Hawaii Railway Company Account Book

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Hawaii Railway Company Account Book
Dates: 1916-1919
Collection Number: MS 709
Creator/Collector: Hawaii Railway Company
Extent: 1 oversize box
Repository: California State Railroad Museum Library and Archives
Sacramento, California 95814
Language of Material: English
Access
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Preferred Citation
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Acquisition Information
Gift of Jesse and Evelyn Conde, 1994

Biography/Administrative History
The Hawaiian Railroad Company was formed October 20, 1880, with Samuel G. Wilder as president and his brother William as treasurer. Samuel Wilder had lived in Hawaii since 1858, engaging in various enterprises, including the Wilder Steamship Company. The Hawaiian government subsidized construction of the 19-7/8 mile passenger and freight car line between Mahukona on the west side of the island and Hart's Mill in Niulii on the east. Work began in 1881 and was completed in 1883. Samuel Wilder died in 1888. In 1897 the name was changed to the Hawaii Railway Company. In 1899, during the first year of existence of the Territory of Hawaii, the Wilder family withdrew from the railroad and shipping business and sold the Hawaii Railway to the four principal plantations it served: Union Mill Co., Halawa Plantation, Kohala Plantation, and Niulii Plantation. In April of 1937, Kohala Sugar Co. bought out the other plantations, acquired all of the stock in the Hawaii Railway Company and reincorporated (September 30, 1937) as Mahukona Terminals Inc. The Mahukona harbor was closed when the United States declared war against Japan on December 8, 1941. Business gradually declined and in 1945 the Hawaii Railway was abandoned.

Scope and Content of Collection
Cash book of the The Hawaii Railway Company records cash payments and sales, including: freight revenue, cash advances to employees, utility payments, and general expenses.