

A3411

INDEX TO FILIPINO CONTRACT LABORERS  
AND THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN  
ARRIVING AT HONOLULU, HAWAII, 1946

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## INTRODUCTION

On the single roll of this microfilm publication, A3411, are reproduced over 7,300 index cards to Filipino contract laborers, and their wives and children, who arrived by ship at Honolulu, Hawaii, during 1946. These records are part of the Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Record Group (RG) 85.

## BACKGROUND

Early records relating to immigration originated in regional customhouses. The U.S. Customs Service conducted its business by designating collection districts. Each district had a headquarters port with a customhouse and a collector of customs, the chief officer of the district. An act of March 2, 1819 (3 Stat. 489), required the captain or master of a vessel arriving at a port in the United States or any of its territories from a foreign country to submit a list of passengers to the collector of customs. The act also required that the collector submit a quarterly report or abstract, consisting of copies of these passenger lists, to the Secretary of State, who was required to submit such information at each session of Congress. After 1874, collectors forwarded only statistical reports to the Treasury Department. The lists themselves were retained by the collector of customs. Customs records were maintained primarily for statistical purposes.

On August 3, 1882, Congress passed the first Federal law regulating immigration (22 Stat. 214–215); the Secretary of the Treasury had general supervision over it between 1882 and 1891. The Office of Superintendent of Immigration in the Department of the Treasury was established under an act of March 3, 1891 (26 Stat. 1085), and was later designated a bureau in 1895 with responsibility for administering the alien contract-labor laws. In 1900 administration of the Chinese exclusion laws was added. Initially the Bureau retained the same administrative structure of ports of entry that the Customs Service had used. By the turn of the century, it began to designate its own immigration districts, the numbers and boundaries of which changed over the years. In 1903 the Bureau became part of the Department of Commerce and Labor; its name was changed to the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization when functions relating to naturalization were added in 1906. In 1933 the functions were transferred to the Department of Labor and became the responsibility of the newly formed Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Under President Roosevelt's Reorganization Plan V of 1940, the INS was moved to the Department of Justice.

Due to World War II casualties and the transfer of many workers to defense industries, Hawaii's sugar plantations had a severe labor shortage. As a result, in 1946 the U.S. Government allowed the importation of thousands of Filipino laborers to Hawaii. This group included about 6,000 men, 446 women, and 915 children. For more information, see Steffi San Buenaventura, "Hawaii's '1946 Sakada,'" in Jonathan Y. Okamura, ed., *Filipino American History, Identity and Community in Hawai'i*, a special "named" issue of the serial, *Social Process in Hawaii*, vol. 37 (Honolulu: Dept. of Sociology, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, 1996), 74–90.

## RECORDS DESCRIPTION

These records consist of microfilmed index cards arranged alphabetically by surname then by first name. The alphabetical arrangement is generally in order, but there may be some minor disarrangement. The contract laborers, wives, and children are all interfiled.

A handwritten INS target (information) sheet at the beginning of the roll describes these records as follows:

Alphabetical index of contract laborers from P.I. [Philippine Islands] arriving on S.S. *Maunawili*. These are the 1946 Filipino arrivals. They were contract laborers arriving on the S.S. *Maunawili*. The wives & children of these laborers arrived later on the S.S. *Marine Falcon*.

Each card contains the passenger's name, age in years and months (such as 29-11 for 29 years, 11 months), gender, marital status, date and ship of arrival at Honolulu, and the related "book" (volume), page, and line upon which the person's arrival is recorded. The gender and marital status are usually in the upper right corner as an abbreviation such as "M.M." (male, married) or "M. S." (male, single).

The records were filmed by the INS in October 1957 (as "Roll 57") and transferred to the National Archives on microfilm. Although some of this film may be difficult to read, it is impossible to correct the situation since the INS destroyed the original records.

## ROLL LIST

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1	Abad – Zarsosa