

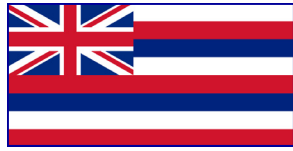
IMPROVE EDUCATION
 PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT
 ADDRESS INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES
 ADOPT SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC STRATEGIES
 MEET HUMAN NEEDS & PRESERVE LOCAL CULTURE

FOCUS OUR
 MAUI ISLANDS
 NUI OUR FUTURE

Own it!

The Story of Hawai'i's Flag

Before 1810 each of the populated Hawaiian Islands was ruled by its own King and the political and religious systems were



administered by *ali'i* and *kahuna* (chiefs and priests). Though there were conflicts between the various *ali'i* and kings from time to time, the people of the islands were not inclined toward long term war and life among the islands was relatively peaceful and practical.

In 1810 a young, ambitious *ali'i*, Kamehameha, managed to acquire a small schooner with a cannon. With the help of his cannon and various small arms brought to the islands by European travelers, he was able to take control of the island chain from Hawaii to Kauai.

He instituted systems of governance, commerce, and taxation, establishing his court on the island of Hawaii and appointing governors to control all of the other islands.

Kamehameha created a single sovereign nation that gained recognition as such by the major powers of the world. In 1816, Kamehameha the Great commissioned the Hawaiian Flag, the flag that has represented Hawaii the nation, Hawaii the people and Hawaii the state for over 180 years.

On that same day, Kamehameha III proclaimed "*Ua mau ke ea o ka `aina i ka pono.*" (The life [independence] of the land is perpetuated in righteousness.) And, two years later on May 20, 1845, Kamehameha III officially re-commissioned and dedicated the Hawaiian Flag at the opening of the Kingdom's Legislature.

The eight alternating white, red and blue stripes represent the eight islands of Hawaii. The British Union Jack represents Hawaii's historical relationship with Great Britain as its protectorate. It also represents a stylized *puela* (a triangular standard laying across two crossed spears called an *alia*) which is the symbol of the Hawaiian *ali'i*.



AFTER THE OVERTHROW: Hawaiian flag lowering at Iolani Palace, August 12, 1898

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The only U.S. state flag to have flown over a kingdom, a territory, a republic, and a state.



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