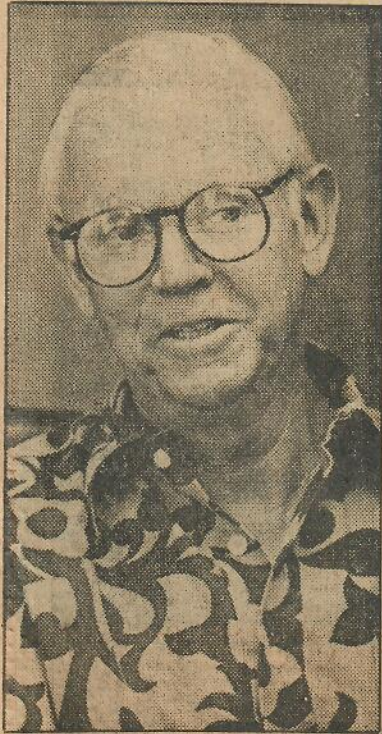


Kenneth Brown:



Kenneth Brown

Continued from C-2

a lot and leverage it up to something. If you have a little bit of time, that's all you've got."

He has served on numerous state-appointed boards and commissions, including the Hawaii Community Development Authority, which designed a redevelopment plan for Kakaako, and is on a federal-state task force reviewing the Hawaiian homestead program.

Brown is director of several corporations, including Ainamalu Corp., Cablevision Inc., Mauna Lani Resort Inc. and Amfac. He persuaded Amfac to underwrite the production of a book by Hawaiian scholars and writers about the Hawaiian lifestyle before Cook. Brown thinks the book that comes out of Project *Waiaha*, or "What is Hawaiian," will help the Hawaiian community to understand what are Hawaiian values and what ancient Hawaiians believed in.

MORE THAN land or money or material goods, Brown thinks Hawaiians need to have a spiritual base that tells them: if you believe in this, you are Hawaiian.

These common values will give the Hawaiians a common meeting ground, much as religion does. "If I'm a Catholic, I can go over there and pray with somebody I compete with in business. I can compete on one level and be Hawaiian on another. We don't even have to like each other, just have a common sense of an abstract concern."

The Hawaiians lost this dogma when their society came into contact with Western civilization, Brown says. He believes that it can be rediscovered by going back, analyzing the ancient ways, but not necessarily by living as the Hawaiians did before Cook.

"No, you can't go back. We've already been cast out (of that kind of society). But maybe somewhere down the line is a

A Born-Again Hawaiian

new awareness, new discovery... maybe this is a chaotic age in which there is a turning over and falling into place once more of values."

Brown is involved with companies that are in resort development; he doesn't believe you can stop growth completely or that you can tear everything down. The best you can do is preserve what you can. Francis Brown sold his 164-acre Kohala homestead to Tokyu Land Development Hawaii Inc., a Japan-owned company, and it has been developed into Mauna Lani resort. As a director, Kenny Brown persuaded the company to preserve parts of the grounds.

He thinks that a modern tourist development can exist side by side with Hawaiian traditional ways.

"WHAT WE'RE doing is bowing to the past. We have to the best of our ability upheld an-

cient traditions. We've not touched the ancient ponds, leaving the ancient trails. We are doing all that not in a patronizing way whatsoever but recognizing there was a culture there before. Our hope is that when the visitors come they'll go out where the fishponds are and they will feel the spirit of that place.

"There is a very special spirit there, hardly anybody can go there without feeling that there are presences there. And you don't even have to tell them. You bring them down there and sit them around the pond and all of a sudden they get a sense of there's something there. Now that sounds really wacky, but it's true. It seems easier there to get vibes from nature or whatever it is, things that we don't understand."

Brown realizes that there are those in the Hawaiian movement who resent someone with land and money taking this position.

But he doesn't apologize for his lifestyle and he doesn't want to give it up.

Besides, he says, "If a person is lucky to get a good education and whatever else that comes with being comfortable, it's a spur and a challenge to make use of the resources that you have, to put this to productive use."

His spiritual quest has also made him aware of the spiritual qualities of the land "... Maybe it's somewhere in this thing about *aina*... a place where I can go, (where) that spiritual whatever it is is there waiting for me. Of course you never will find it around here, but you may find it way out in Pelekunu or maybe up in a *heiau*... You go inside there and you feel it, the spirit of the place. I think that's what causes people to get all peed off about the land. Something's gone, they can't go back to it."