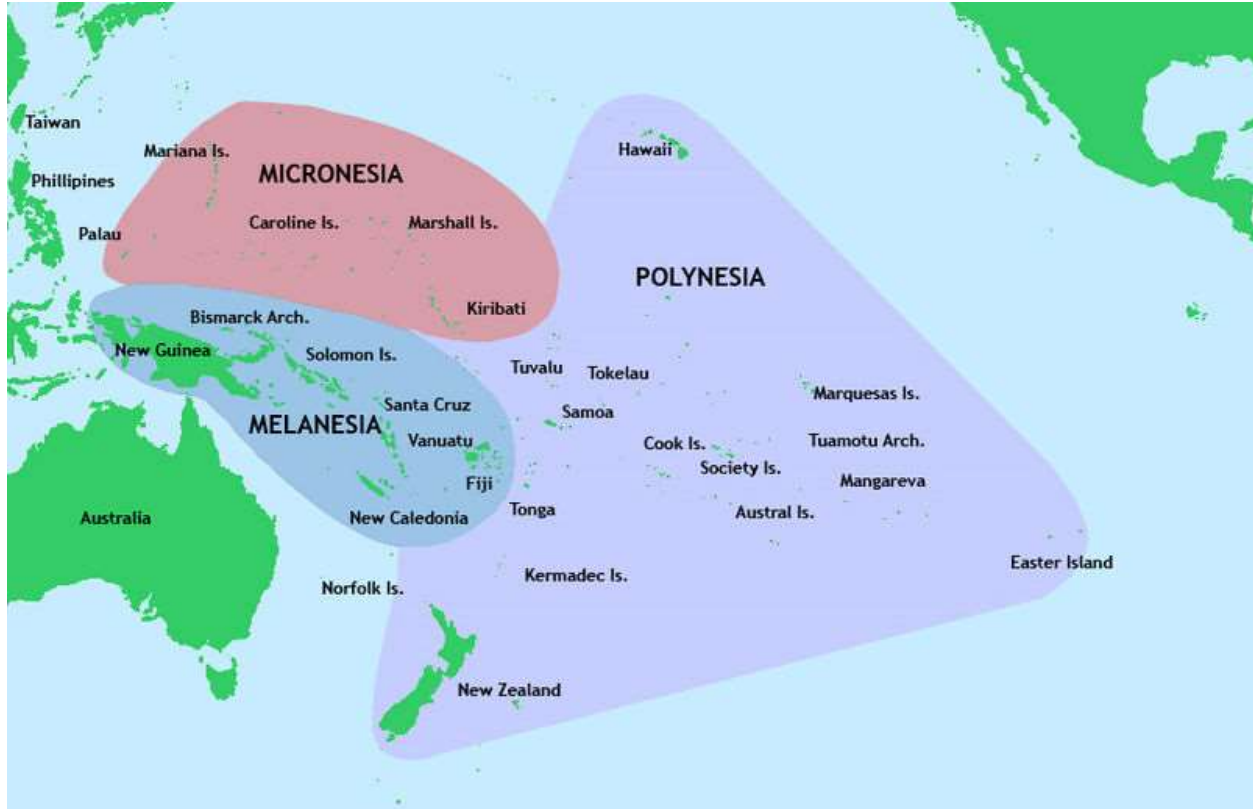


## Foreign Interest in Hawai'i

Polynesia is a region of the Pacific Ocean and forms, together with Melanesia and Micronesia, one of the three cultural areas of Oceania. Polynesia extends from the Hawaiian Islands in the north to New Zealand in the south, and from Tuvalu in the west to Rapanui (Easter Island) in the east. The region includes Samoa, Tonga, Tahiti, and the Cook and Marquesas Islands.

The name Polynesia derives from Greek words meaning many islands and refers to the numerous islands of the region. (The-Crankshaft Publishing)



In Polynesia, as in North America - New France (Canada to Louisiana (1534,)) New Spain (Southwest and Central North America to Mexico and Central America (1521)) and New England (Northeast US (1585, 1607, 1620)) - there was foreign interest.

The first European to visit Polynesia was the Spaniard Alvaro de Mendana (1541-1595), who reached Tuvalu in 1568. Dutch explorers followed in the 1600s, with the English and French beginning their own expeditions in the 1700s.

The English explorer Samuel Wallis (1728-1795) reached Tahiti in 1767 and Captain James Cook (1728-1779) reached the Cook Islands (later named after him) in 1773 and Hawai'i in 1778. (The-Crankshaft Publishing)

Since the first contact with Westerners, starting with the Spanish and Portuguese explorers, the Polynesian islands have been colonized by various European and Asian countries.

For example, Pohnpei, an island state of the Federated States of Micronesia, was first “discovered” in 1526 when the Spaniards named it the “New Phillipines”. Spain later “claimed sovereignty” over most of Micronesia. Germany was the official colonizer for one year before Spain formally occupied Pohnpei in 1866.

Germany “bought” the island from Spain in 1899 after the conclusion of the Spanish American War. Japan annexed the island in 1914 and Pohnpei became a US territory after the defeat of the Japanese empire during World War II. (Stanford School of Medicine)

As in other parts of the Pacific, European colonialism really began in the nineteenth century. Britain claimed New Zealand in 1840 and later claimed the Cook Islands. France seized Tahiti and neighboring islands in 1842, the United States annexed Hawai‘i in 1898, and Germany and the United States divided Samoa in 1899.

The British turned New Zealand into a settler colony. France used Tahiti as its main Pacific center of activity, and Samoa was an important agricultural colony for Germany. After Germany’s defeat in World War I (1914-1918) its Samoan colony was turned over to New Zealand.

Polynesia contains a diversity of political systems. American Samoa is an American territory, Tahiti remains a French colony, Rapanui is a Chilean territory, Tonga is an independent kingdom, Pitcairn is still a British colony. (The-Crankshaft Publishing)

#### Growing Interest in Hawai‘i

In the central Pacific, practically every vessel that visited the North Pacific in the closing years of the 18<sup>th</sup> century stopped at Hawai‘i for provisions and recreation; then, the opening years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century saw the sandalwood business become a recognized branch of trade.

Sandalwood, geography and fresh provisions made the Islands a vital link in a closely articulated trade route between Boston, the Northwest Coast and Canton, China.

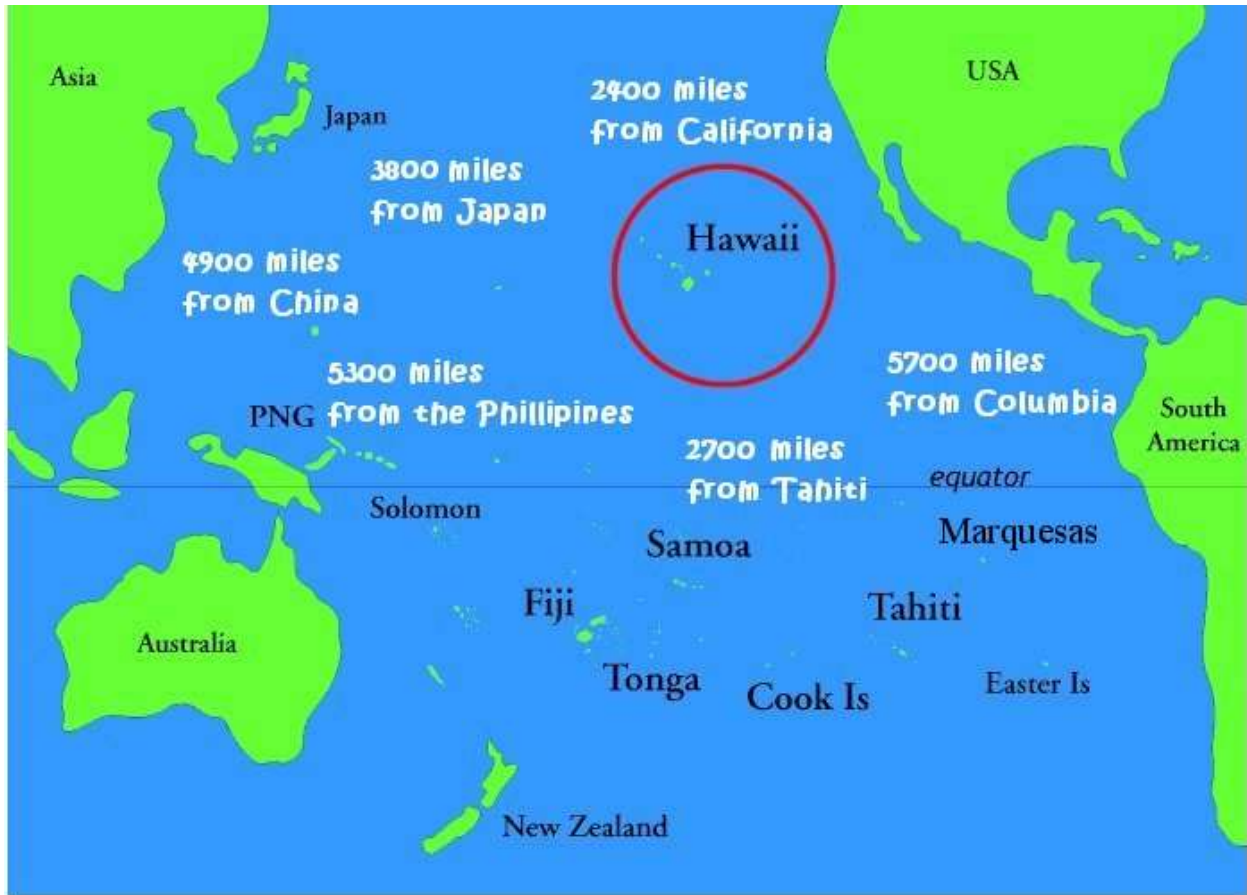
At the same time, the Hawaiian demand for American goods was rapidly increasing, owing to the improved standards of living. The central location of the Hawaiian Islands brought many traders, and then whalers, to the Islands.

“And so for forty years Hawaiians wanted everything on every ship that came. And they could get it; it was pretty easy to get. Two pigs and ... a place to live, you could trade for almost anything.” (Puakea Nogelmeier)

Centuries of experience taught Great Britain that having fortified stations all over the world is the only way to protect her commerce in peace or in war.

Other foreign nations were not slow to grasp this idea. France, Germany, Holland, Spain and Russia are second only to Great Britain in the possession of such stations. (Harman)

Hawai‘i is the strategic point of control for the whole northern Pacific.



(Image from The Maui Real Estate Blog)

Any foreign power occupying Hawai'i would have an impregnable base from which to strike at any part of the Pacific coast and destroy the Pacific commerce. Not only this, but Hawai'i is the only base in the Pacific from which this could be successfully done.

Great Britain's ships are never more than 2,500 miles from a base of supplies and repair, where, protected by immense land batteries and modern facilities for harbor defense, they can find havens of safety and refuge. (Harman)

England sought in every possible way to establish commercial and social supremacy in the Hawaiian Islands. (Harman)

This has led to, "The maritime power that holds Pearl River Harbor and moors her fleet there holds the key to the North Pacific."

"For no trade could prosper or even exist, while a hostile power, possessing a powerful and active marine, should send out its cruisers to prey upon commerce; but once firmly established upon them (the Hawaiian Islands), it might put to defiance any means of attack which could be brought to bear upon them." (Harman)

The British, Russians, French, Americans and others were all interested in Hawai'i. At various times, different countries took or demonstrated 'control' of Hawai'i.

Here are just a few examples:

### **Russia - Fort in Honolulu - 1815**

On O'ahu, in 1815, Kamehameha I granted Russian representatives permission to build a storehouse near Honolulu Harbor. But, instead, directed by the German adventurer Georg Schaffer (1779-1836,) they began building a fort and raised the Russian flag.

They built their blockhouse near the harbor, against the ancient heiau of Pākākā and close to the King's complex. There are reports that the Russians used stones from Pākākā in building their facility.

When Kamehameha discovered the Russians were building a fort (rather than storehouses) and had raised the Russian flag, he sent several chiefs, along with John Young (his advisor,) to remove the Russians from O'ahu by force, if necessary.

The Russian personnel judiciously chose to sail for Kauai instead of risking bloodshed and built a couple forts there.

### **US - The Battle of Honolulu - 1826**

The first visit to the Hawaiian Islands by the US Navy was in 1826 when the warship USS Dolphin came into port in Honolulu. Commanding the ship was Lieutenant John Percival (aka "Mad Jack" Percival.).

Percival had been sent to the Pacific to bring the mutineers of a whaling ship to justice and to enforce the settlement of debts owed by Hawai'i's ruling chiefs to American sandalwood dealers. As the ship sailed into Honolulu Bay, these objectives were not uppermost on the minds of the crew, however. The men of the Dolphin, like mariners then, had expectations of female companionship while in port.

They arrived on January 16, 1826; after making inquiries in the village they learned that the chiefs had not only forbidden the women to swim out to the ships, but had restricted the sale of alcohol. His men were outraged. Percival attempted to persuade the Queen to release her women. Sailors attempted to form a coalition to "knock off the tabu."

A mob formed; they knocked out seventy of the windows at Kalanimōkū's house, then the mob went on to the home of Hiram Bingham, the leader of the missionaries. The incident was quickly christened "The Battle of Honolulu." Mad Jack's actions were later renounced by the United States and resulted in the sending of an envoy to King Kamehameha III.

### **French – Catholic Protests Resulting in the Edict of Toleration - 1839**

France, historically a Catholic nation, used its government representatives in Hawai'i to protest the mistreatment of Catholic Native Hawaiians. Captain Cyrille-Pierre Théodore Laplace, of the French Navy frigate "Artémise", sailed into Honolulu Harbor in 1839 to convince the Hawaiian leadership to get along with the Catholics - and the French.

King Kamehameha III feared a French attack on his kingdom and on June 17, 1839 issued the Edict of Toleration permitting religious freedom for Catholics in the same way as it had been granted to the Protestants.

The King also donated land where the first permanent Catholic Church would be constructed, the Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace; the Catholic mission was finally established on May 15, 1840 when the Vicar Apostolic of the Pacific arrived with three other priests - one of whom, Rev. Louis Maigret, had been refused a landing at Honolulu in 1837.

### **Belgian Company of Colonization - 1843**

The 'Belgian Contract,' signed in Brussels May 17, 1843, was a tripartite agreement between Kamehameha III (represented by Ha'alilio and William Richards), Ladd and Company, and the Belgian Company of Colonization.

Ladd and Company transferred all of their properties and rights in the Hawaiian islands to the Belgian Company of Colonization, and the latter company agreed to organize a subsidiary corporation, called the 'Royal Community of the Sandwich Islands.'

Its intent was "to develop as promptly as possible, the civilization and resources of the Sandwich Islands, by creating agricultural, manufacturing and commercial establishments, and by instituting commercial relations between these Islands and Belgium."

"Fortunately for the people of Hawai'i, this new South Sea scheme never went into operation."

### **Britain - Paulet Affair – 1843**

For about five months in 1843 the islands were under the rule of the British commission set up by Lord George Paulet. Queen Victoria, on learning these activities, immediately sent an envoy to the islands to restore sovereignty to its rightful rulers.

Pressed by demands which became more and more impossible, the King said, "Let them take the islands." (Smith) Before the deadline, the King acceded to the demands under protest, and appealed to the British Government for damages.

On February 25, the King acceded to his demands and noted, "In consequence of the difficulties in which we find ourselves involved, and our opinion of the impossibility of complying with the demands in the manner in which they are made ... "

"... we do hereby cede the group of islands known as the Hawaiian (or Sandwich) Islands, unto the Right Honorable Lord George Paulet ... the said cession being made with the reservation that it is subject to any arrangement that may have been entered into by the Representatives appointed by us to treat with the Government of Her Britannic Majesty..."

Finally, Admiral Richard Thomas arrived in the Islands on July 26, 1843 to restore the kingdom to Kamehameha III. Then, on July 31, 1843, Thomas declared the end of the Provisional Cession and recognizes Kamehameha III as King of the Hawaiian Islands.

## **French Invasion of Honolulu - 1849**

On August 12, 1849, French admiral Louis Tromelin arrived in Honolulu Harbor on the corvette Gassendi with the frigate La Poursuivante. Upon arrival, de Tromelin met with French Consul Dillon.

Dillon immediately initiated a systematic and irritating interference in the internal affairs of the Kingdom, arising largely out of personal hostility to RC Wyllie, minister of foreign affairs, picking flaws and making matters of extended diplomatic correspondence over circumstances of trifling importance.

This continued until the French Admiral Tromelin arrived, and after a conference with Dillon the celebrated “ten demands” were formulated and presented to the Hawaiian Government with the commanding request for immediate action.

Sensing disaster, King Kamehameha III issued orders: “Make no resistance if the French fire on the town, land under arms, or take possession of the Fort; but keep the flag flying ‘till the French take it down. ... Strict orders to all native inhabitants to offer no insult to any French officer, soldier or sailor, or afford them any pretext whatever for acts of violence.”

The marines broke the coastal guns, threw kegs of powder into the harbor and destroyed all the other weapons they found (mainly muskets and ammunition). They raided government buildings and general property in Honolulu, including destruction of furniture, calabashes and ornaments in the governor’s house. After these raids, the invasion force withdrew to the fort.

On the 30th, the admiral issued a proclamation, declaring that by way of “reprisal” the fort had been dismantled, and the king’s yacht, “Kamehameha III,” confiscated (and then sailed to Tahiti,) but that private property would be restored. He also declared the treaty of 1846 to be annulled, and replaced by the Laplace Convention of 1839. This last act, however, was promptly disavowed by the French Government.

## **US – Protectorate Proclamation – 1851**

The subject of annexation to the United States was for the first time seriously considered by the Hawaiian Government in 1851. (Alexander)

Through a Protectorate Proclamation (March 10, 1851,) King Kamehameha III “By and with the advice of our kuhina nui and counsellors of native chiefs ... hereby proclaim as our royal will and pleasure that all our islands and all our rights as sovereign over them are from the date hereto placed under the protection and safeguard of the United States of America ...”

“... until some arrangements can be made to place our said relations with France upon a footing compatible with my rights as an independent sovereign under the laws of nations and compatible with my treaty engagements with other foreign nations; or, if such arrangements be found impracticable, then is our wish and pleasure that the protection aforesaid under the United States of America be perpetual.”

On March 31, 1851, an appeal was made to the President of the US by Robert Crichton Wyllie, Hawai’i’s Minister of Foreign Relations and Luther Severance, Commissioner of the United States (and signed by King Kamehameha III and Keoni Ana (Kuhina Nui)).



That appeal noted, in part:

- “the King and chiefs remembering the events of 1839 and 1849, distrust France and fear her”
- “France has not kept her engagement with Great Britain and does not mean to treat this Kingdom as under the protection of international law”
- “The King ... believes that Great Britain is so fettered with France that she can afford him no certain hope of present relief”
- “the King, ... appealed in his helplessness to the Commissioner of the United States, and now solemnly appeals to the President”
- “the King would prefer that this Kingdom be received as an Independent State, under protection merely from foreign aggression”
- “If that cannot be done, rather than continue to be the victim of foreign aggression, the mere shadow of a king without the power, but with responsibilities measured out by the arbitrary rule of the strong, We will resign the Sovereignty of these Islands into the hands of the United States”

On June 21, 1851, a Joint Resolution by the Nobles and Representatives of the Hawaiian Islands in Legislative Council Assembled, resolved that “if France should persist ... it will be the duty of the King to shield himself and his kingdom from insult, and oppression by placing this kingdom under the protection of some friendly state ...”

“ ... and that should such emergency be so urgent as not to admit of the legislative council being convened, it shall be left to His Majesty, by and with the advice of his privy council, under such emergency, to consult the honor and safety of his Kingdom according to His Majesty's best judgment; and that whatever he may do, will be binding upon the nation. Passed both houses of the Legislature, June 21, 1851.”

#### **US - Attempt at Annexation - 1854**

“President Pierce appointed David L. Gregg of Illinois as American Commissioner in Hawaii ... Gregg had become very popular with the Hawaiian court and the native chiefs and nobles. The annexation of the Islands was soon projected. ... The negotiations for annexation to the United States began in the summer of 1854, at Honolulu.”

“The project was vehemently opposed by the English residents who were formidable in numbers and influence, and by nearly all the American merchants and others interested in whaling.”

“Commissioner Gregg vigorously prosecuted his efforts for annexation. He called to his aid several of the native chiefs, John Young, Minister Wyllie, Chief Justice Lee, Mr. Judd, formerly a missionary and Minister of Finance of the Kingdom - the most potential resident of the Islands – and several of the nobles and representatives.”

“The old King (Kamehameha III) was disposed to annexation, but declined to consent to it unless his own appointed successor, Prince Alexander, assented.”

The Annexation Treaty was never finalized, “The signatures were yet wanting; His Majesty more determined and impatient than ever, when he was taken suddenly ill, and died in three weeks (December 15, 1854.)” (Judd)

## **US – Annexation - 1898**

On January 18, 1893 (and later,) letters acknowledging (de facto) the Provisional Government of Hawai'i were prepared by foreign government representatives.

Following the subsequent constitutional convention, a number of letters of formal diplomatic recognition (de jure) of the Republic of Hawai'i were conveyed to the Republic of Hawai'i President Sanford Dole. The Hawaiian resolution for ratification of the annexation treaty was unanimously adopted by the Senate of the Republic of Hawai'i on September 9, 1897.

On June 15, 1898, the Newlands resolution passed the House by a vote of 209 to 91; the vote on the Newlands Resolution in the Senate was 42 to 21 (2/3 of the votes by Senators were in favor of the resolution, a significantly greater margin was cast by Representatives in the House.)

On August 12, 1898, there were ceremonial functions held in Honolulu at which the Hawaiian government was formally notified by the US minister plenipotentiary and envoy extraordinary of the adoption and approval of the joint resolution aforesaid, and at which the Hawaiian government made, an unequivocal transfer and cession of its sovereignty and property.

### **Hawaiian Kingdom Request for American and British Troops to Land in the Islands**

At the time of the overthrow, the Committee of Public Safety felt “the public safety is menaced and lives and property are in peril, and we appeal to you and the United States forces at your command for assistance.”

“(A) small force of marines and sailors was landed from the United States ship Boston, as a precautionary step for the protection of American life and property, and as a safeguard against night incendiarism stimulated by the hope of plunder, greatly feared by many of the best citizens.” (Stevens, The North American Review, December 1893)

That wasn't the only time American Troops landed to keep the peace and/or restore order. It happened a couple of times, and ... it was requested by the Monarchy.

### **Election Riot of 1874**

On February 12, 1874, nine days after the death of King Lunalilo, an election was held between the repeat candidate David Kalākaua and Queen Emma, widow of King Kamehameha IV.

The election was held by the members of the legislature, not the public. The election was held in a special session of the Legislature at the old Courthouse on Queen Street (it was almost the last official action to take place in the courthouse.) When the vote was tallied, Kalākaua won by a count of 39 - 6.

Emma's supporters (referred to as the “Queenites,” “Emmaites” or the “Queen Emma party”) were unhappy with the decision - an angry mob of about 100 of the Queen's followers gathered.

“The only alternative, in this emergency, was to seek aid from the war vessels in port. About half-past 4 pm, a written request was sent by Charles R Bishop (the Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Hawaiian Kingdom,) on behalf of the Government, to the American Minister Resident, for a detachment to be



landed from the US ships Tuscarora and Portsmouth, lying in the harbor. And a similar request was transmitted to the British Consul General.” (Hawaiian Gazette – March 4, 1874)

The request stated, “Sir: A riotous mob having unexpectedly made a violent attack upon the Court House and the Members of the Legislature which we have not the force at hand to resist, I have to request that you will cause to be furnished at the earliest moment possible aid from the US ships "Tuscarora" and "Portsmouth" to the Police, in quelling the riot and temporarily protecting life and property. Your obedient servant, Chas. R. Bishop” (Hawaiian Gazette – March 4, 1874)

A force of 150 American marines and sailors under Lieutenant Commander Theodore F. Jewell were put ashore along with another seventy to eighty Britons under a Captain Bay from the sloop HMS Tenedos.

“The British marines were marched to the residence of Queen Emma, and, after dispersing the rioters assembled there, they occupied the barracks and guarded the palace itself.” (Lili’uokalani)

### **The Wilcox Rebellion - 1889**

Americans landed another time. “On the 30th of July, 1889, an insurrection was set on foot by Robert W. Wilcox and Robert Boyd (to overthrow the present Government of Hawaii and depose the King) on the afternoon of the same day, together with their adherents, about 100 in number, were defeated. The ringleader, with about 60 of his followers, was imprisoned.”

“About 6 o'clock am a message from the King informed me that an armed party, led by Mr. Wilcox, was in possession of the palace grounds, and soon thereafter it was learned that insurgents were in charge of the building containing the Government offices.”

“As soon as possible I had communication with Commander Woodward of the USS Adams, and at once all necessary preparations were made to land a force, if found necessary for protection of the people and property interests.” (Merrill, American Legation; Blount Report)

“About 70 sailors and marines from the USS Adams, then in the harbor, were landed by permission with a machine gun to protect life and property at the legation and in the city, and their appearance on the streets had a favorable effect on the populace.”

“The members of the cabinet and many prominent residents expressed much commendation of the prompt landing of the men, and remarked upon the very salutary effect their presence seemed to have among the people on the streets.” Merrill, American Legation, Blount Report)

“Remaining over night, quartered at the armory, they returned on board the next morning when tranquility was restored.” (Blount Report)

### **US – Statehood – 1959**

The Hawai’i Admission Act was signed into law on March 18, 1959; Hawai’i became the 50th State on August 21, 1959.

While Hawai'i was the 50<sup>th</sup> State to be admitted into the union on August 21, 1959, Statehood is celebrated annually on the third Friday in August to commemorate the anniversary of the 1959 admission of Hawai'i into the US.

There was a 93.6% voter turnout for the General election – The statehood vote was near unanimous: 'Shall Hawaii immediately be admitted into the Union as a State?' Yes - 132,773 (94.3%); No - 7,971 (5.7%)

Contrary to comments by some, the Crown and Government lands were not 'stolen' from the people with Territorial status, Statehood or any other change in governance. Those lands have been consistently recognized as part of the public domain/government property, as decided by the Hawai'i Supreme Court.

### **'Recognition' of Various Hawai'i Governance Structures**

(Note the subsequent recognition of Hawai'i's later governance structures (Provisional Government and Republic) by the same countries who had earlier treaties, recognitions and agreements with the Kingdom of Hawai'i.)

- **The Hawaiian Kingdom became recognized through statements and treaties with:**
  - Austria-Hungary (June 18, 1875), now Austria and Hungary; Belgium (October 4, 1862); Bremen (March 27, 1854) now Germany; Denmark (Oct. 19, 1846); France (September 8, 1858); French Tahiti (November 24, 1853); Germany (March 25, 1879); Great Britain (March 26, 1846); Great Britain's New South Wales (March 10, 1874), now Australia; Hamburg (January 8, 1848), now Germany; Italy (July 22, 1863); Japan (Aug. 19, 1871, January 28, 1886); Netherlands (October 16, 1862); Portugal (May 5, 1882); Russia (June 19, 1869); Samoa (March 20, 1887); Spain (October 9, 1863); Sweden and Norway (April 5, 1855), now separate States; Switzerland (July 20, 1864); and the United States of America (December 20, 1849.) (Sai)
- **The Provisional Government de facto recognition:**
  - John L Stevens, for the US Legation, acknowledged the Provisional Government on January 17, 1893.
  - On January 18, 1893, the Imperial German Consulate, Austro-Hungarian Consulate, Consul for Italy, Russian acting consul, Vice-Consul for Spain, Consulate of The Netherlands, Royal Danish Consulate, Consulate of Belgium, Consul for Mexico, Consulate of Chile, Office of the Peruvian Consulate, Consul-General and Charge d'Affaires of Portugal, Consulate and Commissariat of France and Chinese Commercial Agency wrote letters acknowledging (de facto) the Provisional Government.
  - On January 19, 1893, the British Legation and His Imperial Japanese Majesty's Consulate gave recognition.
- **The Republic of Hawai'i de jure (formal diplomatic) recognition:**
  - With respect to transformation of the State status in Hawai'i, the Provisional Government of Hawai'i then established voter eligibility, convened a constitutional convention, approved a new constitution and the Republic of Hawai'i was established on July 4, 1894.

- Shortly after (from August 1894 through January 1895), a number of letters of formal diplomatic recognition (de jure) of the Republic of Hawai'i were conveyed to the Republic of Hawai'i President Sanford Dole.
  - These included formal letters from Austria/Hungary, Belgium, Brazil, Britain, Chile, China, France, Germany/Prussia, Guatemala, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, Peru, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Switzerland and the United States. (These were countries that had prior agreements and treaties with the Hawaiian Monarchy.)
  - An August 7, 1894 letter notes US President Grover Cleveland wrote to Republic of Hawai'i President Sanford B Dole, saying "... I cordially reciprocate the sentiments you express for the continuance of the friendly relations which have existed between the United States and the Hawaiian islands".
  - In his annual 'Message to Congress' (1895,) President Cleveland noted, "Since communicating the voluminous correspondence in regard to Hawai'i and the action taken by the Senate and House of Representatives on certain questions submitted to the judgment and wider discretion of Congress the organization of a government in place of the provisional arrangement which followed the deposition of the Queen has been announced, with evidence of its effective operation. The recognition usual in such cases has been accorded the new Government."

In an effort to provide a brief, informal background summary of various people, places and events related to the Hawai'i, I made this informal compilation from a variety of sources. This is not intended to be a technical reference document, nor an exhaustive review of the subject. Rather, it is an assemblage of information and images from various sources on basic background information. For ease in informal reading, in many cases, specific quotations and citations and attributions are often not included – however, sources are noted in the summary. The images and text are from various sources and are presented for personal, noncommercial and/or educational purposes.

Thanks, Peter T. Young