



ROBERT N. RINKER

Bob Rinker graduated from the School of Hotel Administration at Cornell University in 1952. While there, he was the Dean's Assistant and Managing Director for the Hotel Ezra Cornell. He made such an impression on his classmate, W. Dudley Child, Jr., that he was immediately hired as a manager in the Child's InterIsland Resort business. Bob managed the Naniloa Hotel and the Kona Inn on Hawai'i island before settling on Kaua'i in 1953 to manage the Kaua'i Inn.

Once he was established in Hawai'i's tourism industry, his career became a tour of the islands—and, indeed, the Pacific region. He was hired away from InterIsland to join Gus Guslander's Island Holidays hotels in 1955, where he opened the Maui Palms Hotel. In 1957 Bob moved to O'ahu where he and a group of investors bought the Pali Palms Hotel on the Windward side.

Bob applied his deep knowledge of hotel operations and his many political connections to the Hawai'i Hotel Association, where he served as Executive Vice President from 1968 to 1974. These were growth years for the industry, and the Hotel Association was instrumental in working with the industry and government to develop Hawai'i as a world class tourism destination.

In 1974, Bob's horizons expanded internationally when he joined Tokyu Hotels International, the parent company of Pan Pacific hotels.

His work took him and his family to Japan and Singapore.

Bob was a supporter of the School of Travel Industry Management from its inception. He and his wife Margaret frequently hosted groups of students at their home to celebrate the holidays.