

Envisioning Hawaii's futures, then and now.

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In 1970, thousands of men and women throughout the State, of all ages, cultures, professions, educational achievements, income levels, and on all islands participated in some aspect of the year-long event known as "Hawaii 2000." Not only was there a series of diverse "Hawaii 2000" activities statewide, but there were equal diverse and independent activities carried out on and for the futures of the counties of Kauai, Maui, and the Big Island.

There were presentations before a joint session of the Hawaii State Legislature, a year-long formal public lecture series on various future-oriented themes, scores of radio and television programs and newspaper articles and features, various high school and university futures courses, and hundreds of talks about the process and the future in general by members of the Advisory Committee with professional, civic, business, educational and public interest groups on every island. There was a statewide publicity campaign which produced futures-oriented advertisements for buses, newspapers, radio and television which featured the tag line, "Hawaii 2000: Somebody better care about tomorrow."

More than five hundred citizens (some chosen, others volunteering) worked for half a year on one of ten task forces, aided by both local and overseas consultants, preparing reports in ten substantive areas. These reports were then debated and revised first at a statewide Youth Congress at the University of Hawaii and then at a huge, three-day Hawaii 2000 conference held at the Ilikai Hotel.

A small sampling of the pre-conference activities, the complete reports of all of the ten task forces, as well as the three county 2000 groups, and a list of all of the participants in these thirteen task forces, the observers reports and a concluding chapter on "alternative Hawaii's (with supplemental commentary between each of these sections) were included in a volume, edited by George Chaplin and Glenn Paige, and published by the University Press of Hawaii in 1973 as *Hawaii 2000: Continuing Experiment in Anticipatory Democracy*, now out of print.

Here are just a few excerpts from the book:

"An economy which is called upon to provide a decent standard of living for only 700,000 obviously cannot provide the same standard of living for a population twice that large. [We]. . . have to face up to the problem of preventing population growth."

The number one attribute for a desired economy of the future was, "The provision for a minimum decent standard of living for all citizens." "Everyone, whether he works or not, will receive a guaranteed annual income."

"We should continue and intensify our efforts to attract to the state more companies concerned with research and development. . . This is a clean industry and its employees are highly paid."

"Absolutely essential to this growth, however, is the presence of a truly great university. The University of Hawaii has made considerable progress toward this goal in recent years. The direction needs to be accentuated and accelerated."

"The Hawaiian economy should be more diversified than is now the case. Lack of diversity is the single greatest weakness in our economy now."

"Tourism, as we know it today, will be transformed over the next thirty years into what can be termed creative leisure." "Given this new type of consumer-travel, Hawaii's tourist industry will need to change and adjust."

"Hawaii's future commerce, therefore, will be almost exclusively exporting skills and know-how to Pacific and world markets." "However, we will face immense competition from other states, not to mention countries such as Canada and Japan; indeed, by 2000 Japan may be largely an exporter of sophisticated technical products and technological know-how, leaving to other Asian countries the export trade in manufactured goods, which she now produces and sells."

"The broad base for Hawaii's service economy will be the knowledge industry." "We may emerge as the Geneva of the Pacific, playing a intermediary role between the financial markets... ."

". . . The ultimate goal is to return as much of Hawaii's natural environment as possible to its most beneficial state... and to restrict the large-scale introduction of new products and practices into the environment until their full impact on natural life systems is thoroughly tested and understood."

"[T]he practice of land speculation ceases to be an individual's inalienable right when a point is reached that the practice works to the overwhelming disadvantage of the populace at large in the face of mounting population pressures and growing disruption of nature's essential functions." "The fact that the greatest portion of Hawaii's land has so few owners makes it possible to consolidate all that land and adjacent waters into a giant foundation with shares held proportionally by the contributing owners."

By the year 2000, Hawaii's citizens will enjoy a total freedom to learn. This requires a guaranteed minimum income for all, the end of compulsory schooling,

the provision of learning opportunities for everybody of all ages, learning available for job retraining and academic advancement and personal growth, and central state funding to provide these things for all.

"It is highly unlikely that by 2000 we will be a 'golden people'--a true melting pot, free of conflicts." "Rather, our ethnic groups will still retain some measure, although diminished, of their own identity, providing a series of balanced contrasts, and it is to be considered that the survival of these differences may be a source of cultural enrichment to be maintained."

"The historical traditions and racial configurations in Hawaii have produced values that are peculiar to Hawaii. Many of the old values have been forgotten. They may need to be reexamined and when appropriate reintegrated into the society of 2000." "We should consider an attempt to reconstruct old values which can be rebuilt into newer social structures and prove newer mechanisms for relationships among people.... For example, it may well be that we could profitably study the Hawaiian concepts of 'ohana', 'ho'oponopono', and 'kokua."

When the actual year 2000 approached, we were asked by the State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism to compare Hawaii with what was envisioned in 1970. The result was a report titled, "Hawaii 2000: Past, Present and Futures" which is available from the Hawaii Research Center for Futures Studies, Social Science Research Institute, University of Hawaii.

In general, we concluded that while in many ways the dreams and fears expressed for the future in 1970 are still viable and worthy, subsequent decision-makers did not use them to shape policy towards the future. As a consequence, Hawaii in the 21st Century is not nearly as fine a place as people then imagined and wanted it to be.

It is high time that the citizens of Hawaii embark on a new and even more extensive vision quest. But this time we must do what is necessary to see that our dreams come true.