

The Construction of Taiwanese Hakka Community in Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A.

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Chinese have been developed in Hawaii for more than two hundred years. From the mid-19th century, a large number of Chinese were recruited to the cane sugar farms in Hawaiian islands as contract laborers, of which about thirty percent were Hakka people who were from various places in Guangdong. Hakka women at that time also went together with her husbands, and participated in the production. Like other immigrants, these Hakka Chinese immigrants contributed a lot to the development of early Hawaii Society. Under the efforts of the Hakka immigrants, Chinese churches, hospitals, schools and other organizations were set up successively. In 1918, “Nin Fo Fui Kon” was founded by Hakka immigrants in Honolulu, and it was changed its name into “Tsung Tsin Association” in 1937. So far, “Tsung Tsin Association” has developed for nearly a century of history and still been an important symbol for the continuation of Hakka culture in Hawaii.

After the New immigration laws of the United States was passed in 1965, a large number of new immigrants start to immigrate to the United States. Among these new immigrants, some of them are the Hakka people from Taiwan. Hawaii is even the first place of arrival for some Taiwanese Hakka immigrants who initially arrived in the United States, and later have persistently developed there for nearly half a century. Instead of participating in local tradition Hakka community, Taiwan Hakka immigrants dispersedly participate in various kinds of immigrant communities which are mainly composed of Taiwanese immigrants. Perhaps due to the small number and live in scattered, so there has been no Taiwanese Hakka organization or association was founded in Honolulu until Taiwan Hakka of Hawaii USA was founded in 2013.

Nonetheless, Taiwanese Hakka immigrants in Hawaii are still very concerned about the Taiwan Hakka cultural development, the first generation of Taiwanese Hakka immigrants, most of them still have a considerable degree of Hakka communication skills. Though they have varying degree of the understanding about Hakka , but they generally identify themselves as Hakka.

This paper focuses on the following issues : First, understand the background of

Hakka immigrants who immigrated to Hawaii. Second, explore the Taiwanese Hakka immigrant society in Hawaii through the investigations of immigrant background, life adaptation, social participation . Third, explore the development of Taiwanese Hakka culture and the demonstration of Hakka spirit. Fourth, construct the community characteristics of Taiwanese Hakka immigrants in Hawaii from the application and discussion of migration theory.

Keywords : Taiwanese Hakka immigrants, Hawaii