

IMPROVE EDUCATION
 PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT
 ADDRESS INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES
 ADOPT SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC STRATEGIES
 MEET HUMAN NEEDS & PRESERVE LOCAL CULTURE

FOCUS OUR
 MAUI ISLANDS
 NUI OUR FUTURE

Own it!

First Contact



When Captain James Cook sailed the HMS Resolution from Portsmouth, England in July, 1776, he carried a letter of safe passage signed by Benjamin Franklin. This letter was to protect Cook's scientific mission from possible involvement in the hostilities existing between England and the newly-declared independent United States. The principle purpose of this 3rd voyage to the Pacific was to discover the famed Northwest Passage. From Tahiti Cook set a roughly diagonal course south-east to northwest across the Pacific, and in 1778 chanced upon the Hawaiian Islands — becoming the first European to visit the islands.



Cook named the archipelago the *Sandwich Islands*. What Cook could not know was that the major contenders for influence over these islands would be England and the United States.

In 1851, U.S. Navy Admiral S.F. DuPont discussing the future defense needs of the nation stated:

... "It is impossible not to estimate too highly the value and importance of the Sandwich Islands. ...Should circumstances ever place them in our hands, they would prove the most important acquisition intimately connected with our commercial and naval supremacy in those seas. ...Those islands should never be permitted to pass into the possession of any European power." ...

By 1892, the United States had a formal policy objective of annexing Ha`waii, and in 1893 — 115 years after first contact — the reigning monarch of the Kingdom of Ha`waii, Queen Lili`uokalani, yielded authority of her government to the United States following diplomatic and military actions taken by U.S. officials.



Lowering of the Hawaiian Flag at Iolani Palace, 1893.

This
 "...discovery
 which, though
 last, seemed
 in many
 respects to
 be the most
 important
 made by
 Europeans
 throughout
 the Pacific
 area..."

~Captain James Cook
Voyage Journal



FOCUS MAUI NUI is a community-driven vision for the future of our islands, spearheaded by Maui Economic Development Board, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to the economic well-being of Maui County. VISIT www.focusmauinui.com or CALL 808.270.6801