

Tourist Quota Being Studied by Hawaiians

BY DARYL LEMBKE

Times Staff Writer

HONOLULU—The original Hawaiians didn't fool around with polluters.

"He who polluted water was simply killed," explained Tony Hodges, founder and executive director of a conservation group here called Life of the Land.

"One man in every village was assigned to take care of anyone who polluted the water."

But no one is suggesting that kind of penalty today for those who are polluting the once-photogenic waters off Waikiki Beach. The guilty parties happen to be the 2 million tourists who will swarm over the Hawaiian Islands this year.

Sewage Plant

Instead, authorities are going forward with plans for construction of a sewage treatment plant in Honolulu, a city that currently dumps its raw wastes in the ocean 3,500 feet from shore.

And a good many people, from Gov. John A. Burns and state Senate President David C. McClung on down, are also giving serious thought to imposing controls on how many people can come here either as tourists or as permanent residents.

There are even those like the 32-year-old Hodges and the 800 members of Life of the Land who want to chop off further growth right now. They are appalled by attempts to expand Honolulu International Airport and to build a new freeway across part of Oahu, the island where 83% of the state's 800,000 residents are located.

Questions Motive

"The addition of another runway over the ocean on land fill at the airport is supposedly to attack the noise and safety problems, but the real reason is to expand the airport capacity, mainly so we can increase tourism," said Sophie Ann Aoki, 24, Life of the Land president.

She said she is convinced that tourism is ruining the islands. And what about people in Dubuque, Detroit or Dallas who want to spend a pleasant vacation in Hawaii, which is still a paradise in climate, scenery and charm compared to most places on the earth?

"Hawaii's got to face up to telling people, not that they can't come, but that they've got to wait their turn," Hodges said.

Made Senate Race

He is a very intense man who ran unsuccessfully as a Democratic candidate for U.S. senator two years ago. He came close to tears recently as he commented:

"A man does not eat dollars, or breathe them or drink them. If in the production of dollars, you destroy the earth, you've got nothing."

Fully in agreement is Dr. Jan Newhouse, 46, an associate professor of general science and instructor in a course called "Technology, Ecology and Man," at the University of Hawaii.

"We should do everything we can to play down the desirability of the islands as a place to live," Newhouse said.

"We should emphasize the high costs and the uncertain future. We're as susceptible to overpopulation as any place on earth with this number of people."

Please Turn to Pg. 4, Col. 1