

likened to Hilo, Kona in 60s Honolulu Advertiser 5/16/73

fast development seen in Micronesia

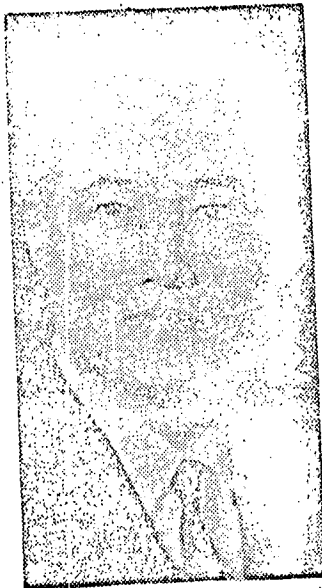
By HUGH CLARK
Advertiser Big Island Bureau

HILO — A former Hilo judge who serves as attorney general of the U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific Island says the pattern of development in Micronesia in some ways parallels what happened in Hilo and Kona in the 1960s.

Richard Miyamoto, a Hilo attorney who became chief legal officer in the Trust Territory two years ago, is visiting Hawaii for a vacation and for training in the Army Reserve, in which he serves as a lieutenant colonel.

"Development is coming pretty fast, a little Hilo and Kona," Miyamoto says.

THE DEVELOPMENT.



MIYAMOTO

primarily accommodating a growing tourist industry in the territory, is positive economically, he said. But it also is reflected negatively by a rising crime rate: with break-ins, thefts and burglaries and a great family disorganization, complaints that Miyamoto also dealt with as a magistrate for 11 years in the South Hilo district.

Miyamoto recently agreed to serve for two more years as attorney general in Saipan, where he oversees civil and criminal legal work, immigration and police, fire and public safety.

IN ADDITION to his 11 years on the bench, Miyamoto practiced privately on

the Big Island for four years and was a candidate in the 1950s for County attorney and unsuccessfully sought a State House seat in 1970.

While Miyamoto, a Big Island native, tends to compare his Micronesian experiences with Hawaii, he advises others not to:

"You have got to come there with an open mind and expect the pluses and minuses. It's different than Hawaii."

Miyamoto, who may be the last American to head the Micronesian legal department, points with pride to the program of turning over cabinet-level positions to Micronesian natives who now hold two of the territory's top eight posts.