

A Survey on the Exercise of the Legislative Power on Colonial Taiwan from the Materials of the Japanese National Archives Library

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ABSTRACT

This paper uses the materials of the Japanese National Archives Library to examine the enacting process of the Diet-enacted statutes, ordinances, and *ritsurei* that were employed to govern legislative matters in colonial Taiwan. Those laws were in form promulgated by the Emperor. In fact, statutes were usually decided upon by the Japanese Cabinet and Diet; ordinances and *ritsurei* were ordinarily initiated by the Government-General and then approved by the Cabinet. It is obvious that the organs to exercise the legislative power of colonial Taiwan were more than one. The Government-General of Taiwan was just one of them. These archives are also helpful to understand the reasons and purposes of laws. They are important materials for those researchers who are interested in the history of Taiwan under Japanese rule.

Keywords: The Government-General of Taiwan, legislative power, Diet-enacted statutes, ordinances, *ritsurei*

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