

# Royal Hawaiian Appeal Filed

The owners of the Royal Hawaiian Hotel filed opening briefs in the state Supreme Court last month in their continuing effort to prevent placement of the historic "Pink Palace" on the Hawai'i Register and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Filed last month, the opening briefs by owner Kyo-Ya Co., Ltd., again challenge the legality of both the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board and the state's historic preservation law.

Kyo-Ya is appealing a decision handed down last July by Circuit Court Judge Toshimi Sodehara upholding listing of the Royal Hawaiian as an historic site as well as the constitutionality of the board and the law. This appeal continues the first court challenge of the state's four-year-old historic preservation law and the board that administers it.

The state has two months to file its

answers with the court. Attorneys for Historic Hawai'i Foundation and the National Trust for Historic Preservation intend to file amicus curiae ("friend of the court") briefs in this appeal, as they did during the lower court case.

The 54-year-old Waikiki landmark was voted onto the register in January 1980 by the review board following a contested case hearing with lengthy testimony from both sides.

-SJR

## 1980-81 President's Report

### "Keep the Wheels of Preservation Moving"

The following report was delivered by HHF President Edward R. Aotani, AIA, at the Foundation's annual meeting last month.

Following my election as President last year, my first concern was to establish an organizational structure for Historic Hawai'i Foundation which would enable our volunteers to expand their efforts and take on greater responsibilities.

Seven key areas were selected for special attention - those were the areas of LEGISLATION, EDUCATION, MEMBERSHIP, PUBLIC RELATIONS, PRESERVATION PROGRAMS, FINANCE AND ORGANIZATION.

The Legislation Committee was initially chaired by Rep. Barbara Marumoto and later by Helen Cole. The committee members made a major effort in support of national preservation legislation under consideration by Congress. Meetings on all neighbor islands were held to get input on our proposals for the 1981 legislative session and to encourage support for real property tax relief for historic properties.

The committee drafted legislation and we supported a 4 percent state tax credit for rehabilitation of 20-year-old commercial buildings as well as the State Historic Preservation Plan and Transfer of Development Rights within specified areas.

O'ahu Councilman Tom Nekota is renewing his efforts in support of real property tax abatement and needs all the help we can give him as he works through the Hawai'i Council of Counties.

Our Education efforts were headed by Bill Cook. Monthly issues of Historic Hawai'i News were planned by the Publications Committee chaired by Howard Wiig and edited by Ronn Ronck. Features on renovation and rehabilitation advice, explaining our state preservation legislation, tax incentives and financing were included. The workshop on "Restoring Old Buildings" was very successful. Richard Gushman headed up the list of presentors who were all actively involved in the prac-

tical problems and solutions of reusing older buildings.

The Awards Committee responsibilities were included under Education and you have already seen what a good job Marilyn Goss and her group have done in selecting outstanding examples of preservation efforts for recognition.

The key area of Membership with Helen Cole as chairman included keeping track of all membership records, getting renewal notices and recruiting letters out on time, and keeping up with all the replies. Jo Chay, Mary Boak, Amy Fullaway, and Madeline Winters are all to be especially thanked for their hours of work.

Carl Lindquist headed up our Public Relations efforts, evaluating our community concerns and guiding us in making the decisions to help us reach our goals.

Our Preservation Programs chaired by Robert S. Ching have been varied. We will be filing as amicus curiae (friends of the court) with the National Trust in the state Supreme Court appeal of the registration of the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. We have received a \$15,000 matching grant from the State Historic Preservation Office to begin reconstruction of the Meyer Sugar Mill on Molokai. We completed the plans and building specifications for the Lishman Building and completed the Makiki/Nu'uuanu survey.

Our Financial efforts were headed by our Treasurer Richard Coons who established a Financial Advisory Committee to advise and guide our budgeting process.

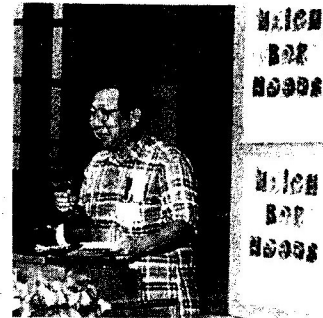
We are totally self supporting - 46% of our income comes from membership, 6% from advertising placed in our newspaper, 2% from donations and 46% from educational/fund raising events. This past year, our Kama'aina Lu'au at the Willows chaired by Lee Saltonstall raised \$11,500, the exhibit at Ala Moana Center by the Roving Rembrandts raised \$4,700, and our plant sales continue to help support us. The figures are not totally in from the 1981 Preservation Parade, but it looks like Rusty Kunz and Ron Kats have done it again and raised approximately \$6,500.

Our Organizational efforts were coordinated by Chairman John Kiner and included follow up on our By-Laws with Agnes Conrad, revision of our Personnel Policies, and responsibility for the Nominating Committee chaired by Charles Black. John also headed up our requests for trust and foundation support for special projects.

As we moved through the year, we found the need to establish a special task force for Maritime Preservation and Charles



Law Professor David L. Callies (above) delivered the keynote address at HHF's annual meeting, "Must We Pay to Preserve?" while Jeff Melrose spoke on "Strategies for Neighborhood Preservation." (Photo by Linny Morris)



Edward R. Aotani, AIA  
(Photo by Linny Morris)

Black took over as chairman. The group investigated and proposed that we offer to take over the Falls of Clyde to assure that she stays here in Hawai'i and that proposal is under consideration by Bishop Museum.

The establishment of this new organizational structure provided us with a means to evaluate priorities and an opportunity to give greater effort to areas which proved to have the greatest potential for achieving the preservation of historic sites throughout the state.

Education. Legislation. Membership. Support of organizations concerned with one specific issue. These are our areas of greatest effectiveness which will enable us to provide the spark to keep the wheels of preservation moving.

In this time of financial question marks, our efforts must continue.

#### CASE OF THE GARBLED SEAL

Being a correction regarding the Territorial Office Building

It has been brought to the editor's attention that it was Roger Moses and David Cox, subcontractors engaged to clean the cut glass dome, who noticed that the seal was garbled. Directed by the Public Works inspector to put it back the way it was, Moses and Cox decided to try to get permission to install the seal correctly. With the help of State Archivist Agnes C. Conrad, they made contact with the State Public Works Engineer and the order was given to install the glass correctly.

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