

PLANES, BOATS, AND MULE TRAINS: THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION IN HONOLULU, 1946-1947

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United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA)

- UNRRA established in 1943 to serve war victims through relocation, aid, industrial and agricultural rehabilitation
- Discussions began in early May 1945 between UNRRA and Surplus Property Office, Dept. of the Interior about buying surplus in Hawai'i
- Primary intent was to procure material for China; also European and Mediterranean theatres of operation
- Jan. 1946 visit to Honolulu by officials of Surplus Property Office determined that 60-70% of China's needs could be met using Hawai'i surplus

UNRRA in Honolulu

- UNRRA office established in March 1946
- Headed by Dewey Jones, Area Surplus Procurement Officer
- Surplus Property Office provided office space at `Iolani Palace, staff, equipment, and supplies free for UNRRA
- Coordinated purchases with Manila and Shanghai UNRRA offices

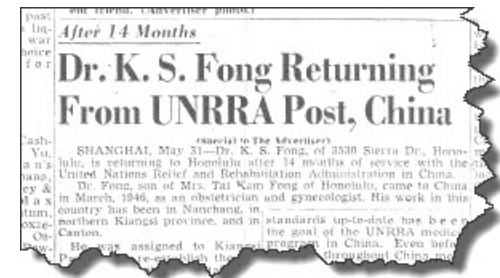
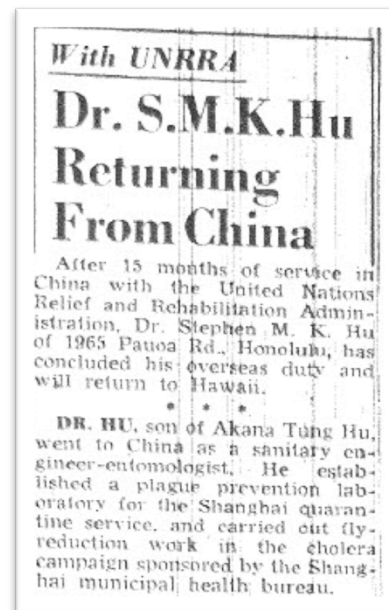
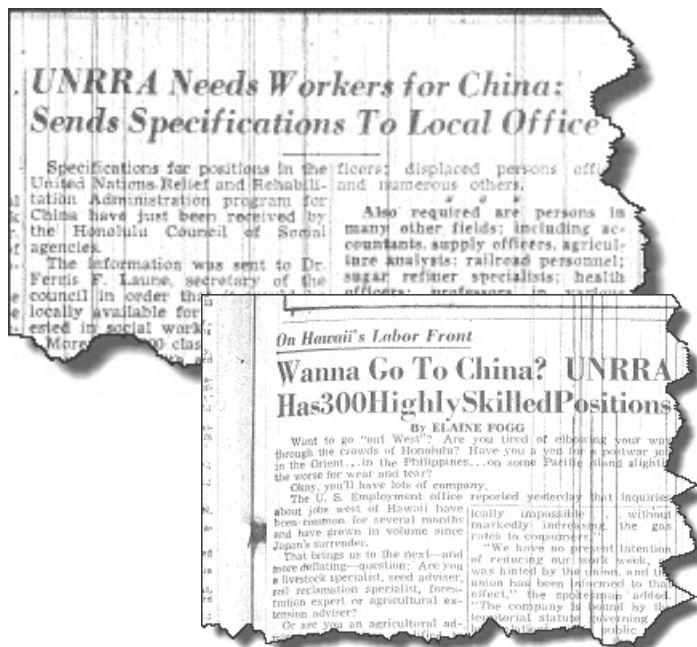


Chinese National Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (CNRRA) programs supported by Hawai'i surplus

- Agricultural Rehabilitation
 - Mules, tractors, railroad tracks and rolling stock, road building equipment, pumps
- Industrial Rehabilitation
 - Engines, machine shops, tugs and barges, heavy construction equipment, airplanes and parts
- Food Division
 - Army and Navy surplus food
- Medical Division
 - Army surplus medical supplies

Other things I learned

- Governor Stainback issued passports to UNRRA employees going to China
- Many Hawai'i residents worked for UNRRA in China as healthcare workers, engineers, agricultural advisers



Articles about returning UNRRA workers