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

Gwen Sinclair
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
Library
Symposium on Maritime Archaeology and History of Hawai‘i and the Pacific
February 13, 2016

gsinclai@hawaii.edu

http://www.slideshare.net/gsinclai0129/sinclair-mahhi-2016
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 opportunities for work with UNRRA

Articles about returning UNRRA workers