

PALAMA SETTLEMENT

PALAMA-KIWANIS BAND

October 26, 1959

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

The Palama-Kiwanis Band was started in the fall of 1952 by the Underprivileged Child Committee. At that time ten instruments were purchased. Since that time approximately 315 boys in the Kalihi-Palama area have belonged to this organization. As of the fall of 1959 over \$3,000.00 worth of instruments have been purchased by the Kiwanis Club.

These individuals acquire through their music interest those virtues and traits of character that others may develop through sports or handicrafts: SELF RESPECT, A COOPERATIVE SPIRIT, PERFORMING SKILLS, APPRECIATION OF MUSIC AS AN ART, LOVE OF GOOD WORKMANSHIP AND DISCIPLINE.

Many of the band members join the Palama-Kiwanis Band while they are attending grade school where there are no other such opportunities. When they go on to intermediate and high school they have already-developed musical skills which lead them into healthy, constructive and self-reliant relationships. Some continue with the Palama-Kiwanis Band until they leave high school and others shift over to school loyalties after getting a good start here. In either case the Palama-Kiwanis Band has given them an early start they would not otherwise have had.

Palama-Settlement is bordered on all sides by overcrowded and blighted neighborhoods. We draw many of our youths from an unbelievably impoverished slum area between King and Vineyard, Liliha and River streets. This area has the highest incidence in all of these island of Juvenile delinquency, broken families, tuberculosis, poverty and all the economic, moral and cultural waste that these statistics imply.

ORGANIZATION

The two bands are supported in their work by the staff of Palama Settlement, the parents of band members and the music teachers and staff directly involved.

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Their activities include a minimum of two rehearsals a week for each of the two groups, ensemble participation in Music School recitals, hikes, swims and outings as a group and the big week of Summer Music Camp at Palama-Uka in the Koolau mountains.

CASE HISTORIES

Bert Yoshioka and Elmer Kudo hold two first chair positions with the top high school band in the city. They got their start and studied for five years at Palama Settlement Music School.

A neighborhood father said: "my boy was shiftless and good for nothing until he joined the band. Now he's happy and make out better in school grades too."

Approximately 300 other boys from the immediate rough-and-tumble neighborhood have in the past six years joined the band. Some as mentioned above have become outstanding players now taking leadership high school music, band and dance groups. Others have been kept off the streets and have acquired skills which reinforced wavering personalities and developed pride and social integration.

The youth, the parents, the Settlement workers truly appreciate all that you are doing and sincerely hope you will continue to assist this fine organization.