

**Center for Korean Studies, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa**

**CKS Archives & Manuscripts Collection**

## **Finding Aid for Donald C.W. Kim Papers, 1951-2005**

Processed by: Yujin Oh, June 2017

Revised by: Do Young Park and Duk Hee Lee Murabayashi, September 2020 / Do Young Park, revising in 2021 / Munju Kim, April 2025

Online finding aid created by: Do Young Park, March 2021

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## 1. Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Donald C.W. Kim papers

**Identifier:** AM.034

**Creator:** Donald C.W. Kim

**Source:** Donald C.W. Kim

**Date(Inclusive):** 1951-2005

**Language:** Korean, Hanmun(漢文) and English

**Extent:** 2.5 linear feet, 7 archival boxes

**Abstract:** Donald Chang Won Kim (1928-2018) arrived in Honolulu 1952. He earned a BA in civil engineering from the University of Hawaii in 1958. He started working at R.M. Towill Corporation in 1958 and became the CEO of Kilohana Corporation, which is the parent corporation of T. R. Rowill Corporation. Donald Kim has also been an active member of various community organizations. Donald Kim donated his collection in 2005 and it covers personal documents of him. It also contains documents revealing activities of Board of Trustees of Inha Institute of Technology and events of various Korean community in Hawaii.

**Arrangement:** This collection is arranged in the following series.

Series 1. Board of Trustees of Inha Institute of Technology, [1951-1971]

Series 2. Personal Activities, 1953-2005

Series 3. Community Events, 1966-2005

Series 4. Photographs, undated

## 2. Administrative Information

**Repository:** Center for Korean Studies, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Library Special Collections.  
1881 East-West Road, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

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**Preferred Citation:** Donald C.W. Kim papers, AM.034, Center for Korean Studies, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

**Acquisition note:** Donated by Donald C.W. Kim in 2005.

**Custodial History:** N/A

**Physical location:** CKS 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

**Physical descriptions:** N/A

**Appraisal note:** N/A

**Finding aid date:** 4/5/2021

**Finding aid author:** Yujin Oh, Do Young Park, Duk Hee Lee Murabayashi

**Finding aid revision statements:**

First revision in September 2020: separated documents regarding commemoration activities of Korean Immigration to Hawaii.

### **3. Biographical/Historical Note**

Donald Chang Won Kim (1928-2018) was born in Seoul, Korea, to Yu Ho Kim (1879-1945) who immigrated to Hawaii on January 13, 1903 and Sook Kyung Lee Kim, a picture bride arriving in 1918. His parents returned to Korea in 1927 and Donald was born in Seoul as the youngest of their six children. Donald Kim graduated from Kyunggi High School and attended the Seoul National University for a year. He arrived in Honolulu and graduated with a BA in Civil Engineering from the University of Hawaii in 1958.

Donald started working at R. M. Towill Corporation in 1958 as a design engineer. When he retired in the year 2000 as its chairman of the board and chief executive officer, R.M. Towill Corp. was the largest and oldest consulting engineering company in Hawaii. He was also the chairman of the board and CEO of Kilohana Corporation, which is the parent corporation of R.M. Towill Corporation.

In 1982, he founded AMKOR A & E, Inc. which is an architectural and engineering company with offices in Hawaii and in the Republic of Korea and served as its chairman of the board and CEO until the day he died.

Donald Kim had a lifelong commitment to serve community organizations like the Bishop Museum, the Pacific Rim Society, the Navy League of the United States, the Rotary Club of Honolulu, the Association of the U.S. Army, the YMCA and the Honolulu Symphony. He was a member of the University of Hawaii Board of Regents (chairperson 1997-1999), University of Hawaii Foundation Trustee, University of Hawaii Alumni Association (president 1994-1995) and the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii. He also headed the Korean Community Council of Hawaii, Korean Dongji Hoi, 90th Anniversary Celebration Committee of Korean Immigration to Hawaii and the 2003 National Centennial Committee of Korean Immigration to the United States of America.

Donald Kim married Iris Kyong Ok Yoo Kim on December 29, 1962 and they have two sons, Rex Kee Chul (1964-) and Dean Sang Kee (1967-)

Donald Kim received numerous awards, including the First Class Order of Civil Merit, Mugunghwa Medal from the Republic of Korea in 2003.

## 4. Scope and Content Note

Donald C. W. Kim papers, 1940-2008 reveals the activities of a passionate civic activist focused on not only the development of education but also the unity of the Korean American community.

Series 1 documents the activities of Board of Trustees of Inha Institute of Technology and a long-standing relationship between Korean Americans in Hawaii and Inha University from 1951. The archive traces the process of the transfer of the fund, price for selling Korea Christian Institute in Hawaii to the Inha Foundation, and the construction of Memorial Hall for Korean residents in Hawaii. It comprises the correspondence between the members of the board such as B. Y., Choi, Yi, Yong-chun, Donald C. W. Kim and the president of Inha University such as Pak Ch'ol-chae and Song Chwa-gyong; legal documents of Inha Foundation; brochures of Inha University; photograph albums; press clippings; and financial documents and architectural drawings concerning the design and construction of Memorial Hall for Korean residents in Hawaii.

Series 2 documents activities of Donald Kim at the various educational or cultural institutions and events in not only Hawaii but also United States and Korea. It contains printed ephemera issued by organizations he has participated in or sponsored, materials or invitations related to conferences or events he attended, and the brochure sent from the institutions or person he had relations with in these activities. He won the Korean Overseas Compatriots' Prize in 1955 and was given the appreciation plaque for his work. Also, you can find the numerous correspondences and newspaper clippings about his activities.

Series 3 mainly contains printed ephemera for events held in Hawaii or related to Korean American communities. Some events are hosted by organizations that Donald Kim had participated in or sponsored. Some event booklets or brochures were sent from the institutions or persons he had relations within these activities. It is possible to get an insight into the 1990s and early 2000s.

Series 4 contains photographs of him or from events he attends. Also, it contains 1950s photographs Donald Kim acquired in working as a journalist in the Korean Pacific Weekly.

### 4-1. Series 1

**Title:** Board of Trustees of Inha Institute of Technology

**Date:** [1951-1971]

#### **Biographical / Historical Note:**

The Board of Trustees of Inha Institute of Technology was established in Hawaii by some members of the Korean Dongji Hoi Society of Hawaii to transfer of the fund gathered in Hawaii to the Inha Foundation. After the transference, the board had a close relationship with Inha University, managing the fund together and discussing the building of the Memorial Hall for Korean residents in Hawaii in Inha University.

The first-generation ancestors who arrived in Honolulu, Hawaii, in 1903, worked at sugarcane and pineapple farms, the main industries of the city at that time. With the hard-earned money, they financially supported not only Korean Independence Movement but also education for second generation Korean-Americans in Hawaii, which resulted in establishment of Korea Christian Institute) in 1918. The Korean Christian Institute, which was founded and run by Dr. Syng-man Rhee with donations from Koreans in

Hawaii, played a central role in the independence movement in charge of education of Korean immigrants in Hawaii with the educational policy of cultivating human resources for the national independence movement during the Japanese Colonial Rule. However, with the changes of the times, the independence of Korea from Japan in 1945, the institute was closed in 1947, and in 1951, the land and buildings of the institute were sold for \$ 150,000 which is managed by seven members of the the Korean Dongji Hoi Society of Hawaii formed by Syng-man Rhee in Hawaii.

Dr. Syng-man Rhee realized that a specialized university for technology was needed for national development and in 1952, instructed to establish a technical college to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the departure of the Korean immigrants to Hawaii. The college is named Inha by combining 'In' of Incheon and 'Ha' of Hawaii. In addition, Or. Syng-man Rhee instructed the Korean Dongji Hoi Society of Hawaii to send the money coming from the sale of 'Korean Christian Institute' in Hawaii, \$ 179,000 (\$ 150,000 + interest income), to Korea to use as seed money for the university.

Although the money was actually delivered to Inha University in 1962, it symbolically led to the establishment of Inha University, the support of tremendous treasury, and the donation of the whole people.<sup>1</sup> In February 1954, Inha Foundation was granted by donations from citizens and institution, the government subsidy of 1 million dollars, the donation of the site for the university from Incheon, etc. On April 24, 1954, there was an opening ceremony of 179 freshmen of Inha Institute of Technology with six engineering departments including metal, machinery, mining, electricity, shipbuilding, and chemical engineering and with Dr. Won-cheol Lee appointed as a founding president and vice President Ki-bong Lee as a chief director. In 1971, the name was changed from Inha Institute of Technology to Inha University with promot to university.

The \$179,000 was commissioned to a commercial bank on November 17, 1962, through the former Consul General George Choong Chung Oh. Inha University firstly planned to build a Science Hall to commemorate the Immigration to Hawaii with this fund but changed the plan to use it for completing the front part of the main building, renaming it as Hawaii Hall. This plan was welcomed by the Korean in Hawaii but came to naught under a military coup d'etat on May 16, 1961. Since 1963, the domestic economy had deteriorated sharply and the value of the won has fallen sharply, making it impossible to build a Memorial Hall. Eventually, the construction plan of the Memorial Hall was changed to an indoor gymnasium and the construction began in 1972, with a fund provided by the Hanjin Group, which acquired the Inha Foundation in 1968. The Memorial Hall for Korean residents in Hawaii completed in 1973 was a monument to honor the spirit of the Korean residents in Hawaii who laid the foundation for the establishment of Inha University.

Although the process of transferring the \$ 179,000 took many twists and turns, the establishment of Inha University made the relationship between the Korean residents in Hawaii and the university more closes. When Vice President Tae-young Ham attended the ceremony for the 50th anniversary of the immigration in Hawaii on November 15, 1953, he announced that Syng-man Rhee's intention was to celebrate the immigrant history of Korean in Hawaii and the relationship between Hawaii and Korea forever centering around Inha University, from which an association in Hawaii was formed to support the Inha University, through which Koreans in Hawaii awarded scholarships from 1955 to 1980. Moreover, Inha University signed an exchange agreement with the University of Hawaii in February 1989, the Inha University General Association held its first Hawaiian trip to celebrate its 40th anniversary in 1994, and exploration of history and culture in Hawaii became a regular project in 2009.

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<sup>1</sup> Lee, Younh-ho. Korean Emigration to Hawaii and Establishment of 'Inha Institute of Technology. The Korean Journal of Archival Studies, 3, 2001, pp.139-177.

Donald Kim was one of the seven committee members of the Korean Dongji Hoi Society of Hawaii managing the \$ 179,000 at the time and became co-manager joint name after the right of expending the money was passed on to him due to the health problems of Byeong-Yeol Choi, who was one of the approving authorities of the expenditure with Minister of Education, president of Inha University, and Consul General Oh at that time when the money was decided to be sent to Korea as foundation funds of Inha University according to Syng-man Lee's instructions as well as got the records created in this process. Because of this long-established ties, Donald Kim contributed 230 \$ 200,000 to Inha University in 2010 and made a Kim Chang-won scholarship.

### **Scope and Content Note:**

This record documents the activities of the Board of Trustees of Inha Institute of Technology from 1954 to 1980, revealing the long-standing ties between Koreans in Hawaii and Inha University. The archive consists of correspondence, brochures, press clippings, blueprints, architectural drawings, budgets, certificates of deposit, estimates, charters, photographs, and Photograph albums.

A legal document of Inha Foundation such copies of charter, registration, and article contain information about the establishment of Inha University. Correspondences consist of primarily letters to or from the presidents of Inha University. The initial recipient of the letters was Byung-Yeol Choi, but the recipient was changed to Donald Kim after late 1967. This change is proved by the letter on September 25, 1967, written by Chul-jae Park, who was then the president of the Inha University, to change the recipient of the letter to Donald Kim and the certification of successor of the manager of the fund. At the beginning of the exchange of correspondence, a letter mainly dealt with the request for sending the fund to Korea but after the fund transfer, the management of the fund and the construction of the memorial hall became main points of the letters.

Donald Kim held these letters and documents by inheriting them from his predecessor as successor of the fund manager, acquiring while working as the fund manager, or getting donated archives from the third person such as Ho Yen Hong after the person died.

In many cases, documents such as charter, registration, and budget are often enclosed in the letters, one letter has many copies.

Financial records and records regarding Funds comprise documents recording transactional information in the process of the transfer of the Inha fund such as certificate of bank balances of the Inha Fund and the budget for the construction of Memorial Hall for Korean residents in Hawaii. These records contain a variety of fund-related financial records such as remittances and receipts of the \$ 179,000, budget of the construction of the Memorial Hall, and the status of the fund operation. Donation Operation Status.

Blueprint prints and architectural drawings are about the Memorial Hall for Korean residents in Hawaii in Inha University. Most of them are folded because of the size.

Press clippings are regarding the fund and Inha University. All of them are in Korean. The source of some items cannot be found.

Information brochures of Inha University comprise handbooks version of 1969, 1969-1970, 1970-1971, 1987-1988, 1990-1991, and 1993-1994. Some of the items are in Chinese characters, others are in English.

Photographs are composed of 3 albums and 12 individual black and white Photographs. The first small album, which is in the file 16, have to do with the campus and buildings of Inha University. The second photograph album has similar items with first one but different angle. It consists of 17 black-white photos with caption in bound sheet and is written “Choi Baek-yol sonsaeng Haecheon, Kil Song-un kunchong(최백열 선생 해춘, 길성운 근정)”, meaning “from Kil, Song-un(길성운) to Choi, Baek-yol(최백열)” on the cover. Third one is supposed to be acquired for commemoration of Visit Korea and Inha University of the senior Korean resident of Hawaii. In the case of albums, the status of albums and the storage status of photos are not so good, so it is needed to detach and keep each one separately. In addition, there are traces of photos on some of the album pages. Also, the individual photos seem not to be kept well, and some photos look like being removed from the album.

## 5. Subjects

[The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.](\*from LC Subject Headings)

Donald C. W. Kim, 1928-2018; 김창원; Kim, Ch'ang-won

Board of Trustees of Inha Institute of Technology (Hawaii); 하와이 교포 인하재단 기금 관리 위원회

Inha University (Inch'on, Korea)

Korean Americans - Hawaii -- 20th century

Koreans - Hawaii -- 20th century

## 6. Related/Separated materials

Materials regarding the 90th and 100th Anniversary Celebration of Korean Immigration to Hawaii were separated to the following collections.

AM.018. Commemoration Activities of Korean Immigration to Hawaii Collection

AM.018.03. 90th Anniversary Celebration of Korean Immigration to Hawaii Collection

AM.018.04. 100th Anniversary Celebration of Korean Immigration to Hawaii Collection

## 7. External documents

N/A

## 8. Container list

<b>Series 1. Board of Trustees of Inha Institute of Technology</b>
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Box 1	File 1. Inha Foundation 인하후원회
	File 2. Inha Trust Fund: correspondences 1960-1961
	File 3. Inha Trust Fund: correspondences 1962
	File 4. Inha Trust Fund: correspondences 1963-1967
	File 5. Inha Trust Fund: correspondences 1970-1971
<b>Series 2. Personal Activities</b>	
Box 2	File 1. UH Korean Student Association Activities
	File 2. Overseas Compatriots' Prize 해외동포당
	File 3. Hawaii Korean Community Meetings, 2004
	File 4. Correspondences, 2002-2003
	File 5. 2003 Centennial Committee News articles / clippings
	Item 1. Appreciation plaque, 2003
<b>Series 3. Photographs</b>	
Box 3	File 1. President Syngman Rhee
	File 2. Korean Navy gets US ships 1/24/1952
	File 3. Photographs
	File 4. Photographs
	File 5. Photographs
	File 6. Photographs
	File 7. Photographs
	File 8. Photographs
	File 9. Photographs
	File 10. Photographs
	File 11. Photographs
	File 12. Photographs
	File 13. 하와이 교포 원로단 인하공대 방문 Oct 1955
	File 14. 하와이 교포 원로단 고국 방문, Oct 1955
	File 15. 기타 (Non-Hawaii related) photographs
	File 16. Miscellaneous
	File 17. Photograph Album