

Mission Stations

The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM), based in Boston, was founded in 1810, the first organized missionary society in the US.

One hundred years later, the Board was responsible for 102-mission stations and a missionary staff of 600 in India, Ceylon, West Central Africa (Angola), South Africa and Rhodesia, Turkey, China, Japan, Micronesia, Hawai'i, the Philippines, North American native American tribes, and the "Papal lands" of Mexico, Spain and Austria.

On October 23, 1819, the Pioneer Company of ABCFM missionaries set sail on the Thaddeus to establish the Sandwich Islands Mission (now known as Hawai'i). Over the course of a little over 40-years (1820-1863 - the "Missionary Period"), about 180-men and women in twelve Companies served in Hawai'i to carry out the mission of the ABCFM in the Hawaiian Islands.

One of the earliest efforts of the missionaries, who arrived in 1820, was the identification and selection of important communities (generally near ports and ali'i residences) as "Stations" for the regional church and school centers across the Hawaiian Islands.

As an example, in June 1823, William Ellis joined American Missionaries Asa Thurston, Artemas Bishop and Joseph Goodrich on a tour of the island of Hawai'i to investigate suitable sites for mission stations. On O'ahu, locations at Honolulu (Kawaiaha'o), Kāne'ohe, Waialua, Wai'anae and 'Ewa served as the bases for outreach work on the island.

By 1850, eighteen mission stations had been established; six on Hawai'i, four on Maui, four on O'ahu, three on Kauai and one on Molokai.

Meeting houses were constructed at the stations, as well as throughout the district. Initially constructed as the traditional Hawaiian thatched structures; they were later made of wood or stone.

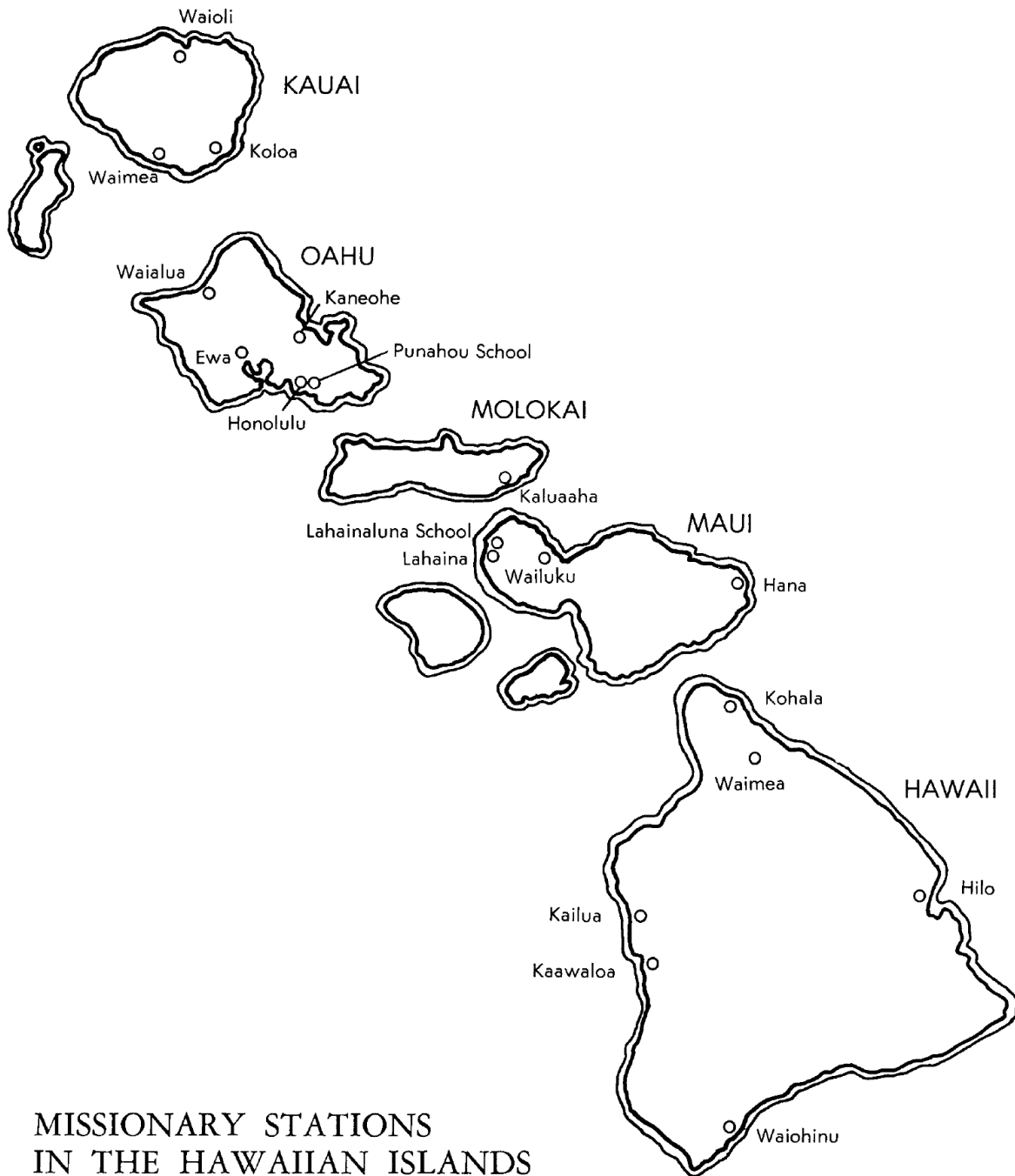
One of the first things the first missionaries did was begin to learn the Hawaiian language and create an alphabet for a written format of the language.

Their emphasis was on preaching and teaching.

Interestingly, as the early missionaries learned the Hawaiian language, they then taught their lessons in the mission schools in Hawaiian, rather than English. In part, the mission did not want to create a separate caste and portion of the community as English-speaking Hawaiians.

The missionaries established schools associated with their mission stations across the Islands. This marked the beginning of Hawai'i's phenomenal rise to literacy. The chiefs became proponents for education and edicts were enacted by the King and the council of Chiefs to stimulate the people to reading and writing.

The instruction of students in schools (initially, most of whom were adults), in reading, writing and other skills initially fell to the missionaries. The schools generally served as both native churches and meeting houses, and were established in most populated ahupua'a around the islands; native teachers and lay-ministers were appointed to oversee their daily activities.



Mission Stations – Year of Establishment – Missionaries (based on first arrival at Station)

The following listing of Mission Stations begins at the north-west end of the group, and gives some characteristics of each place, at the time – including present church in area of initial Station. Names of missionaries listed are approximately in order of their first arrival at the station (based on lists in the American Board annual reports, minutes of the General Meetings and manuscript letters in the Hawaiian Mission Children's Society. (Information from the Missionary Album.))

Kauai **Waimea**, SW capital city, at mouth of Waimea river; warm, dry & sheltered from the trade wind
Established 1820 – Waimea United Church of Christ

Samuel Whitney	Maria Ogden
Samuel Ruggles	Maria K Whitney
Artemas Bishop	George B Rowell
Peter J Gulick	

Kōloa, SE waterbrooks; trade wind; soil, rocky but fertile

Established 1834 – Kōloa Union Church

Peter J Gulick	James W Smith
Thomas Lafon	John F Pogue
Reuben Tinker	Daniel Dole
Marcia Smith	

Waioli, N on Waioli river and Hanalei bay; abundant rains; perennially verdant

Established 1834 - Wai'oli Hui'ia Church

William P Alexander	George B Rowell
Edward Johnson	Abner Wilcox

O'ahu **Honolulu**, S capital city and commercial center; trade wind; dry at shore

Established 1820 – Kawaiaha'o Church

Hiram Bingham	Edwin O Hall
Elisha Loomis	Lowell Smith
Daniel Chamberlain	Samuel N Castle
Asa Thurston	Amos S Cooke
Abraham Blatchely	Horton O Knapp
Levi Chamberlain	Richard Armstrong
Joseph Goodrich	Peter J Gulick
Ephraim W Clark	Samuel C Damon
Gerrit P Judd	William H Rice
Stephen Shepard	Timothy D Hunt
Mary Ward	Townsend E Taylor
Reuben Tinker	Artemas Bishop
Andrew Johnstone	Henry H Parker
Edmund Rogers	John F Pogue
Lemuel Fuller	Anderson O Forbes
John Diell	Oliver P Emerson
Henry Dimond	John Leadingham

O'ahu **Waialua**, NW at mouth of river; the port of a large grazing and farming district
 Established 1832 – Lili'uokalani Protestant Church
 John S. Emerson Asa B Smith
 Ephraim W Clark Abner Wilcox
 Edwin Locke Peter J Gulick
 George B Rowell

'Ewa, C 12 miles from Honolulu; a dry district but rich in food
 Established 1834 – 'Ewa Community Church
 Lowell Smith William S Van Duzee
 Artemas Bishop

Kāne'ohe, NE well-watered & rich; 10 miles from Honolulu, separated by the barrier of the Pali
 Established 1834 – Kāne'ohe Congregational Church
 Benjamin W Parker Marcia M Smith

Punahou, Site of boarding school for missionaries' children, 2 miles E of Honolulu
 Established 1841 – O'ahu College (Punahou School)
 Daniel Dole William H Rice
 Marcia Smith Maria Ogden

Molokai **Kalua'aha**, SE strong trade winds; no running water
 Established 1832 - Kalua'aha Congregational Church
 Harvey R Hitchcock Lydia Brown
 Richard Armstrong Peter J Gulick
 Lowell Smith Claudius B Andrews
 Elizabeth Hitchcock Samuel G Dwight
 Bethuel Munn Anderson O Forbes

Maui **Lāhainā**, W capital city, 88 miles from Honolulu; sheltered & warm; water brooks, dry district
 Established 1823 - Wai'ola Church (Waine'e)
 William Richards Mary Ward
 Charles S Stewart Ephraim W Spaulding
 Betsey Stockton Alonzo Chapin
 Lorrin Andrews Dwight Baldwin
 Maria Patton Charles McDonald
 Maria Ogden Cochran Forbes
 Jonathan Green Townsend E Taylor
 Reuben Tinker Sereno E Bishop
 Stephen Shepard

Lahainaluna, site of Boys' High School and Seminary; 2 miles E of Lahaina
 Established 1831 – Lahainaluna High School
 Lorrin Andrews John S Emerson
 Mary Ward William P Alexander
 Ephraim W Clark Timothy D Hunt
 Edmund H Rogers Claudius B Andrews
 Sheldon Dibble John F Pogue
 Lucia G Smith Henry H Parker
 Horton O Knapp Sereno E Bishop
 Edward Bailey Anderson O Forbes

Maui

Wailuku, C. trade wind; abundant water; a rich food district

Established 1832 – Ka’ahumanu Church

Jonathan S Green

Reuben Tinker

Richard Armstrong

Lydia Brown

Maria Ogden

Edward Bailey

Ephraim W Clark

Daniel T Conde

William P Alexander

John F Pogue

Hāna, E an isolated district: strong trade winds; rainy

Established 1837 - Wānanalua Congregational Church

Daniel T Conde

Mark Ives

William H Rice

Eliphalet W Whittlesey

William O Baldwin

Sereno E Bishop

Hawai'i

Kailua, W. capital city : sheltered, warm, rocky, dry ; having good fishing privileges ; rich upland

Established 1820 – Mokuaikaia Church

Asa Thurston

Thomas Holman

Artemas Bishop

James Ely

Delia Stone

Seth L Andrews

Ka’awaloa, W the scene of Capt Cook's death; 12 miles S of Kailua, with the same characteristics

Established 1824 – Kahikolu Congregational Church

James Ely

Samuel Ruggles

Cochran Forbes

William S Van Duzee

Mark Ives

John F Pogue

John D Paris

Hilo, E the center of a well-watered and fertile district of great extent

Established 1824 – Haili Congregational Church

Joseph Goodrich

Samuel Ruggles

Sheldon Dibble

Jonathan S Green

David B Lyman

Titus Coan

Abner Wilcox

Charles H Wetmore

Waimea, C 12 miles from the sea and 2600 ft. above it; having a breezy and bracing climate

Established 1832 – ‘Imiola Congregational Church

Dwight Baldwin

Lorenzo Lyons

Horton O Knapp

Kohala, N. 7 miles from NW point of the island; trade wind and abundant water

Established 1837 - Kālahikiola Congregational Church

Edward Bailey

Isaac Bliss

Elias Bond

Waiohinu, S possesses the only living stream of the SW half of the island

Established 1841 - Kauaha’ao Congregational Church

John D Paris

Timothy D Hunt

Henry Kinney

William C Shipman

Orramel H Gulick

John F Pogue

Engravings of Some of the Hawai'i Mission Stations



Na Mamona i Kaha.

VIEW of WAIMEA HAWAII

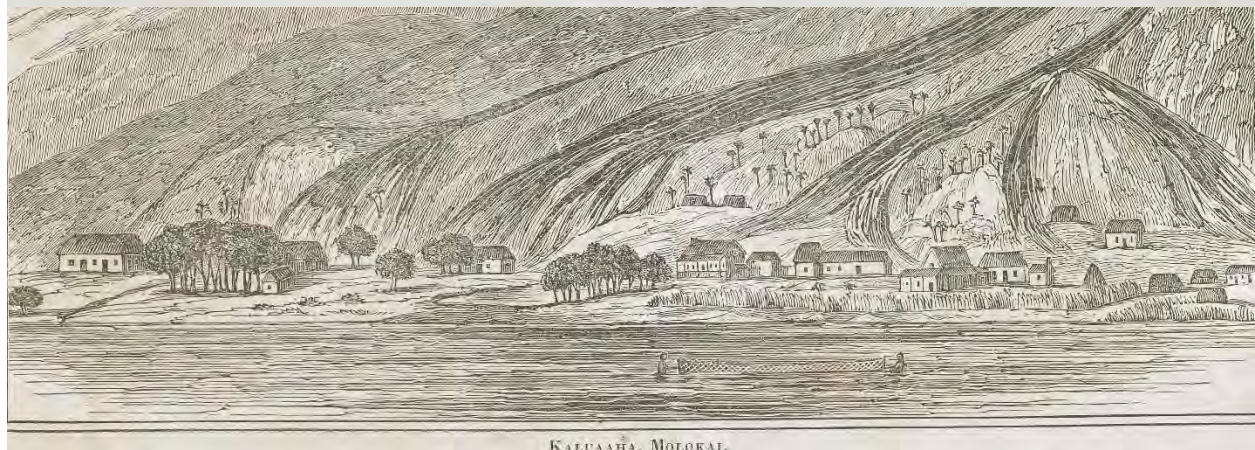
Na Baile i Kaha.



Na Baile i Kaha.

HILO, O. HAWAII.

Na Baile i Kaha.



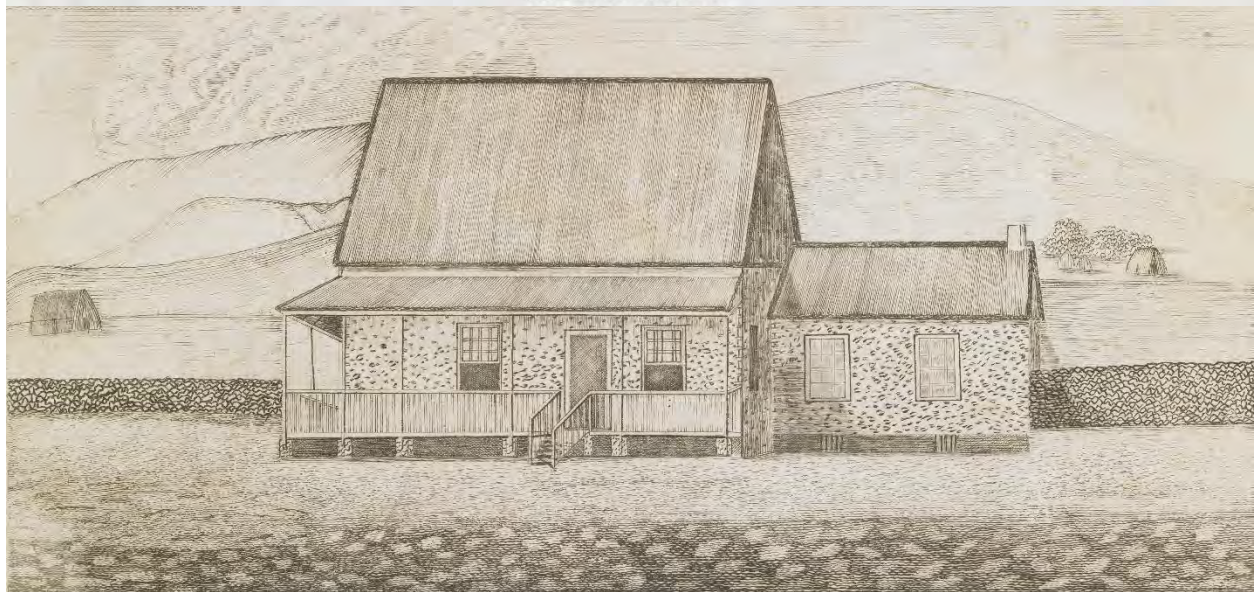
KALUAHA, MOLOKAI.



MEETINGHOUSE AND SCHOOL HOUSE AT KANEHOHE M. Bailey : Isakau



LAHIA LAHIA



Hana, Maui

A Day in the Life

“June 29th. A busy day. - - - -”

In part, the sole entry for that day in Sybil Bingham’s journal (1820) helps to describe what life was like for the families of the early missionaries in Hawai‘i.

The Prudential Committee of the ABCFM in giving instructions to the pioneers of 1819 said: “Your mission is a mission of mercy, and your work is to be wholly a labor of love. ... Your views are not to be limited to a low, narrow scale, but you are to open your hearts wide, and set your marks high. You are to aim at nothing short of covering these islands with fruitful fields, and pleasant dwellings and schools and churches, and of Christian civilization.” (The Friend)

One of the first things the missionaries did was to learn the Hawaiian language and create an alphabet for a written format of the language. Their emphasis was on teaching and preaching.

The missionaries were scattered across the Islands, each home was usually in a thickly inhabited village, so that the missionary and his wife could be close to their work among the people.

In the early years, they lived in the traditional thatched houses – “our little cottage built chiefly of poles, dried grass and mats, being so peculiarly exposed to fire ... consisting only of one room with a little partition and one door.” (Sybil Bingham) The thatched cottages were raised upon a low stone platform. Later, they lived in wood, stone or adobe homes.

The missionaries did not bring much furniture with them (and there were no stores or lumber yards), so boxes in which their goods had been packed coming to the Islands served as tables and chairs.

However, “To-day I have been presented with what I may call an elegant chair My husband, I believe, was never a chair-maker before, but happy for me and the Mission family that he is every thing.” (Sybil Bingham, June 22, 1820)

(When the Bingham's left the Islands in 1840, they took the chair with them; Sybil refused to part with it. Her wish was that when the last summons came she might be found in that chair, and her wish was granted when she died in 1848. (Bingham Journal))

The missionary family’s day began at 4 am (... it continued into the night, with no breaks).

The mission children were up then, too; in the early morning, the parents taught their children. “We had one tin whale-oil lamp between us, with a single wick.... Soon after five we had breakfast.” (Bishop)

By 9 am, after accomplishing all domestic duties and schooling of the children, the wives would begin the instruction of the Hawaiian children – and taught them for six solid hours, occasionally running into the house to see that all was straight.

“Very soon I gathered up 12 or 15 little native girls to come once a day to the house so that as early as possible the business of instruction might be commenced. That was an interesting day to me to lay the foundation of the first school ever assembled”. (Sybil Bingham)

These early missionaries taught their lessons in Hawaiian, rather than English. In part, the mission did not want to create a separate caste and portion of the community as English-speaking Hawaiians. (In later years, the instruction, ultimately, was in English.)

“It has been a busy day - have done fitting work, of gowns, for two or three native women, - attending to the reading of others, - instructing our school children, entertaining Mr Allen, and his little Peggy who has been with us through the day, writing a little, etc., etc. The days glide smoothly with us inwardly.” (Sybil Bingham)

“During the period from infancy to the age of ten or twelve years, children in the almost isolated family of a missionary could be well provided for and instructed in the rudiments of education without a regular school ... But after that period, difficulties in most cases multiplied.” (Hiram Bingham)

“Owing to the then lack of advanced schools in Hawaii, the earlier mission children were all ‘sent home’ around Cape Horn, to ‘be educated.’ This was the darkest day in the life history of the mission child.”

“Peculiarly dependent upon the family life, at the age of eight to twelve years, they were suddenly torn from the only intimates they had ever known, and banished, lonely and homesick, to a mythical country on the other side of the world ...”

“... where they could receive letters but once or twice a year; where they must remain isolated from friends and relatives for years and from which they might never return.” (Bishop)

Missionaries were torn between preaching the gospel and teaching their kids. “(M)ission parents were busy translating, preaching and teaching. Usually parents only had a couple of hours each day to spare with their children.” (Schultz)

Very prominent in the old mission life was the annual “General Meeting” where all of the missionaries from across the Islands gathered at Honolulu from four to six weeks.

“Often some forty or more of the missionaries besides their wives were present, as well as many of the older children. ... Much business was transacted relating to the multifarious work and business of the Mission. New missionaries were to be located, and older ones transferred.” (Bishop)

‘Missionary Period’

Over the course of a little over 40-years (1820-1863 - the “Missionary Period”), about 180-men and women in twelve Companies served in Hawai‘i to carry out the mission of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) in the Hawaiian Islands.

Collaboration between Native Hawaiians and American Protestant missionaries resulted in, among other things, the

- Introduction of Christianity;
- Development of a written Hawaiian language and establishment of schools that resulted in widespread literacy;
- Promulgation of the concept of constitutional government;
- Combination of Hawaiian with Western medicine; and
- Evolution of a new and distinctive musical tradition (with harmony and choral singing)