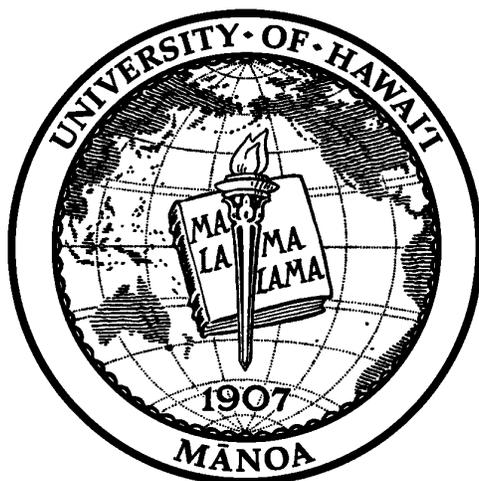


UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA

THOMAS P. GILL PAPERS

Finding Aid



Hawaii Congressional Papers Collection
Archives & Manuscripts Department
University of Hawaii at Manoa Library

March 2006

Table of Contents

Introductory Information	1
Administrative Information	2
Biographical Sketch	3
Biographical Chronology	5
Scope & Content Note	7
Series Descriptions	8
Series, Subseries & Sub-Subseries Listing	10
Inventory	Upon Request

Introductory Information

Collection Name: Thomas P. Gill Papers

Accession Number: HCPC 2001.01

Dates: 1950-2005 (bulk 1960s-1970s)

Size of Collection: 98 linear feet

Creator of Papers: Thomas P. Gill

Abstract:

Thomas P. Gill (1922-) was a member of Congress from Hawaii to the U.S. House of Representatives (1963-1964). His political career before and after Congress included serving in the Hawaii Territorial Legislature (1958-1959), the Hawaii State Legislature (1959-1962), the Hawaii Office of Economic Opportunity (1965-1966) and the office of Lt. Governor of Hawaii (1966-1970). He was deeply involved in local and national Democratic Party politics whether in or out of office.

Declining an officer rank, Gill served in World War II as an enlisted soldier in the 24th Infantry Division in New Guinea and the Philippines and was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. His private law practice was a platform for lifelong advocacy of social, political, economic and environmental justice, the effects of which are still being felt in Hawaii. He married Lois Hanawalt in 1947 and has six children—Thomas (“Tony”), Andrea, Eric, Ivan, Timothy, and Gary.

The bulk of the collection is from Gill’s two years in Congress and in the Lt. Governor’s office. It includes correspondence, reports, photographs, audiovisual items and memorabilia. It is strong in material documenting his enthusiastic political life and on his concerns about nuclear power; the environment; land development, especially on the Big Island; and the high cost of living in Hawaii, principally for food and housing.

Administrative Information

- Repository Information:** Archives & Manuscripts Department
University of Hawaii at Manoa Library
2550 McCarthy Mall
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Phone: (808) 956-6047
Fax: (808) 956-5968
Email: archives@hawaii.edu
URL: <http://libweb.hawaii.edu/libdept/archives/>
- Processing Archivist:** Ellen Chapman
- Completion Date:** March 2006
- Restrictions:** Material with personal information may be redacted by the Archives staff. Some fragile items may need to be handled by the staff only. Use of audiovisual material may require the production of listening or viewing copies.
- Provenance:** Donated by Thomas P. Gill on May 8, 2001
- Preferred Citation:** University of Hawaii at Manoa Library, Thomas P. Gill Papers, Series; Subseries; Sub-subseries (if appropriate); item.

Example: University of Hawaii at Manoa Library, Thomas P. Gill Papers; Congress; Legislation; Letter from John Q. Smith to Gill, Nov. 9, 1968.
- Copyright Notice:** Copyright is retained by the authors of items in these papers, their descendants, or the repository if copyright has been signed over, as stipulated by United States copyright law. It is the responsibility of the user to determine any copyright restrictions, obtain written permission, and pay any fees necessary for the reproduction or proposed use of the materials.
- Literary Rights Notice:** All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Archives. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the University of Hawaii Library as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must be obtained by the researcher.

Biographical Sketch

Born in Honolulu on April 21, 1922, Thomas Ponce Gill served just one term in the U.S. House of Representatives—but his long career as an elected official, civil servant and private attorney advocating social, political, economic and environmental reform places him in the forefront of those most responsible for creating the Hawaii we know today.

Gill's father, an architect, moved to Hawaii in 1896, but unlike most members of his ethnicity and class, he sent his son to the Territorial public schools—Lincoln Elementary, Roosevelt High and the University of Hawaii—encouraging an independent social consciousness that has been one of the hallmarks of Gill's political life. The Territorial newspapers first mention Tom Gill in 1945, when Tech Sgt. Gill, newly returned from the 24th Infantry campaigns in New Guinea and the Philippines (where he earned a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart), is quoted as remarking, “The doughboys don't get the same publicity as the fliers and some of the others. All they generally get is a row of white crosses.” This early interview is indicative of some of the qualities that sustained Gill throughout his career: a concern for equity and the underdog expressed in a concise, telling phrase. In the 1960s, when he was widely regarded as the most articulate and literate Hawaii politician, Gill's appearance, youth, war record—and seemingly effortless ability to produce an apt phrase—drew comparisons with John Fitzgerald Kennedy. But in 1946, when the returning veteran first expressed an interest in politics, it was by approaching Republican Party chairman Roy Vitousek. Told “the Republican Party didn't need anybody,” Gill went to California to attend the University of California School of Law.

Returning to Hawaii in 1951, the young attorney already possessed a strong sense of independence and self-assurance, strikingly revealed in an anecdote told by longtime Democratic Party organizer Dan Aoki, who approached Gill in 1952 about joining the group John Burns was assembling in his campaign to revitalize the Democratic Party. “Join you guys . . . ,” Gill replied, “how about you guys joining me?” Although clearly not a member of Burns' inner circle, Gill served as the Oahu County Democratic campaign chair for the elections of 1952 and 1954, when the “Democratic Revolution” ended decades of Republican political control in the Territory. Gill

was also chair of the Oahu County Democratic Committee from 1954 to 1958. In the mid-1950s, while serving as Territorial Senate council and administrative aide to the Speaker of the House, he played a key role in drafting social, economic and environmental legislation considered so liberal that Republican governor Sam King vetoed 71 out of some 80 or 90 pieces of legislation—leading to King’s defeat in the next election.

Gill was first elected to office as 15th District representative to the 30th Territorial Legislature, and in 1959 was elected to the first State of Hawaii Legislature, where he served as majority floor leader. Then in 1962 Gill was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, Hawaii’s last at-large representative before the state was divided into two congressional districts. Choosing not to run for re-election in 1964, Gill instead unsuccessfully challenged Hiram Fong for a Senate seat. Gov. John Burns then appointed Gill director of the Hawaii Office of Economic Opportunity, where he was able to influence social and economic policy.

Although not the candidate preferred by Burns, and despite opposition from both business, who distrusted Gill’s liberalism, and from labor—and in particular the ILWU—who distrusted Gill’s independence, he was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1966. Following losing campaigns for governor in 1970 and 1974, Gill resumed the practice of law.

Widely recognized throughout his career for his intellectual energy and acumen, expressed with a directness and cogency often perceived as impatience and arrogance, Gill’s independence caused his political career to founder often in controversy. But his legacy as a progressive and tireless worker for a more just, open and sustainable society continues to inspire subsequent generations—including Gary Gill, politician, activist and youngest of the six Gill children, who once described his father as a “a reform-minded person who always attempted to represent the interests of labor and the working people, and to struggle for social and economic justice.”

—Compiled by Stan Schab
Center for Biographical Research
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Jan. 13, 2003

Biographical Chronology

1922 Apr 21	Born in Honolulu, son of Thomas Gill (architect) and Lorin Tarr Gill
1940	Graduated from Roosevelt High School, Honolulu
1940-1941	Attended University of Hawaii
1941 Dec-1942 Oct	Volunteered for Hawaii Territorial Guard
1942 Nov-1945 Nov	Enlisted as a private in the 24 th Infantry Division Fought in New Guinea, Philippines Awarded Bronze Star, Purple Heart
1947	Married Lois Hanawalt whom he met at UC Berkeley, in Honolulu; children Thomas (“Tony”), Andrea, Eric, Ivan, Timothy, and Gary.
1948	Graduated with B.A., University of California at Berkeley Member, American Veterans Committee
1951	Graduated, University of California Law School Admitted to Hawaii Bar, began Honolulu law practice Attorney for Unity House unions and founded a labor oriented law firm. Paul Kokubun was first law partner, then Herman Doi and Alvin Shinn
1952, 1954	Chairman, Oahu County Democratic Campaign Committee
1954-1958	Chairman, Oahu County Democratic Committee Labor law practice
1955	Attorney for Senate, Hawaii Territorial Legislature, regular session
1957	Administrative Assistant to Speaker of the House (Vince Esposito), Hawaii Territorial Legislature, regular and special sessions
1958	Elected Representative to 30th Territorial Legislature, 15th District
1959-1962	Elected Representative to the first State Legislature Democratic Majority Leader, State Legislature

1960	Delegate to Democratic National Convention
1961	Authored Land Use Law, the first statewide zoning law in the nation
1963-1964	Elected to U.S. House of Representatives, 88 th Congress Appointed to Interior Committee and its Territorial/Insular, Indian Affairs, and Irrigation subcommittees Appointed to Education & Labor Committee and two of its subcommittees dealing with wage-hour laws, migrant workers, fair employment practices, vocational education and the youth corps
1964	Admitted to the bar of the U.S. Supreme Court Delegate to National Democratic Convention; read Pledge of Allegiance at opening ceremony Lost to Hiram Fong in U.S. Senate election
1965-1966	Director, Hawaii Office of Economic Opportunity; appointed by Gov. John Burns to launch the new agency
1966-1970	Elected Lt. Governor, Hawaii
1970	Lost primary election for Governor to John Burns Resumed law practice
1974	Lost primary election for Governor to George Ariyoshi
1975-	Continued law labor practice Active in Democratic Party politics Hawaii elder statesman for political, social and economic issues

Scope & Content Note

Thomas P. Gill donated 86 record center boxes of material to the University of Hawaii at Manoa Library and the formal deed of gift was signed on May 8, 2001. The collection was arranged and described for archival research from July 2005 through March 2006.

The papers have been arranged into five series, further divided into subseries, and sub-subseries (see Series, Subseries & Sub-subseries Listing). Unlabeled material has been assigned to appropriate series and subseries by the Archives staff.

The material was largely in fair to good condition. The boxes were reasonably well labeled as were the files in them. Many binders, paper clips, staples, and rubber bands had caused minor damage and were removed. Some newspaper clippings had crumbled and were discarded. Other clippings were retained, awaiting the staff and funds necessary to photocopy them before they disintegrate. Multiples of speeches and press releases were discarded after retaining the two best copies for the collection.

Gill's experiences in Hawaii Democratic Party politics, in the U.S. House of Representatives and in the Lt. Governor's office are well represented here. There is a smaller amount of material from his pre-Congressional life.

All of the papers are open for research, but since some files may contain information about individuals, the Archives staff may redact documents out of concern for personal privacy.

For other research and biographical material related to Thomas P. Gill, please consult the University of Hawaii Library's online catalog, the *Index to the Honolulu Advertiser and Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, the online Newspaper Index maintained by the Hawaii State Library, the *Congressional Record*, the Hawaii State Archives, and papers of other members of Congress in the Hawaii Congressional Papers Collection and elsewhere. See also the "Artificial Files" of information about Gill collected by the Archives staff, largely from 1997 onward.

Series Descriptions

The Gill Papers are comprised of five series. For four of the series, the subseries are listed alphabetically. Subseries in the Political Offices Series are listed chronologically.

Political Offices – 133 document cases, 1955-1970.

This series of political offices held by Tom Gill reflects his life-long concerns with land development, working people, the environment, and social and economic justice.

Territorial Legislature: This subseries contains a few files on Gill's appointed positions as attorney to the Senate (1955); attorney to the House Speaker (1955); and the House Speaker's administrative aide (1957). Files for his position as elected Representative (1958-1959) principally concern land reform in relation to large land holdings.

State Legislature: The files here reflect Gill's term as elected Representative (1959-1962) and his concerns about land use, large landholders (especially Bishop Estate), and the environment. Speeches and press releases are included.

U.S. House of Representatives: Gill served one term in the U.S. House (1963-1964). These files are largely about land use and labor law. There are also speeches, statements, news releases, and newspaper clippings.

Hawaii Office of Economic Opportunity: Gill was appointed to create this agency and was its first director (1965-1966). The files are First Congress of Micronesia; Hawaii League for Nursing; Head Start; Speeches (1965-1966); and Trust Territories of the Pacific.

Hawaii Lt. Governor: This is the largest subseries with major portions of it concerning Big Island development, especially the central to southern west coast; the high cost of food and housing in Hawaii; and Federal-State projects. Other areas of interest to Gill are represented, including land use, labor, and the environment. There are also a few administrative files.

Politics – 4 record center boxes, 6 document cases, 1 flat box, 1952-1972.

This series principally consists of Hawaii Democratic Party politics. Many files are newspaper clippings on Hawaii politicians and subjects debated during elections. Of interest are the scripts and songs for skits about local politics and politicians, several of which concern longtime Honolulu mayor Frank Fasi.

Personal – 26 document cases, 1939-2001.

These files are interesting for their personal material from Gill's life before and after his positions in political offices. His election campaigns are well represented, including an exploration of a third run for governor in 1986.

Biography: This subseries includes biographical data; files on high school oratorical contests (1939, 1940); two stories he wrote while attending UC Berkeley (1947-1948); speeches on labor topics (1950-1957); invitations, speaking engagements and personal correspondence (1965-1979); law practice business card and letterhead stationery; two *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* articles about Gill in World War II (1991); "From Dad's Point of View," an interview with Gill's son Gary (2001); and documents on trips and vacations.

Campaign: Represented here are Gill's election campaigns for the Territorial and State House (1958, 1959); U.S. House of Representatives (1962); U.S. Senate (1962); Hawaii Lt.

Governor (1966); and Hawaii Governor (1970, 1974). Of interest is material indicating his exploration of the possibility of running for governor in 1986; he decided not to.

Personal Files: Gill's personal interests and concerns with Bishop Estate and social and economic matters comprise the topics in this subseries (1970-1979).

Memorabilia – 1 record center box, 5 flat boxes, 1940-2005; bulk 1958-1980.

Most of the memorabilia concern election campaigns and Democratic Party politics. There are a few awards and personal items as well.

Appreciations & Awards: These are from the Hawaii House and Senate; PFLAG-Oahu (Parents, Friends and Families of Lesbians and Gays); National Conference of Lt. Governors; Smithsonian Institution; National Museum of American Indians; the state of Texas; and the city of Dallas, Texas.

Campaign: This subseries documents Gill's election campaigns for the U.S House (1962); U.S. Senate (1964); Hawaii Lt. Governor (1966); and Governor (1970, 1974, 1986). Included are buttons, posters; fliers; souvenir emery boards and pens; and an assortment of shirts, vests and dresses with Gill's name and other campaign logos on them.

Personal: In this subseries are a medal for 2nd place in a 1940 *Star-Bulletin* oratorical contest; a Phi Theta Psi fraternity pin; a button for the Roosevelt High School 50th reunion (1990) with Gill's high school picture on it; a button with "Save Our Star-Bulletin"; a hard hat with Gill's name on it; and a special issue of *Berliner Illustrirte* commemorating President Kennedy's inauguration.

Political: Included here are badges for a variety of national Democratic Party events; desk name plates; a shirt embroidered on the pocket with "Rep. T.P. Gill, State of Hawaii"; and a shirt embroidered on the pocket with "Jan. 23-24, 1964, Marshall Islands, U.S. Congressional Visit."

Audiovisual – 3 record center boxes, 4 document cases, 1958-1974.

Aside from a few photographs of Gill and his family and many slides of Big Island development, this series consists of material related to election campaign advertising.

Audiotapes: 1963-1974. There are 25 open-reel tapes and 31 cassette tapes, mostly relating to political campaigns. The audiotapes were accompanied by several written and typed lists of speeches and radio spot ads.

Films: 1960s-1970s. There are seven 16mm films of varying lengths principally concerning Gill campaign TV spot ads.

Photographs: 1958-1974. There are many photographs (prints, negatives and slides) of events during Gill's election campaigns. There are approximately 1350 slides related to development on the Big Island. A few personal photographs of Gill and his family are also included.

Series, Subseries and Sub-Subseries Listing

POLITICAL OFFICES

Territorial Legislature

Appointed positions

Attorney to Senate

Attorney to House Speaker

Administrative Aide to House Speaker

Elected Representative, House

Land

Land Reform

Natural Resources

Public Utilities Commission

Real Property

Transportation

State Legislature

Legislation

Subjects A-V

Public Relations (Press Releases, Speeches)

U.S. House of Representatives

Committees

Federal Departments & Agencies

Legislation

Public Relations

Subjects C-W

Hawaii Office of Economic Opportunity

First Congress of Micronesia

Hawaii League for Nursing

Head Start

Speeches, 1965-1966

Trust Territories of the Pacific

Hawaii Lt. Governor

Big Island Development

Consumer Files

Federal-State Projects

Food Prices

Housing Committee

Housing Study

Office ("Admin")

Projects of Special Interest

Subjects A-W

POLITICS (principally Hawaii Democratic Party)

1952-1954

1954-1958

1956-1957

1966-1971
1970
1972
Newspaper Clippings
Skits & Songs (parodies of Hawaii politics)

PERSONAL

Biography

Interscholastic Oratorical Contest, 1939, 1940
Memorial Day services, 1940
Stories written while an undergraduate at UC Berkeley, 1947-1948
Speeches, 1950-1957 (mostly on labor topics)
Personal correspondence, 1965-1966, 1971-1979
Invitations, 1970-1977
Speaking engagement schedules, 1973-1974
Honolulu Star-Bulletin articles about Gill in World War II, 1991
“From Dad’s Point of View,” an interview of Gill by his son Gary, 2001
Law practice business card and letterhead
Trips, vacations

Campaign

Hawaii Territorial Legislature, House
Hawaii State Legislature, House
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Senate
Hawaii Lt. Governor
Hawaii Governor

Personal Files

Bishop Estate Trustees
Social, economic, and justice concerns, 1970s-1980s
Subjects

MEMORABILIA

Appreciations & Awards

Campaign

Personal

Political

AUDIOVISUAL

Audiotapes

Films

Photographs