

Part 4
The third stage of my life as business consultant
(6-Story 18)
Family vacancies in Hawaii with the last investigation

For me, it was the first visit to Hawaii in the last 12 years. I had some purposes there. One was to see my relatives. The other was to see a trucking company president whose name I found in the bulletin of ATA annual convention. He was Mr. Luice, President of American Pacific Transport Co. Ltd. Another man, Mr. Sakakida, apparently Japanese American by the name, the executive president of Hawaii Transportation Association.

As soon as we arrived in Hawaii, Thursday, I called the HTA for the meeting. They seemed to be waiting for my call. Mr. Sheaffer was kind enough to let them know of my visit in advance.

Five staffs were waiting for me in the meeting room. Three of them were Japanese Americans of the third and fourth generation. The chairman was Mr. Terayama. Japanese Americans are so active in this industry.

The meeting lasted for a couple of hours with less information concerning the owner-operators. The association deals with truck buss and taxi industries because of the small area of islands.

On the way back to the hotel, Mr. Mizokawa drove me, while talking about Japan. When I told him about my relatives living in this beautiful state, he envied me because of my clear ancestors, while his was not known of where part of Japan his ancestors came to Hawaii.

Next morning at 8:30 am, Mr. Luice came to my hotel to pick me up. His company was almost empty for the weekend. We sat face to face with his big desk in between in the President's room, where some Japanese letter-written panel which symbolizes "Happiness". There was a huge Japanese folding fan and Japanese dolls. His former secretary was a Japanese American woman, he said. He seemed quite familiar with Japanese and its custom.

His company has some 60-workers. He asked me if I ever saw the pictures of the successive ATA chairmen in the boardroom. He was one time chairman!

He is a typical type of the small business person and yet took the highest post of the association as the chairman. America is, indeed, a country of influential force, not the bigness of the corporation he manages.

I was told that his company hires no owner-operators in this small island market. However, he is in good favor of the owner-operator system.

When he stepped into the talk about the labor management, he emphasized the need of the owner-operators. He even began to talk about his real experience of dealing with the labor union in the past.

Days after my return to Japan, he wrote me saying, “The owner-operator system is indispensable in the industry. Let us talk more....” If I ever visit Hawaii again, it would be one schedule to visit him for the reunion.

I visited my aunt, my mother’s younger sister-in-law, who lives with her daughter, who is a younger sister of Marion who joined me while I spend the last schedule in Los Angeles with her husband.

Thus ended the last scheduled trip in Hawaii with my total investigation travel of the trucking industry in the United States of America.

The most thankful thing was that during my one month trip, not a single trouble happened, for which I am really thankful to God.