviously require a tentative projection of an air-mail service in the Pacific. The Second Assistant Postmaster General has informally agreed to make such an announcement at the proper time."

— Memo from Rex Martin,  
Director of Air Commerce, to  
President Roosevelt, April 8, 1935



Left: Leader of the initial expeditions, William T. Miller of the Bureau of Air Commerce stands with Polynesian specimens collected for Bishop Museum, 1936.

Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives

Right: Richard Black of the U.S. Department of the Interior would take over leadership once the islands were officially claimed by the U.S. in 1936.

Photo courtesy of  
Bishop Museum Archives



"There was also rust. We would lay the water on the side for a while and let the rust settle, then skim the top."

— Arthur Harris  
Radio interview, March 26, 2002

"[The water] was a sore point. The drums oil weren't properly cleaned, and you needed seasoning extract to kill the taste and smell of the gasoline or oil in the water. To me, that was the worst part of the expedition."

— George Kahanu, Sr.



Expedition supplies, with 50 gallon drums of water in the background. The drums were floated onto the islands then rolled to the camp by the colonists.

Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives

ITEM	QUANTITY	UNIT	TOTAL
1. Pot	1	each	1 each
2. Soap	1	box	1 box
3. Tea, small tin	1	box	1 box
4. Canned milk, 1/2 can	1	can	1 can
5. Canned milk, 1 can	1	can	1 can
6. Canned milk, 2 cans	2	cans	2 cans
7. Canned milk, 3 cans	3	cans	3 cans
8. Canned milk, 4 cans	4	cans	4 cans
9. Canned milk, 5 cans	5	cans	5 cans
10. Canned milk, 6 cans	6	cans	6 cans
11. Canned milk, 7 cans	7	cans	7 cans
12. Canned milk, 8 cans	8	cans	8 cans
13. Canned milk, 9 cans	9	cans	9 cans
14. Canned milk, 10 cans	10	cans	10 cans
15. Canned milk, 11 cans	11	cans	11 cans
16. Canned milk, 12 cans	12	cans	12 cans
17. Canned milk, 13 cans	13	cans	13 cans
18. Canned milk, 14 cans	14	cans	14 cans
19. Canned milk, 15 cans	15	cans	15 cans
20. Canned milk, 16 cans	16	cans	16 cans
21. Canned milk, 17 cans	17	cans	17 cans
22. Canned milk, 18 cans	18	cans	18 cans
23. Canned milk, 19 cans	19	cans	19 cans
24. Canned milk, 20 cans	20	cans	20 cans
25. Canned milk, 21 cans	21	cans	21 cans
26. Canned milk, 22 cans	22	cans	22 cans
27. Canned milk, 23 cans	23	cans	23 cans
28. Canned milk, 24 cans	24	cans	24 cans
29. Canned milk, 25 cans	25	cans	25 cans
30. Canned milk, 26 cans	26	cans	26 cans
31. Canned milk, 27 cans	27	cans	27 cans
32. Canned milk, 28 cans	28	cans	28 cans
33. Canned milk, 29 cans	29	cans	29 cans
34. Canned milk, 30 cans	30	cans	30 cans
35. Canned milk, 31 cans	31	cans	31 cans
36. Canned milk, 32 cans	32	cans	32 cans
37. Canned milk, 33 cans	33	cans	33 cans
38. Canned milk, 34 cans	34	cans	34 cans
39. Canned milk, 35 cans	35	cans	35 cans
40. Canned milk, 36 cans	36	cans	36 cans
41. Canned milk, 37 cans	37	cans	37 cans
42. Canned milk, 38 cans	38	cans	38 cans
43. Canned milk, 39 cans	39	cans	39 cans
44. Canned milk, 40 cans	40	cans	40 cans
45. Canned milk, 41 cans	41	cans	41 cans
46. Canned milk, 42 cans	42	cans	42 cans
47. Canned milk, 43 cans	43	cans	43 cans
48. Canned milk, 44 cans	44	cans	44 cans
49. Canned milk, 45 cans	45	cans	45 cans
50. Canned milk, 46 cans	46	cans	46 cans
51. Canned milk, 47 cans	47	cans	47 cans
52. Canned milk, 48 cans	48	cans	48 cans
53. Canned milk, 49 cans	49	cans	49 cans
54. Canned milk, 50 cans	50	cans	50 cans
55. Canned milk, 51 cans	51	cans	51 cans
56. Canned milk, 52 cans	52	cans	52 cans
57. Canned milk, 53 cans	53	cans	53 cans
58. Canned milk, 54 cans	54	cans	54 cans
59. Canned milk, 55 cans	55	cans	55 cans
60. Canned milk, 56 cans	56	cans	56 cans
61. Canned milk, 57 cans	57	cans	57 cans
62. Canned milk, 58 cans	58	cans	58 cans
63. Canned milk, 59 cans	59	cans	59 cans
64. Canned milk, 60 cans	60	cans	60 cans
65. Canned milk, 61 cans	61	cans	61 cans
66. Canned milk, 62 cans	62	cans	62 cans
67. Canned milk, 63 cans	63	cans	63 cans
68. Canned milk, 64 cans	64	cans	64 cans
69. Canned milk, 65 cans	65	cans	65 cans
70. Canned milk, 66 cans	66	cans	66 cans
71. Canned milk, 67 cans	67	cans	67 cans
72. Canned milk, 68 cans	68	cans	68 cans
73. Canned milk, 69 cans	69	cans	69 cans
74. Canned milk, 70 cans	70	cans	70 cans
75. Canned milk, 71 cans	71	cans	71 cans
76. Canned milk, 72 cans	72	cans	72 cans
77. Canned milk, 73 cans	73	cans	73 cans
78. Canned milk, 74 cans	74	cans	74 cans
79. Canned milk, 75 cans	75	cans	75 cans
80. Canned milk, 76 cans	76	cans	76 cans
81. Canned milk, 77 cans	77	cans	77 cans
82. Canned milk, 78 cans	78	cans	78 cans
83. Canned milk, 79 cans	79	cans	79 cans
84. Canned milk, 80 cans	80	cans	80 cans
85. Canned milk, 81 cans	81	cans	81 cans
86. Canned milk, 82 cans	82	cans	82 cans
87. Canned milk, 83 cans	83	cans	83 cans
88. Canned milk, 84 cans	84	cans	84 cans
89. Canned milk, 85 cans	85	cans	85 cans
90. Canned milk, 86 cans	86	cans	86 cans
91. Canned milk, 87 cans	87	cans	87 cans
92. Canned milk, 88 cans	88	cans	88 cans
93. Canned milk, 89 cans	89	cans	89 cans
94. Canned milk, 90 cans	90	cans	90 cans
95. Canned milk, 91 cans	91	cans	91 cans
96. Canned milk, 92 cans	92	cans	92 cans
97. Canned milk, 93 cans	93	cans	93 cans
98. Canned milk, 94 cans	94	cans	94 cans
99. Canned milk, 95 cans	95	cans	95 cans
100. Canned milk, 96 cans	96	cans	96 cans
101. Canned milk, 97 cans	97	cans	97 cans
102. Canned milk, 98 cans	98	cans	98 cans
103. Canned milk, 99 cans	99	cans	99 cans
104. Canned milk, 100 cans	100	cans	100 cans

Canned poi and pipikaula made a journey far from home more tolerable.



INTRODUCTION MODULE

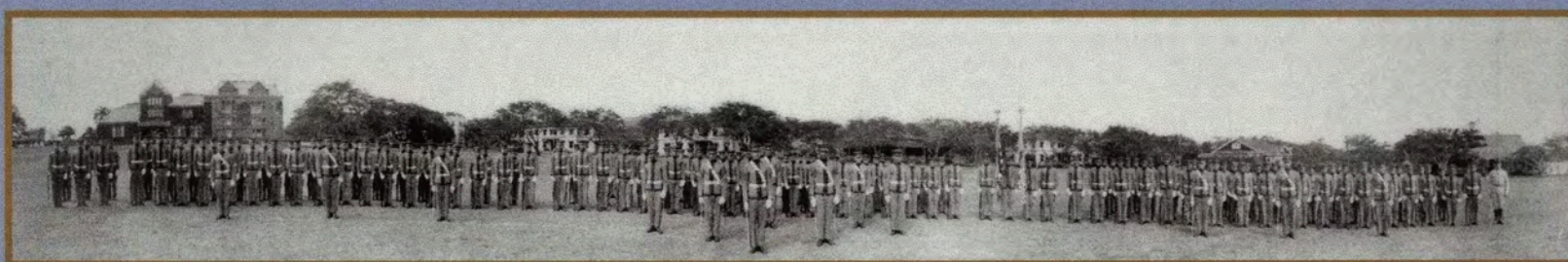
1.B.2 Left Panel  
(30" x 48")  
Organizing The Expedition



# FRIENDLY AND UNATTACHED



**W**illiam T. Miller and coordinator Harold A. Meyer met with Albert Judd, trustee of both Bishop Museum and Kamehameha Schools. Judd suggested that the Hawaiian colonists be recruited from Kamehameha, and that Principal Barnes be allowed to select the initial six Hawaiians. The established criteria was that they **"must be grown up, that they be able to fish in the native manner, to swim excellently, and to handle a boat; that they be boys who were disciplined, boys who were friendly and unattached, and who had proven themselves of the type of disposition that could stand the rigors that might have to be undergone, who it was believed would be able to 'take it,' no matter what might come."**

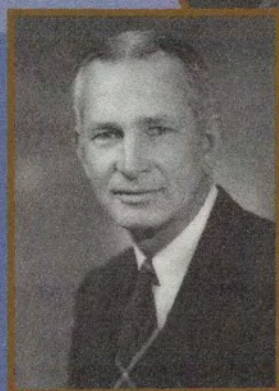
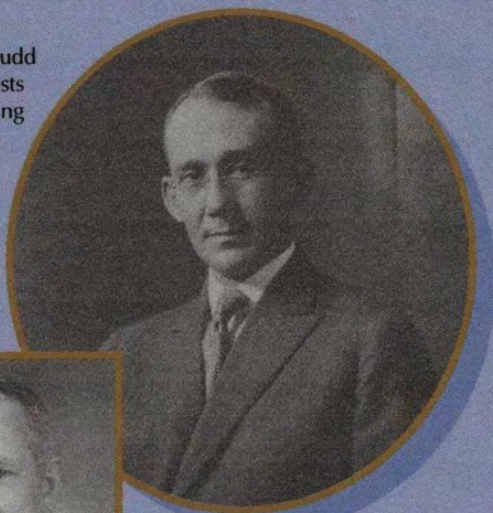


Judd believed the Hawaiian background and ROTC training of Kamehameha students would make them excellent colonists. Kamehameha ROTC students, circa 1920, taken when the museum and schools shared the same grounds.

*Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives*

As a Bishop Museum trustee, Judd believed the Museum's interests could also be served by training the young colonists to collect specimens and record data.

*Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives*



Principal Barnes selected the Hawaiian colonists from the pool of recent graduates, as well as upper high school students.

*Photo courtesy of Kamehameha Schools Archives*



Young colonists being trained on weather recording instruments, including James Kamakaiwi.

*Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives*

"While I was there, I don't think the school ever contact my parents for anything. So in other words, we were put in the hands of the administration. Whatever happened, it was their responsibility to take care of us...I felt safe. Whatever decisions they made, I felt that was a good decision, especially selecting me going down. I thought it was something that was unbelievable, really. I'd get the opportunity to work with the government...and Kamehameha Schools Bishop trustees."

— George Kahanu, Sr.  
Interview, March 27, 2002

"Suddenly, I was called into the principal's office and in a few moments I received news of the biggest break I've ever had. In that office I heard the foundational details of a project that has made the world South Seas Island conscious...the description of the island I must admit scared me a little. But upon being told that the project was being sponsored by the United States Government, I became less afraid. We were to leave on a government ship and it was scheduled to depart in six days."

— Journal of George West



INTRODUCTION MODULE

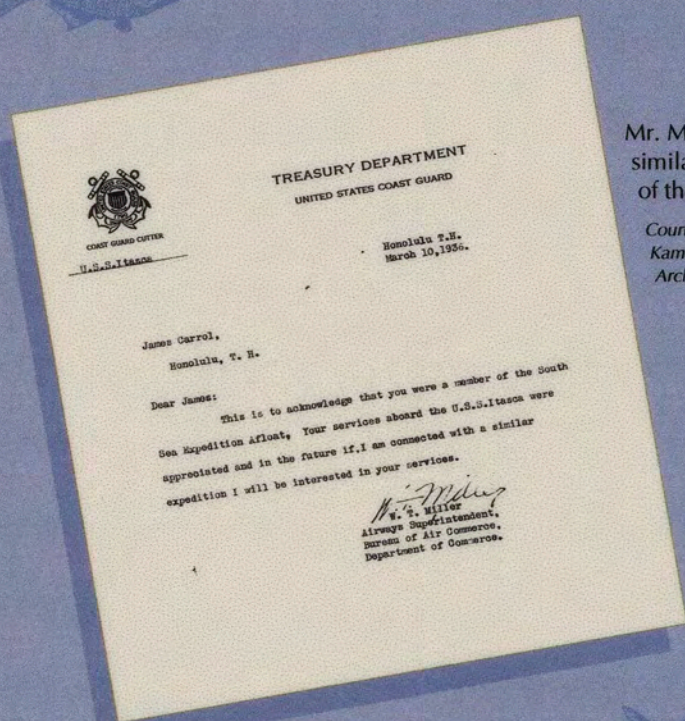
1.B.3 Right Panel  
(30" x 48")

Friendly & Unattached



# A TRIP TO THE SOUTH SEAS

**O**n January 9, 1936, James Carroll, a junior at Kamehameha Schools, embarked on a great adventure. Recruited as a spare for the 4th expedition, he traveled for two months throughout the Pacific, assisting with supplies and collecting specimens on the islands of Palmyra, Jarvis, Baker, Howland, Swains, and Samoa. He kept a detailed log of his journey, and drew colorful, intimate portraits to commemorate his experiences. This journal is reproduced in its entirety below (courtesy of Kamehameha Schools Archives).



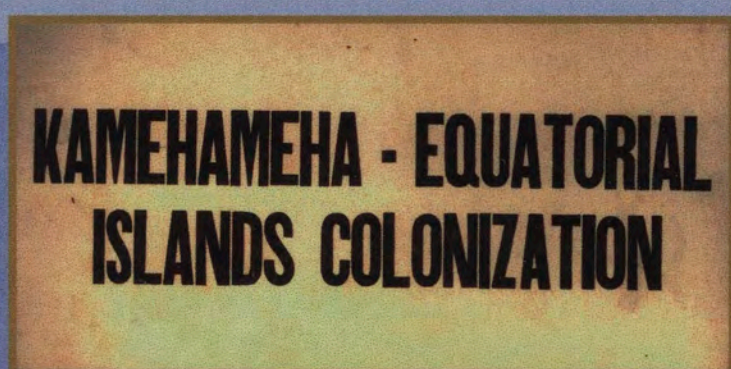
Mr. Miller wrote a similar letter to each of the early colonists.

Courtesy of Kamehameha Schools Archives



Kamehameha students and alumni just before departing on the 4th expedition, 1936. Back row: W. Paalani, H. Ohumukini, W. Yomes, S. Kalama, J. Carroll. Front row: H. Mahikoa, A. Kahapea, G. Kahanu, and J. Kim.

Photo courtesy of George Kahanu, Sr.

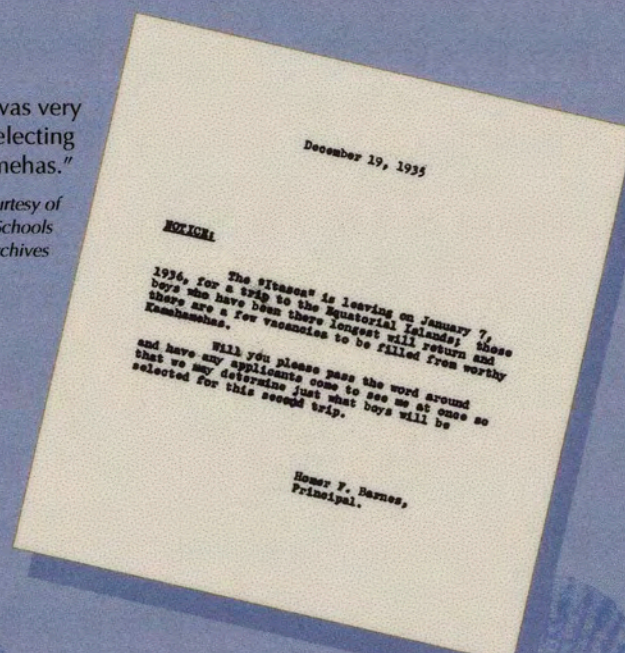


This sign from the Kamehameha Schools archives was probably posted at school during the recruitment or interview process.

Courtesy of Kamehameha Schools Archives

Principal Barnes was very active in selecting "worthy Kamehamehas."

Courtesy of Kamehameha Schools Archives





INTRODUCTION MODULE

1.C.1 Right Panel  
(30" x 36")




A Trip To The South Seas



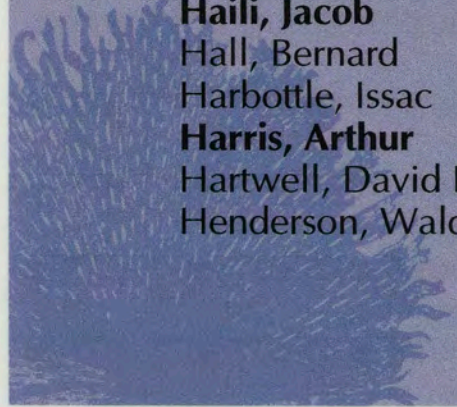



## ROSTER OF COLONISTS




(Kamehameha students are noted in bold)



Ahia, Charles  
**Ahia, Henry H.**  
Akaka, Luewellyn  
**Akana, Albert K. Jr.**  
Akana, Bernard  
**Akana, George**  
**Akana, Theodore**  
**Anahu, William M.**  
**Anakalea, Joseph**  
**Awana, Theodore**  
Au, Charles  
Aune, Edward (Army)  
Beatty, Rupert H.  
(Radio & Aerologist)  
Bederman, Thomas Wright  
**Bell, Kenneth**  
**Blake, Hartwell**  
**Boyd, Andrew**  
Braun, Charles  
**Braun, Clarence**  
Bruhn, James Ferdinand  
**Burke, Eugene**  
Burke, Walter Kalani  
Bush, Harry  
Calley, Charles D., Jr.  
**Carroll, James**  
Chang, Herbert  
**Ching, Archie**  
Ching, Lawrence Mao Hua  
**Cockett, Frank**  
**Cockett, Herbert**  
Collins, Austin (Army)  
Cowden, Lawrence C. (Radio)  
Coyle, James W.  
Duff, Leonard (Army)  
Dyen, Samuel (Army)  
**Faufata, Folinga**  
Feigenbaum, Ralph (Radio)  
Fialkowski, Henry  
Graf, Wyman (Army)  
**Haili, Jacob**  
Hall, Bernard  
Harbottle, Issac  
**Harris, Arthur**  
Hartwell, David Kawila  
Henderson, Waldron



**Hooper, Herbert**  
**Hutchinson, William L.**  
**Jacobson, Victor**  
Jensen, Hans Peter  
Jensen, Karl Emil  
Kaahea, Henry  
**Kahalewai, Carl**  
**Kahalewai, Samuel**  
**Kahanu, George**  
**Kahapea, Alexander**  
**Kahapea, William N.**  
**Kaina, William N.**  
Kalama, David H.  
**Kalama, Samuel**  
**Kalama, Solomon**  
**Kamakaiwi, James C., Jr.**  
**Kaninau, Charles**  
Kaulu, Albert Kelii  
**Kauahikaua, Archie**  
Keliihanani, Joseph K.  
Kepoo, Joseph  
Kilbey, John Gibson  
Kim, Victor Bak Sung  
(Student Aerologist)  
Kim, Harold  
**Kim, Joseph**  
King, Kenneth Lum (Radio)  
**Kinney, James E.A.**  
Knell, Henry Cockett  
Lawler, Vernon (Army)  
Lee, Francis  
**Lee, Frederick**  
Lee, Henry Kong  
(Radio & Aerologist)  
Leong, Ah Kin (Aerologist)  
Lieson, Robert W.  
Lum, Harold Chin (Aerologist)  
Lum, Kum  
Lum, Paul Yat (Aerologist)  
Lum, Yau Fai  
MacKellar, Ian A.  
(Radio & Student Aerologist)  
McCorriston, Edward Mike  
**Mahikoa, Henry**  
Makua, Blue  
**Markham, William Stewart**



Mattson, Elvin Kanaina  
Medeiros, Henry  
**Newton, Edmond**  
**Ohumukini, Henry**  
**Opiopio, Killarney**  
Paoa, Melvin Edward Lilikalani  
Paquette, Maurice  
**Pea, Aki Kini**  
Pea, William Kane  
Pease, James K.  
Phillips, Mannie Woodrow  
Phillips, Paul Gordon  
**Piianaia, Abraham**  
Pires, Manuel  
Rahe, Bernard  
Renken, Earnest Kalane  
Riley, James Joseph  
Roberts, John  
Roberts, Oliver Kahahawai  
Robinson, Alexander  
Ruddle, Francis  
Smith, Henry Marble  
**Sproat, Manuel**  
Stein, Charles  
Stillman, Francis M.  
Stillman, George Christian Lappe  
**Suares, Louis**  
Summers, Carl (Army)  
Surber, Ralph (Army)  
Tavares, William  
Theiss, Henry (Army)  
**Toomey, Daniel K.**  
Toomey, John Kauwe  
**Toomey, William T.**  
**Victor, Gabriel**  
**Waiwaiole, Luther**  
**West, George**  
Whaley, Richard  
Wilhelm, Frederick  
**Williamson, Elmer**  
Wilson, Ralph (Army)  
Wong, Alexander  
**Wood, Joshua K.**  
**Yomes, William**  
Young, Edward  
Zagara, Dominic Paul (R)





INTRODUCTION MODULE

1.C.2 Left Panel  
(30" x 36")  
Roster of Colonists



# PROJECT TIMELINE

## MARCH 20, 1935

Made in great secrecy, the 1st expedition departs Honolulu with 6 Kamehameha alumni (Henry Ahia, Daniel Toomey, James Kamakaiwi, Killarney Opiopio, William Kaina, and Abraham Piianaia) and a dozen Army personnel in order to establish camps on Jarvis, Howland, and Baker.

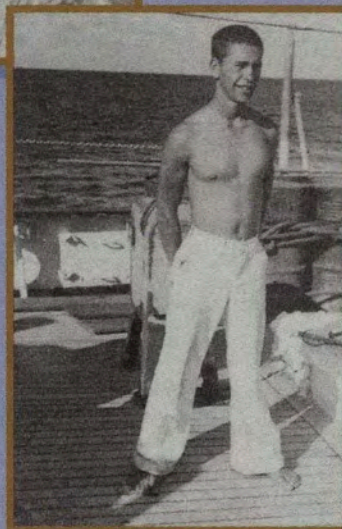


Killarney Opiopio, Kamehameha Schools, Class of 1934.

Photo courtesy of Kamehameha Schools Archives

## JUNE 9, 1935

2nd expedition undertaken to replenish supplies and replace the Army men with the following Hawaiian colonists: Frank Cockett, George West, Wm. N. Anahu, Wm. Toomey, Samuel Kalama, and Archie Ching. Arthur Harris and Elmer Williamson serve as spares.

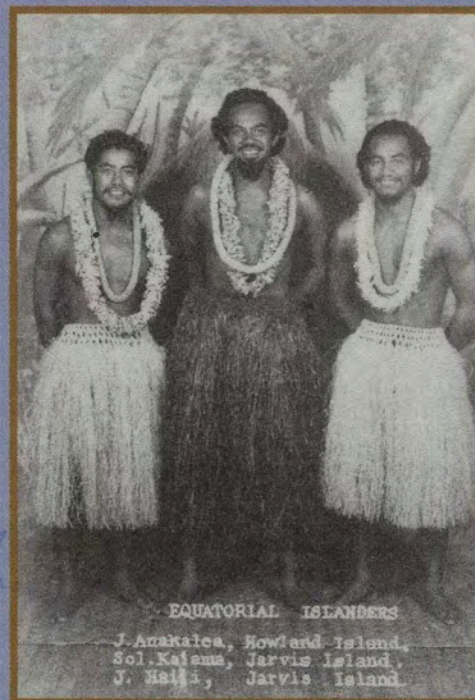


Arthur Harris, aboard the *Itasca*.

Photo courtesy of George Kahanu, Sr.

## JANUARY 24, 1936

Piianaia and Opiopio are dispatched to Swains Island to provide hurricane relief, as well as collect scientific data. Other Hawaiian colonists spend one month in Samoa on an extensive Bishop Museum-sponsored "cultural exchange."



"Tourists" Joseph Anakalea, Sol Kalama and Jacob Hill in Samoa, 1936.

Courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives

## MARCH 5, 1936

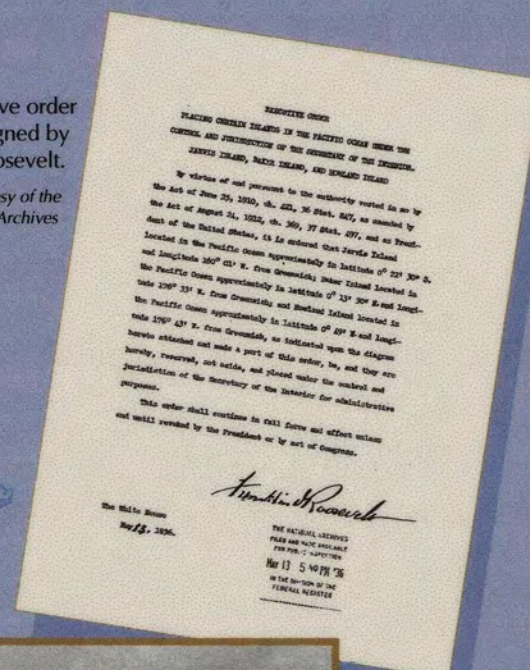
All colonists are removed from the three islands, the occupation having been deemed a success.

## MAY 13, 1936

Executive Order issued by President Roosevelt claiming Baker, Howland, and Jarvis. The project is transferred from the Department of Commerce to the Department of the Interior, represented by Richard B. Black.

Executive order 7368, signed by President Roosevelt.

Courtesy of the National Archives



## JUNE 13, 1936

Hasty reoccupation of islands. Two separate ships, the *Tiger* and the *Itasca*, are dispatched in a race to ensure Hawaiian colonists are placed on the islands before the British, who the U.S. feared would contest the assertion of American jurisdiction.

## JANUARY 13, 1937

Amateur radio operators of Chinese ancestry are recruited as colonists to conduct radio operations and weather related recording activities. Also sent are men and equipment for the construction of runways on Howland, in preparation for a landing by Amelia Earhart.



F. Faufata, K. Opiopio, J. Kamakaiwi and J. Anakalea with the *Itasca* anchored offshore.

Courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives



INTRODUCTION MODULE

1.D.1 Left Panel  
(30" x 48")  
Project Timeline



## MARCH 20, 1937

Amelia Earhart attempts to take off for Howland from the Ford Island in Honolulu. A runway accident badly damages her plane and the trip is delayed and rerouted.

## JULY 2, 1937

Amelia Earhart and her navigator disappear during their second attempt to land on Howland, this time coming from Papua New Guinea. Extensive search and rescue missions prove unsuccessful.

## 1938

Unlike the Department of Air Commerce, which utilized Kamehameha students and alumni exclusively, the Department of Interior increasingly opens up the recruitment process. Nonetheless, Hawaiians continue to be widely represented as colonists.

## FEBRUARY 27, 1938

By order of the President, colonists are sent in a "friendly invasion" to Canton and Enderbury Islands. Claimed by Great Britain, a small British colony already resides on Canton Island.

## OCTOBER 3, 1938

Carl Kahelewai is taken ill on Jarvis with symptoms of appendicitis. On October 8, 1938, while en route to Honolulu aboard the *Taney*, Carl succumbs to peritonitis.

## NOVEMBER 1938

A delayed supply ship endangers the lives of Howland colonists.

## JANUARY 1939

An emergency medical trip is made to remove Manuel Pires from Jarvis due to appendicitis. Pires recovers from his illness.

## DECEMBER 8, 1941

Howland Island sustains a half-hour attack by two flights of Japanese twin-engine bombers, dropping 50-60 bombs. Two of the colonists, Richard Whaley and Joseph Keliihananui are killed. Subsequent periodic attacks would continue to occur on Howland, as well as on Baker and Jarvis.

## JANUARY 31, 1942

A U.S. destroyer rescues six starving survivors from Howland and Baker Island.

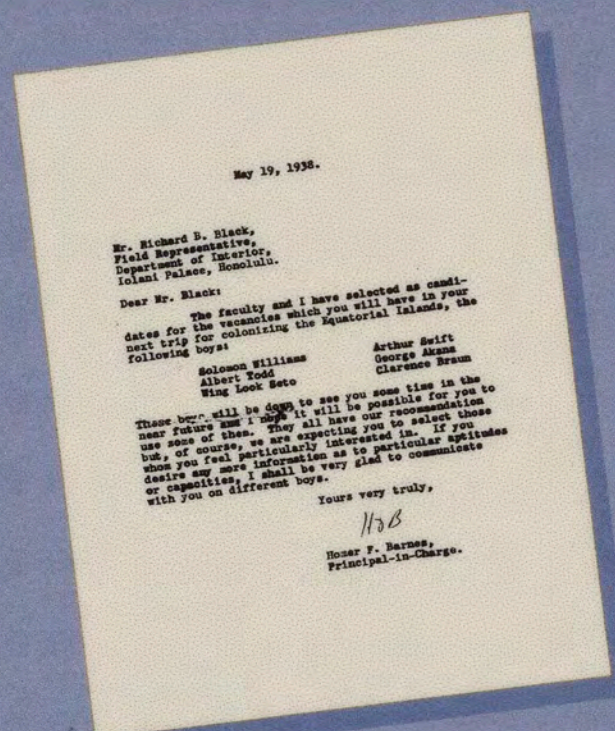
## FEBRUARY 7 & 9, 1942

The last of the colonists are removed from Enderbury and Jarvis Island, bringing the colonization project to a final close.



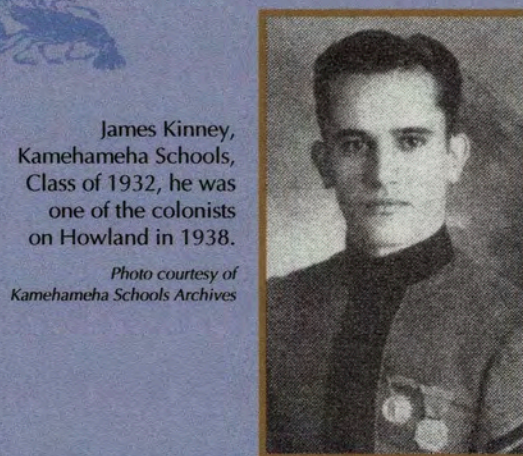
The world famous aviator in Honolulu attempting her 1937 flight around the world.

Photo courtesy of Bishop Museum Archives



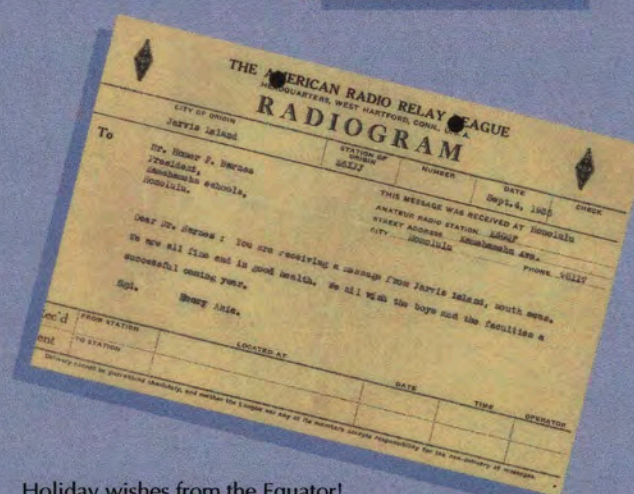
Three years after the project began, Barnes continued to recommend Kamehameha students and alumni to the Department of the Interior.

Courtesy of Kamehameha Schools Archives



James Kinney, Kamehameha Schools, Class of 1932, he was one of the colonists on Howland in 1938.

Photo courtesy of Kamehameha Schools Archives



Holiday wishes from the Equator!

Courtesy of Kamehameha Schools Archives



Howland colonists enjoy the surf in a canoe just months before the war would bring the project to a tragic end.

Photo courtesy of Elvin Mattson



INTRODUCTION MODULE

1.D.2 Right Panel  
(30" x 48")  
Project Timeline