

View of Quad from Hawai'i Hall
talk on 9 April 2008 to
UH Foundation Tour

Although many of you probably already know, some may not. College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts (later College of Hawai'i and then University of Hawai'i) was established by legislative act in March 1907. We are currently celebrating our centennial. The first campus was in the block just Diamond Head of Thomas Square, where Linekona School now is.

This campus became property of the College of Hawai'i in late 1908 or early 1909. Students, faculty and possibly hired workers began clearing the land of kiawe trees, cactus, and rocks to create a farm. They built irrigation ditches from Mānoa Stream and planted various crops and pastures. All this was behind or Diamond Head of Hawai'i Hall.

Hawai'i Hall was finished in the spring of 1912 and the first graduation ceremony for College of Hawai'i was held on these steps. Classes began in Hawai'i Hall in the fall of 1912. Access to campus came from up in Mānoa Valley, along Vancouver Highway (now University Ave.) which only ran as far as Vancouver Drive. The road into campus followed Maile way but continued in an arc down in front of us here. The road came to a T at what is now Campus Road, turning right along old Cooke Field or left along the makai end of Hawai'i Hall, then behind the building and into the farm.

According to Arthur Dean, who came from Yale University to College of Hawai'i to serve as its president in 1914, the campus was not much. In his "Historical Sketch," he writes that the front of Hawai'i Hall had perhaps seventy-five feet of lawn with a scattering of trees between the road into campus and the building itself. Beyond the road into campus, in what became the Quad, the land was left as it was: kiawe trees, rocks, cactus. For a monthly fee, a neighboring farmer "pastured" his cows among the kiawe trees. The roads were all dirt, unless it rained; then they were mud. Only one other building besides Hawai'i Hall formed the campus, a wooden building housing chemistry labs which had been moved up from the old campus near Thomas Square. What a shock this tropical paradise must have been to the man from green New England.

The Engineering lab building was added in 1915. By 1920, a tennis court and Cooke Field had been built makai of Campus Road. This is where College of Hawai'i football teams practiced and played home games and where the ROTC drilled. In 1920, College of Hawai'i became the University of Hawai'i, allowing students to take in-depth courses in subjects other than engineering, agriculture, soil chemistry, domestic science, etc. Hawaiian language became one of the core responsibilities of UH.

These stairs were the only entrance to the main floor of Hawai'i Hall until about 1930. The back entrance to the basement floor was a door in the makai/Diamond Head corner of the building. During the 1920s part of freshman hazing by the sophomore class was the prohibition for any freshman to use the front entrance to Hawai'i Hall. In the fall of 1923, when a group of freshman boys decided to rush the front door, a wrestling free-for-all evolved. When the struggle ended, all got up and walked away except for George Paul, a freshman who had almost made it in the front

door before being tackled and dragged away down the steps. He was taken to the hospital where x-rays revealed he had suffered a broken neck. He died the next afternoon.

In 1923, Gartley Hall was built as the science building, primarily for physics and chemistry. Before Gartley was finished, chemistry lab students had had to do some of their experiments in the hallways of the lab building because it was so crowded. Gartley Hall was named after Alonzo Gartley who until his sudden death in 1922 had been a member of the Board of Regents.

In 1925 the Library was built, now named George Hall. ROTC cadet corps and others moved the holdings of the library from the ground floor of Hawai'i Hall into the new library. Clara Hemenway, the librarian, indicated that the students did such a good job moving and shelving the 35,000 books and 80,000 unbound pamphlets that the library was immediately ready for use. It took less than eight hours to do the move.

The Biological Science building (Dean Hall) was added to the Quad in 1929. Dean ended his presidency of the University in 1927. In his term as president, the College of Hawai'i had grown from under fifty students to 874 students. It had been a "cow college" when he came; he left it a university.

Social Science building (Crawford Hall) was not built until nine years after Dean Hall. In 1954, the Social Science building was named Crawford Hall after David L. Crawford who became president after Dean resigned. When he became president of UH, Crawford was only thirty-eight years old, one of the youngest university presidents at the time. As president of UH, he oversaw an immense growth of the institution. Territorial Normal School became Teachers College. Farrington Hall, Miller Hall, Old Gilmore Hall, Hemenway Hall, four additional buildings of the Young Engineering Quad, and the first gymnasium were all constructed during his presidency.

The Architecture Building completes the Quad. It is a recent building, dating from the 1990s.