

To Mike  
Aloha Song  
Kam #



**KAM FONG**  
**Chin Ho Kelly in "Hawaii Five-O"**

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Kam Fong Chun was born in Honolulu and attended Fern School and Kalakaua Intermediate School, where his lifelong interest in dramatics began. His teen years were spent at McKinley High School, where he was active in theater productions. Although he appeared in school plays, it was only after working for 17 years as a Honolulu policeman that Kam Fong decided on a full-time acting career.

After graduating from McKinley High School, Kam Fong went to work at the Pearl Harbor shipyards. He arrived at Dry Dock No. 1 within 45 minutes of the December 7, 1941, attack. On June 8, 1944, Kam Fong suffered a personal tragedy which devastated him. Two B-24 bombers collided in mid-air over his Kalihi house. "Everything came crashing down, barely missing Kalakaua School. My wife and children were killed — I lost my family in a matter of minutes. All I wanted to do was die."

Eventually remarrying, he joined the Honolulu Police Department and served in the Patrol Division for 18 years. Kam Fong resumed acting after switching to a career in real estate in 1962. His first role was in a Honolulu Community Theater production of *The Great Sebastian*, playing a *haole*!

He had a noticeable part in *The Hawaiians* with Charlton Heston, playing the head of the Chinese. But they changed the story line and he ended up on the cutting room floor. Then he got the part of a boat captain with Elvis Presley in *Girls, Girls, Girls*, but when the producer saw him, he fired him because he was too big. He was ready to go to Hollywood and work as a waiter! As it turned out, he didn't have to. Producer Freeman spotted him and Kam Fong lasted 10 years on *Five-O*, the longest run by a local actor.

*Five-O* was holding auditions for the pilot when Fong made an appointment to read for the part of Wo Fat. When he went in, Leonard Freeman was discoursing with director Paul Wenkos. He looked at Fong and without a pause said, "That's *him* standing there, that's Chin Ho Kelly. He looks like him, he stands like him, he smiles like him!" Chin Ho was supposed to be a Chinese-Irishman, but Freeman liked how Kam Fong looked. He was signed to a seven-year contract as a regular without even reading for the part!

When not in front of the *Hawaii Five-O* cameras, he spent much of his time working as an actor and master of ceremonies for the Honolulu Community Theater, the Honolulu Theater for Youth, and other civic organizations. Fong also appeared weekly as master of ceremonies in a lavish Waikiki night-club production, "A Night in Cathay." As if all this were not enough to keep him busy, Kam Fong was also a partner in a Honolulu talent agency.

Some of Fong's movies, filmed in Hawaii, were "Gidget Goes Hawaiian," "Ghost of the China Sea," "Seven Women from Hell" and "Diamond Head." He also appeared regularly on Hawaiian radio and television stations, and once was billed as "Hawaii's only Chinese disc jockey." On television he conducted a series of children's programs called "Kam Fong's Comedies." Always interested in children's welfare, he is/was a board member of W.A.I.F., founded by his friend Jane Russell. He has appeared in many of the television series filmed in Honolulu since the end of *Five-O*.

He still receives fan mail from around the world. Kam Fong was interviewed on a Mainland radio talk show, where listeners voted Chin Ho Kelly the most popular character on *Hawaii Five-O*. He has always personified the "elder statesman" father-figure to the fans.

**CAPSULE CLOSE-UP:**

Born:	May 27 in Honolulu, Hawai'i
Height, weight, coloring:	5'9" 200 pounds, black hair, brown eyes
Hobbies:	Community theater, children's welfare, cooking
Home; Children	Honolulu; four children -- Dennis, Brenda, Valerie and Dixon.