
Finding aid for the Korean National Association in Hawaii and related lawsuits collection 3004

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USC Libraries East Asian Library

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Title: Korean National Association in Hawaii and related lawsuits collection

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Physical Description: .5 Linear Feet1 box

Date (inclusive): 1915-1945

Abstract: By the year 1905 more than 7,000 Koreans populated the Territory of Hawaii. In 1909, the Korean National Association in Hawaii was established, along with a main headquarters in San Francisco, with a purpose for uniting all Koreans in the United States in a common cause. This small collection comprises lawsuits filed by the KNA and affiliated persons living in Hawaii between the period of 1915 and 1945, as well as some non-KNA related cases, unified by the struggle for political leadership in the Korean community in Hawaii under the rising power of Syngman Rhee.

Arrangement

Folders are arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents

The Korean National Association in Hawaii and related lawsuits collection, 1915-1945, consists of twelve folders of photocopied legal documents, correspondence, and articles. The majority of folders within the collection comprise legal documents in the form of lawsuits filed primarily by the Korean National Association of Hawaii (KNA) or persons affiliated with the organization, many of which were held in first circuit Territory of Hawaii court. There are also a few matters pertaining to individuals unaffiliated with the KNA, such as one against Republic of Korea president Syngman Rhee. The remainder of the collection consists of two folders of non-court related documents, pertaining to both the KNA and the United Korean Committee in America in the form of correspondence, articles, and research.

Historical Note

Korean immigration to Hawaii has been a constant in the 20th century. The first large group of Korean immigrants arrived in January 13, 1903, travelling on the RMS Gaelic, which landed in the United States before they took up residence on various islands in the Territory of Hawaii. By 1905, more than 7,000 Koreans populated Hawaii. Many early immigrants of this period had some contract with American missionaries in Korea. For some, immigrating to the Territory of Hawaii was considered useful, in part, to help them in the modernization of their homeland.

The Korean National Association (KNA) was established in 1909 in both Hawaii and San Francisco for the purpose of uniting all Koreans in the United States in a common cause. The KNA in Hawaii was composed primarily of Korean sugar-plantation workers, who sacrificed their wages to support the Korean liberation movement. At the same time, the KNA broadened its goals to support the needs of the Koreans in Hawaii and expanding the educational opportunities of the children. The KNA also focused on the struggle for political leadership in the Korean community in Hawaii, in which Syngman Rhee largely prevailed.

Conditions Governing Access

COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE. Advance notice required for access.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

[Box/Folder# or Item name]. Korean National Association in Hawaii and related lawsuits collection, Collection no. 3004, Korean Heritage Library, USC Libraries, University of Southern California.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Sold to David Hyun by Roberta Chang and subsequently gifted to USC.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Actions and defenses -- Hawaii -- Archival resources

Circuit courts -- Hawaii -- Archival resources

Immigrants -- Korea -- 20th century -- Archival resources

Korean Americans -- Hawaii -- History -- Archival resources

Korean Americans -- Hawaii -- Archival resources
Koreans -- Hawaii -- Archival resources
Correspondence
Legal documents
Research (documents)
Chang, Roberta -- Archives
Kungminhoe (Hawaii) -- Archives
Rhee, Syngman, 1875-1965 -- Archives
United Korean Committee in America -- Archives

Box 1, Folder 1	KNA vs. Hong Han Sick et al 1915
Box 1, Folder 3	Territory of Hawaii vs. Kim Sung Yul, et al 1918
Box 1, Folder 4	Kim Soon Kee vs. H.K. Ahn 1919
Box 1, Folder 5	C.K. Lee et al vs. Son Chang Hee et al 1920
Box 1, Folder 6	Criminal assault charges 1921
Box 1, Folder 7	Pai Yil Chin et al vs. Shon Kuk Yin et al 1931
Box 1, Folder 8	Shon Duk Yin et al vs. Shon Kuk Yin et al 1931
Box 1, Folder 9	Y.C. Ahn vs. Syngman Rhee 1931
Box 1, Folder 10	Pai Ji Chin et al vs. Duk Yin Shon et al 1931-1932
Box 1, Folder 11	KNA vs. Korean National Independence League 1936
Box 1, Folder 2	Korean National Association of Hawaii 1915-1931
Box 1, Folder 12	United Korean Committee in America 1941-1945