

WALTER JAMES MACFARLANE

The death of Walter James Macfarlane takes from the scene a young man of exceptional promise, with a host of friends, with a public career already well begun.

From early youth he showed evidence of unusual interest in civic and political life. As a University of Hawaii student, his capacity for leadership was evident—not merely in physical sports, where he excelled, but in a broader field of campus activities.

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As a legislator, he was earnest, hard working, ambitious and capable. In fact, it was his zealous support of a public enterprise—the famed Pier 15 project—that brought him into collision with political forces that finally defeated him for reelection. But he would have emerged from this temporary setback a better, stronger figure in public life. Nor did his defeat kill his zeal or quench his enthusiasm.

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In civic affairs he was always hard working, resourceful, with a knack for getting things done. An instance of this is his notable leadership in rehabilitating the Outrigger club, and transforming it into one of Honolulu's most valuable social-civic organizations.

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It seemed likely that Walter Macfarlane might ultimately become the political mentor of his Hawaiian people. Fate has decreed otherwise. But his career, short as it was, should fire other youths of Hawaiian blood with ardor for public service.