

You're welcome to visit but don't stay

Hawaii gov discourages residency

HONOLULU (AP) — Paradise beckons, but only if you're visiting. If you want to stay, be prepared to find Hawaiians trying to yank the welcome mat out from under you.

"This state cannot accomodate every person who may wish to live here. It is that simple," says Gov. George Ariyoshi.

Ariyoshi, himself the son of immigrants from Japan, has called upon legislators to take drastic steps discouraging foreigners and residents of the other 49 states from setting up homes in Hawaii.

And despite doubts that Hawaii has much legal power to limit immigration, his ideas appear to have a strong base of public sympathy. A recent newspaper poll indicates 65 percent of the population believes something must be done to cut the number of newcomers.

The argument is Hawaii today is a far different place than it was at the turn of the century, when boatloads of immigrants came to an uncrowded island group renowned for friendly welcomes.

Today unemployment and taxes are high and the economy unstable.

The more than 3 million tourists who annually seek out Hawaii's sun and sandy beaches — and spend more than \$1.5 billion — are still welcome with open arms. State officials, in fact, want more tourism.

But newcomers aiming to stay are different — a focus for the discontents of those already here. Here are some of the reasons:

•**POPULATION:** In 1976, there were 886,600 residents of the seven populated islands that make up Hawaii. Growth trend projections show that by the year 2000, the state can expect 600,000 new residents — less than 200,000 native-born, the other 400,000 "outsiders." In the 1970s, 40,000 mainlanders have been moving to Hawaii each year. And in 1975, the last year for which a full breakdown was available, there were also more than 7,000 immigrants from foreign countries, primarily the Philip-

pinos, Korea, China, Taiwan and Indochina.

•**EMPLOYMENT:** Unemployment is running about 8 percent, compared to a national rate of 6.4 percent. Good jobs are so scarce that state officials are considering a pilot project to allow two people to share the work of one full-time government employee.

•**TAXES:** The Tax Foundation of Hawaii says a hypothetical family of four with a 1976 income of \$26,632 paid \$10,081 in total taxes — more than the \$8,788.56 it paid for food and shelter. The taxes include such direct levies as property, auto and gas, state and federal income and Social Sec-

urity taxes, as well as "hidden" taxes such as employer contributions to workers' compensation and business taxes.

Ariyoshi's appeal to limit immigration, made in his annual state-of-the-state address Monday, also came at a time when budget officials say there may be a deficit at the end of this fiscal year.

One of his proposals was a legislative study to determine the impact of imposing higher taxes on future new residents "on the basis that their presence directly and immediately places new costs upon the public sector for services."



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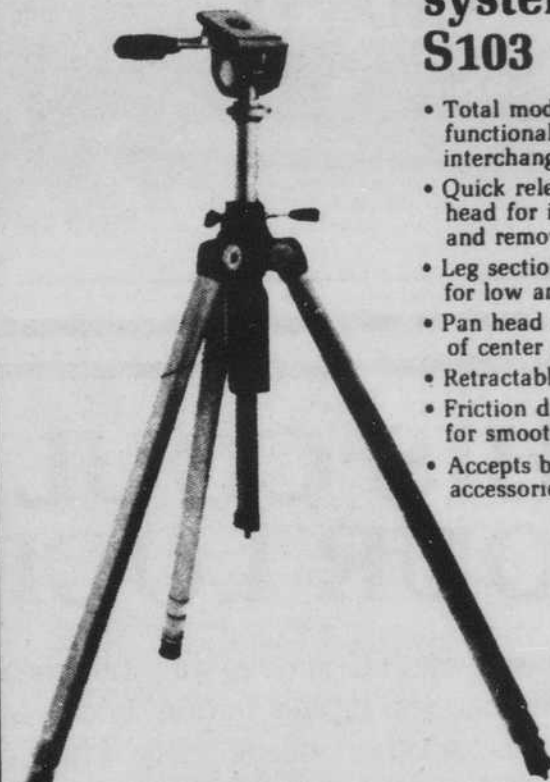


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