

HAWAII

HISTORY

Hawaii was a kingdom before it was a state. Polynesian sailors, Hawaiian kings and queens, whalers, missionaries and plantation workers all helped build it.



Voyagers from the South

The first people in Hawaii were **Polynesian** sailors from islands far to the south. They came about a thousand years ago in big canoes. They brought taro, sweet potatoes, coconuts, pigs and dogs. They built stone walls along the shore to make fish ponds. Each island had its own chiefs, and the chiefs often fought for land.



Sugar and Pineapple

In 1835 a sugar **plantation** opened at Koloa on Kauai. More plantations grew into huge fields of sugarcane. Owners brought in workers from China, Japan, Portugal, Korea and the Philippines. Many stayed, so Hawaii's people come from many lands. In 1901 James Dole began growing pineapples on Oahu. Later his company turned Lanai into one big pineapple farm.

One Kingdom

Captain James Cook of Britain reached the islands in 1778. Ships from Europe and America soon stopped to trade. Kamehameha, a chief from the Big Island, used ships, guns and British helpers to win his wars. In 1795 he won a great battle on Oahu. In 1810 the king of Kauai agreed to join him, and all the islands formed one **kingdom**. Kamehameha ruled until he died in 1819, and two of his sons ruled after him.



Queen, Republic, Territory

King Kalākaua ruled from 1874 to 1891. His sister, Queen Lili'uokalani, ruled next. In 1893 a group of business leaders, most of them American, removed the queen from power while U.S. Marines were ashore in Honolulu. In 1898 the U.S. Congress voted to **annex** Hawaii, or add it to the country. In 1900 Hawaii became a U.S. territory.

Whalers and Missionaries

In 1820 missionaries arrived from New England. They worked with Hawaiians to write the Hawaiian language in letters. Soon many Hawaiians could read, and schools and churches opened across the islands. Whaling ships came too, and many Hawaiian men joined their crews. Lahaina on Maui and Honolulu became busy ports where sailors bought food and fixed their ships. Honolulu became the capital in 1845.



War, Statehood and Visitors

On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked the Navy base at Pearl Harbor, and the United States entered World War II. Many Japanese American men from Hawaii fought for the United States in that war. On August 21, 1959, Hawaii became the 50th state. Jet planes soon brought visitors by the millions. Native Hawaiians live in the state today, and Hawaiian is an official state language.

HAWAII THROUGH TIME



PEOPLE TO KNOW

Kamehameha I	Joined the islands into one kingdom.
Lili'uokalani	Last queen. Wrote the song Aloha 'Oe.
Bernice Pauahi Bishop	Princess whose will started Kamehameha Schools.
Father Damien	Cared for leprosy patients at Kalaupapa.
Duke Kahanamoku	Olympic swimmer who spread surfing.

WORDS TO KNOW

Polynesian	from the islands of the middle and south Pacific
kingdom	a country ruled by a king or queen
plantation	a very large farm with many workers
annex	to add a land to a country