

NEAL S. GLANDELL  
MAYOR



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CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

HONOLULU, HAWAII 968

CITY & COUNTY  
CLERK'S OFFICE

March 24, 1964

Honorable Members of the City Council  
City and County of Honolulu  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Gentlemen:

You will recall that on February 4, 1964, I withdrew an administration request to your honorable body for funds with which to underwrite a two-week Grand Opening Festival and Dedication Program for our new War Memorial Auditorium and Theater-Concert Hall complex, the Honolulu International Center. I withdrew this proposal because of disagreement of members of the Council with certain details of the program and because the shortness of time then precluded the planning and production of a Festival on the scale and scope of the original proposal.

However, while there was disagreement with the program then proposed, I believe we all felt and still feel that a public facility such as our International Center should have a formal Grand Opening and Dedication. The Opening should be commensurate with the facility's stature as an \$11 million investment by the people of this City and State in an entertainment, cultural, and convention center second to none in our Nation. Such views have been expressed by members of the Council. I am in full agreement with them.

We all recognize, I think, that the value of the Honolulu International Center lies in the use we make of it for our citizens at the local level, and in the use as a convention center that organizations outside our State may make of it.

Our Grand Opening and the Dedication of the International Center as a living memorial to Hawaii's war heroes should serve the two-fold purpose of acquainting our own people with the Center and of bringing to it the national and international recognition that it deserves. We would, I feel, be remiss in our duties as public servants should we let this opportunity pass us by.

*Read*  
*to Pau*  
Mayor's Message No. 219

March 24, 1964

I have, therefore, asked the following leaders of this Community, including the members of our initial Grand Opening Steering Committee, to serve as a committee to formulate alternative plans for this Grand Opening and Dedication:

David Benz, George Chaplin, Hung Wo Ching, Mun Kwai Lau, Barney Menor, Nelson Prather, Alfred Preis, Hugh O'Reilly, Marshall Turkin, Frank Valenti, Tom Yamabe and Ralph Yempuku.

This Committee, using as a foundation the tentative Program formulated earlier, has outlined what I feel is an outstanding nine-day Dedication and Grand Opening Festival for our Honolulu International Center to run from September 12 - 20, 1964. It will take full advantage of both local talent and outstanding available stars from outside our borders. It will give us a Grand Opening which should prove richly rewarding, both from the standpoint of local appreciation and of recognition abroad. I most earnestly hope that we all--government and community alike--can join in whole-hearted support for this proposed program.

The Program will open with a parade on Saturday afternoon, September 12, with its line of march through the City and ending at the Honolulu International Center. It will include Military Bands and marching groups; school bands and drill teams; ethnic and other community groups. All segments of the community will be invited to participate.

At the International Center immediately following the parade, a formal program and ceremony will dedicate the Honolulu International Center to those men and women of Hawaii who have served their country in time of war.

The Grand Opening program of entertainment, sports, cultural and related attractions will begin Saturday evening.

The International Center Dedication Committee is planning a well-balanced entertainment package which will appeal to the local Community and to visitors. It will include both popular-priced and free entertainment, featuring top-name Local, Mainland and, if possible, foreign talent.

The Committee has been negotiating with outstanding, internationally known stars from outside the State. While it would be premature to name names at this stage of negotiations, the Committee hopes to have definite commitments shortly. The Council will be informed promptly when such commitments are made.

The Committee hopes and intends to book popular, variety entertainment, Theatrical productions, symphonies, ethnic productions and sports events during the program period which is planned to continue through Sunday, September 20.

There will be activities daily in the Arena and/or the Theater-Concert Hall. Shows will be scheduled so that a performance in the Arena will not conflict with or detract from one in the Theater-Concert Hall.

The Exhibition Pavilion and the adjoining meeting rooms will be used for free exhibits throughout the entire nine-day program period.

The Committee visualizes the program as a united Community effort and all of the richly varied groups and cultures represented in the City of Honolulu will be given every encouragement to join and take part in giving the Honolulu International Center a fitting Grand Opening Program.

This program is visualized as one which will call for no deficit financing. It will require no appropriation of public funds for underwriting. The Honolulu Police and the Honolulu Fire Departments' Relief Associations have volunteered to advance the necessary underwriting capital for this program. All net proceeds from the Festival will be divided equally between the two benefit funds. Both associations feel certain that this will prove a prudent and profitable investment, as well as a service to the community. Chief Blaisdell of the Fire Department and Inspector William Sheather of the Police Department also will serve as members of the Dedication Committee.

The caliber of the Dedication Committee and that of the program assures the success of this Dedication and Grand Opening Festival for the Honolulu International Center.

I enthusiastically commend this program to you and urge that the members of your honorable body, both as elected representatives of the people of Honolulu and as individual members of our community, join with our outstanding Citizens' Committee and the administration in support of this program.

Sincerely,



NEAL S. BLAISDELL  
Mayor  
City and County of Honolulu