

# Uluniu Club Faces the Ax

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Waikiki's venerable Uluniu Swimming Club, which has been granted one reprieve after another since 1963, appears headed for certain doom come next spring.

Sheraton Hotels, which has the lease on the 25,000-plus square feet occupied by the club, plans to tear the building down and build a new wing for the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. The land is worth at least \$75 a square foot.

"It appears to be inevitable that the building will have to go," a Sheraton spokesman said yesterday.

"But it's unlikely anything will happen before late spring," he said. He explained that the hotel will be packed with winter guests until at least late April or early May, and the management isn't about to drive them away with pile drivers and other construction noise.

The Uluniu (the name means "Coconut Grove")

has been on the same general site since it was founded in 1909 by Alexander Hume Ford and Mrs. Frances Mills Swamy. It began as an auxiliary of the Outrigger Canoe Club and was exclusively for women until about 1965.

It began taking men at that time because the males, most of whom belong to the Outrigger, didn't want to move from Waikiki to the Outrigger's new location near the Elks Club.

There is no record of what

the Uluniu's property was worth in its early days. But at present real estate prices, its piece of land is worth at least \$1.8 million.

The Uluniu started in a grass shack with 14 members. Before long, it had hundreds of members and a long waiting list. It established its own bath house in 1916.

The Outrigger Canoe Club offered a merger in 1925, but the women decided to operate their own club and they got a 25-year lease from the Bishop Estate. The lease later was taken over by Matson Navigation Co., which built the Royal Hawaiian.

It built a clubhouse and adopted the name, Uluniu Women's Swimming Club. A second story was added in 1926 at a cost of \$2,087, which would barely cover the cost of the fixtures today.

A newspaper story from The Advertiser of 1928 described the club as an attractive little building with two wide lanais, an upper and lower one, and many bathrooms for women and children along the back.

It was well-shaded by old kiawe and han trees and clumps of pink oleander — and of course, coconuts.

The lower lanai was reserved for tea drinking. No liquor was served on the premises — and still isn't.

Despite its secluded location between the Royal Hawaiian Hotel and the Outrigger Canoe Club, the Uluniu was not without its problems.

Hoodlums mutilated the coconut trees and carried off the club's iron insignia at the entrance on Kalakaua Ave.

There also was a problem with the "huge beach population and the necessity of cooperation with the hotels and their guests, with the

Army chiefs and the truckloads of soldiers they send daily to swim at Waikiki, with the club adjoining (Outrigger) and its visitors and activities."

But the club weathered all of this and continued its prime objective — encouraging swimming by Hawaii's youth and its women and offering public swimming meets to encourage physical fitness.

Card playing wasn't allowed on the premises until 1932.

In 1956, the club protested to the Board of Harbor Commissioners about a proposal to open a portion of the beach area of the Royal Hawaiian to outrigger canoes with outboard motors. They never appeared.

But the influential members of the Uluniu weren't able to do anything about getting a new lease for the property.

The club almost went out of existence in 1963, when the sublease expired. But Sheraton Hotels, which had taken over from Matson, allowed the club to remain in operation.

The club was given notice in October, 1965, to vacate by the beginning of 1966. But, again, Sheraton relented.

Uluniu was allowed to operate jointly with Sheraton, which provided umbrellas, towels and back rests for the retired women, teachers and their families who make up the bulk of the membership.

With the announcement this year of a new master plan for developing the property around the Royal Hawaiian, the Uluniu's doom finally was sealed.

The rambling two-story, dark green and yellow pine-board structures will be leveled, ending the 59-year reign of the club on the prized Waikiki beach property.

Where will Uluniu go? No one seems to know. A member of the board of directors said "we're looking around but without much hope."



Advertiser Photo by T. Umata

Valuable Uluniu grounds are squeezed between Outrigger and Royal.



Advertiser Photo by Leinai Chang

Refugees learn English; top left, Valdes; top right, Vargas, Mrs. Valdes and children, Jose and Maria. They left Cuba with just their clothes.

# First Christmas in Years For Cuban Refugee Family

## New U.S. Citizens (126) From Many Lands (16)

A total of 126 persons from 16 different countries were sworn in as American citizens in naturalization ceremonies held yesterday before Federal Judge C. Nils Tavares.

The new citizens, listed according to their country of origin, are:

C. Mi Kim, and Jeanne M. Ja Chaplain.  
Joan Sam, Douglas, Sam Hui, Wang Chi Seay, and Jane S. In-Whan.  
Philippine Islands—Dorinda M. Camarillo, Gloria L. Camarillo, Maria P. B. Antolin, Jovita Balictar, Manuel Manuel Obispo, Zuzue Palacios Pausica, Nita Salbigno, Roman G. Andacion, Jean C. Tattelin, Jose G. Velasco, Domingo Peralta, Rufino Munio, Salvador Enrique, Wally E. Ericks, Gust Faust Alexander, Russell E. Simas, Gregoria B. Silveira, Jose A. Yamato, Betty B. Wieston, Benjamin V. Russo, Mercedes G. Albuja, Alacete D. Bayis, Margarita M. Padua, Dolores Canino, Josefine G. Garcia.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines—John Peter R. Rappin Sr., Ronald A. Corcoran, Thomas H. Stearns, Maria E. V. Bering, Craig A. Longman, Peter C. Caramanna, Eileen L. Raggio, Thomas C. Leber, Marygrove L. Surter, Beatrice B. Blum, Salvatore V. Mendicino Jr., Vicente C. De Vera, Elio P. Palomares, Bonerwice B. Rios, Alfonso S. Sabagan, Ramon S. Rosales, Yvonne G. Juglarova, Jovita N. Lacey, Orlando M. Dumala, and Liza Velasco Ruiz.  
South Vietnam—Tam Minh Corbett.  
Thailand—Jesone Sunag, and Milton Anderson.