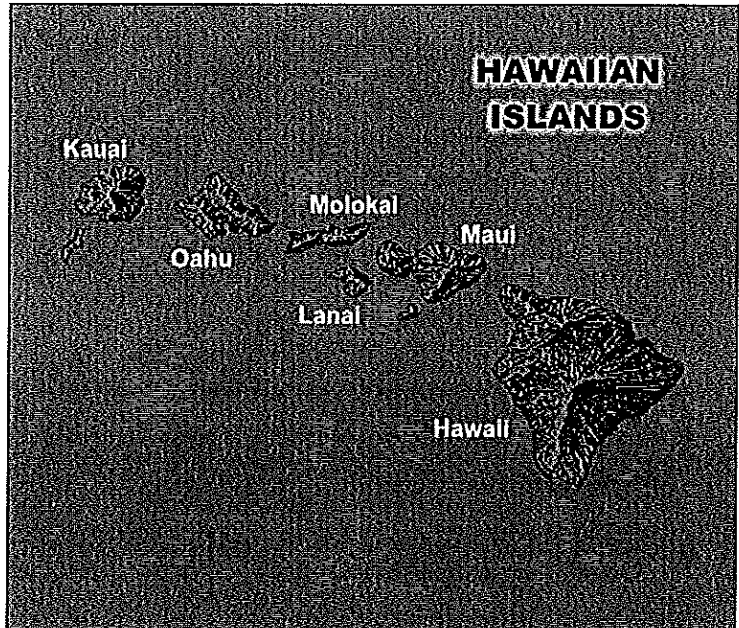


A Brief History of Hawaii

First settled by Polynesians sailing from other Pacific islands between A.D. 300 and 600, Hawaii was first visited by westerners in 1778. British captain James Cook, called the group of islands in the middle of the Pacific Sandwich Islands.

The Kingdom of Hawaii was long an independent *monarchy* in the mid-Pacific Ocean. During the 19th century, the first American missionaries visited the islands hoping to spread Christianity. Soon American businesses began showing interest in the Hawaiian Islands. Most notable were the powerful fruit and sugarcane corporations who began to play major roles in the island's politics.



In January 1893, a group of American and European businessmen organized and carried out a *coup d'état* backed by the United States military which was successful in deposing Hawaiian Queen Lili'uokalani and overthrowing the monarchical system of government. The stated goal of the conspirators was annexation to the United States, both for geopolitical and economic reasons. American business instituted a *provisional government* and maintained political control calling the islands the *Republic of Hawaii* until 1898 when, the president of Hawaii, Sanford Dole (who had been appointed by the US) was offered and agreed to full annexation by the United States.

The United States used the principal of *Manifest Destiny* to justify their ultimate takeover of the Hawaiian Islands. With control of the islands, the US had access to valuable agricultural resources (sugarcane and fruit), a re-fueling stop for its boats that were traveling across the Pacific and a soon to be strategic military base that would become known as Pearl Harbor.

The Hawaiian Islands officially became a territory of the U.S. in 1900. Following voter approval of the Admission of Hawaii Act, on August 21, 1959 the Territory of Hawaii became the state of Hawaii and the 50th state of the United States.

Glossary of terms

Monarchy- A form of government in which all political power is passed down to an individual (usually passed down through heredity/family)

Coup d'état-Is a sudden overthrow of a government

Provisional Government- Is an emergency or interim government set up when a political void has been created by the collapse of a previous leadership. A provisional government holds power until elections can be held or a permanent government can be established.

Manifest Destiny: 19th century American belief that it was the United States' right and destiny to expand from one sea to the other.