

Dormitory Life*
Kenneth Katsumi Kaneoka (KK)
SO = Interviewer

(This interview has no audio.)

KK: Keeping in contact was mostly by mail. My father sent my tuition to the dorm and he came once in three months. When he came he would give me \$5.00 once in awhile. Having 10 cents in your pocket was big thing. For 5 cents you could go to Ihara Store and buy 3 ice cakes.

Our report card was sent to our parents from Japanese School and Hilo High School, even report from the dormitory because the Japanese School Sensei were Mr. & Mrs. Masaichi Uemura, who took care of the dorm along with Sensei Kamimura and Sensei Yoshimura.

SO: What did your parents tell you before you left for your stay at the dormitory?

KK: Papa and Mama always reminded me to study hard and don't bring shame to the family.

SO: In your Statement you mentioned that there were about 30 of you at the dormitory. Was it both boys and girls?

KK: The boarders at the Hongwanji dorm were intermediate and high school age students who came from outside of Hilo. There were about 30 boys and little bit less girls. The boys' dorm was on one end of the building and the girls' on the other end right above Mr. and Mrs. Uemura, who lived with their children on the first floor. The boys' side had underclassmen living on the first floor and the older boys living upstairs. The dorms were filled to capacity.

SO: Please describe your dormitory room and surroundings for us.

KK: The facility was similar to barrack style of boarding with rows of beds on both side[s] of the room with about 12 in each room. The furo was [a] separate building like [a] public bath.