

Chronology of Government in the Hawaiian Islands

Government	Date	Events
Kingdom of Hawai'i Absolute Monarchy King Kamehameha I (1810-1819)	1795	With his victory at the Battle of Lele'anae, Nu'uaniu, Kamehameha (ca. 1758-d1819)—a junior chief of Hawai'i Island prophesized to become a great leader—unifies the islands of O'ahu, Hawai'i, Maui, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaho'olawe under his rule. Kamehameha is known as Ka Na'i Aupuni (Unifier of the Nation) and is often referred to as Kamehameha the Great.
	1810	Kamehameha consummates a peace accord with Kaumuali'i, the ruler of Kaua'i, Ni'ihau, and the other northwest islands that had not yet been brought under Kamehameha's rule.
	1819	Kamehameha dies at Kamakahonu, Kona, Hawai'i, proclaiming his son Liholiho as his heir.
Kingdom of Hawai'i Absolute Monarchy Liholiho, King Kamehameha II (1819-1824)	1819	Liholiho (ca.1797-d1824) assumes rule and participates in the 'Ainoa (Free Eating), an event that leads to the rapid breakdown of traditional religious practices and provides an opportunity for western religion to establish a foothold in the islands. Ka'ahumanu, Kamehameha's wife and a high-ranking chiefess in her own right, designates herself as Kahu Ali'i Nui (Royal Custodian) over the young King.
	1823	Liholiho designates his brother, Kauikeaouli, as his heir.
Kingdom of Hawai'i Constitutional Monarchy Kauikeaouli, King Kamehameha III (1825-1854)	1825	Kauikeaouli, son of Kamehameha I, (b1813-d1854), at the age of 11 ascends the throne, under the regency of Ka'ahumanu, wife of Kamehameha I.
	1825	Kaumuali'i dies at the royal fort of Pākākā, O'ahu. Kalanimoku, the kingdom's chief counselor and supreme war leader, travels to Kaua'i, where a battle ensues over land disputes. Kaua'i chiefs under Kaumuali'i's junior-ranking son, Humehume, resist Kalanimoku and are defeated.
	1840	1840 Constitution, King Kamehameha III enacts the Kingdom's first

		constitution. A Western-style governmental structure is adopted with a two-body legislative council consisting of a House of Nobles and a House of Representatives chosen by the people. A Western-style judicial system is also established with a supreme court.
	1845	A Board of Land Commissions is established to implement and oversee the transition of Hawai'i's land tenure into a private property system, which initially results in approximately one million acres allocated to the King, 1.5 million acres to the government, 1.6 million acres to the chiefs, and less than 30,000 acres (less than 1%) to the people. Initial land awards to the King, the government, and chiefs are made subject to the rights of the native tenants.
	1848	King Kamehameha III institutes the Māhele (division). The Māhele changes land tenure in Hawai'i by allowing private ownership of land. Lands traditionally controlled by the king and other ali'i (nobles) are divided. Maka'ainana (commoners) are provided an opportunity to claim their traditional family (kuleana) lands.
	1850	The Kuleana Act of 1850 allows maka'ainana (common citizens) to petition the King for land that they traditionally cultivated and lived on. The act requires a land survey and testimony.
	1850	The Kingdom of Hawai'i and the United States of America, with the desire to maintain good relations, enter into a Treaty of Friendship.
	1852	The Privy Council replaces the 1840 Constitution with the 1852 Constitution.
	Kingdom of Hawai'i Constitutional Monarchy Alexander Liholiho, Kamehameha IV (1855-1863)	1855
Kingdom of Hawai'i Constitutional Monarchy Lot Kapuāiwa, Kamehameha V (1863-1872)	1863	Prince Lot Kapuāiwa, brother of Alexander Liholiho, ascends the throne (b1830-d1872). King Kamehameha V refuses to take an oath to maintain the 1852 Constitution.
	1864	The kingdom is without a constitution, until Kamehameha V signs the Constitution of 1864 reasserting the monarch's powers.
	1872	King Kamehameha V dies without naming a successor to the throne. Article 22 of the Constitution directs the Legislative Assembly to elect an "ali'i of the kingdom" as successor.

Kingdom of Hawai'i Constitutional Monarchy William Lunalilo (1873-1874)	1873	In 1872, King Kamehameha V dies without naming a successor to the throne. Under the Kingdom's constitution, if the King did not appoint a successor, a new king would be appointed by the legislative council. Hawai'i's first elected King William Lunalilo reigns for one-year before his death (b1835-d1874).
Kingdom of Hawai'i Constitutional Monarchy David Kalakaua "Merrie Monarch" (1874-1891)	1874	David Kalākaua (b1836-d1891) is elected King over the Dowager Queen Emma.
	1875	1875 Reciprocity Treaty. The Treaty of reciprocity between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Hawai'i was a free trade agreement signed and ratified in 1875. The treaty gave free access to the United States market for sugar and other products grown in the Kingdom of Hawai'i. In return, the United States gained lands for what would become Pearl Harbor naval base. The treaty drew American investment in to sugar production in the Hawaiian Islands. Plantation style agriculture expanded. The treaty had impacts on land, water, and labor issues.
	1887	King Kalakaua forced by the Hawaiian League, appoints a new cabinet whose main task is to write a new more liberalized constitution. Under protest, King Kalakaua signs the 1887 Constitution, "Bayonet Constitution," which reduces the monarchy to ceremonial status, places the executive powers in the hands of the cabinet and makes a seat in the house of nobles an elected office.
Kingdom of Hawai'i Constitutional Monarchy Lydia Kamaka'eha, Queen Lili'uokalani (1891-1893)	1892	Princess Lydia Kamaka'eha, sister of Kalakaua, succeeds to the throne as Queen Lili'uokalani (b1838-d1917).
	1893	In response to the calls of her people, Liliu'okalani considers adopting a new constitution to address voting restrictions that disenfranchised a large number of Hawaiian born citizens.
	1893	In 1893, a cabal of European and American businessmen, with the support of US military forces, staged a coup to overthrow the Hawaiian Kingdom and depose the Queen, for the purpose of annexing Hawai'i to the United States as a means to further their business interests. The coup d'état concluded on January 17, 1893, when Queen Lili'uokalani yielded authority
Provisional Government (1893-1894) Oligarchy Committee of Safety	1893	A provisional government controlled by the "Committee of Safety," a group composed primarily of Europeans and Americans, is instituted pending annexation to the United States.
Republic of Hawai'i (1894-1900) Oligarchy	1894	Members of the provisional government declare themselves the "Republic of Hawai'i" and wait for a better political opportunity to seek annexation.

President Sanford Ballard Dole (1894-1900)	1895	A counter-revolution to restore the monarchy is unsuccessful. Queen Lili'uokalani is imprisoned. While under house arrest, Queen Lili'uokalani signs a document formally abdicating her throne.
	1896	Hawaiian Language. In 1896, Act 57, sec. 30, became law in the Republic of Hawaii. The law established English as the medium of instruction for the government-recognized schools. The law did not ban or make illegal the Hawaiian language in other contexts. Hawaiian-language newspapers were published prior, during, and after the period when the law took effect.
	1897	1897 Annexation Treaty. Following McKinley's election in 1896, the issue of Hawai'i's annexation was revived. In June 1897 a treaty of annexation was agreed upon by the United States and the Republic of Hawai'i. The treaty was never ratified by the U.S. Senate. Instead, the Newlands Resolution by both houses of Congress annexed the Republic to the United States and it became the Territory of Hawai'i. The Newlands Resolution was passed by both houses of Congress in 1898.
	1897	Three Hawaiian organizations—Hui Aloha 'Āina for Women, Hui Aloha 'Āina for Men, and Hui Kālai'āina—organize petition drives to protest annexation (Hui Aloha 'Āina organizations) and restore the Hawaiian monarchy (Hui Kālai'āina). After gathering 21,000 and 17,000 signatures, respectively, a delegation of the groups travels to Washington, D.C., to present the petitions to President McKinley and the United States Congress. The contingency ultimately submits the anti-annexation petition, which is read to and accepted by the United States Senate.
	1898	<p>The annexation treaty does not achieve the required number of senate votes and is not ratified.</p> <p>The United States declares war on Spain, and Hawai'i becomes an attractive strategic military location.</p> <p>President McKinley signs the Newlands Resolution, which annexes Hawai'i to the United States. The "Republic of Hawai'i" cedes sovereignty of the Hawaiian Islands as well as its title to Hawai'i's public lands to the United States.</p>

<p>Territory of Hawai'i (1900-1959) Democracy</p> <p>Governor (Presidential appointment) Sanford B. Dole (1900-1903) (R) George R. Carter (1903-1907) (R) Walter F. Frear (1907-1913) (R) Lucius E. Pinkham (1913-1918) (D) Charles J. McCarthy (1918-1921) (D) Wallace R. Farrington (1921-1929)(R) Lawrence M. Judd (1929-1934) (R) Joseph B. Poindexter (1934-1942) (D) Ingram M. Stainback (1942-1951) (D) Oren E. Long (1951-1953) (D) Samuel Wilder King (1953-1957) (R) William F. Quinn (1957-1959) (R)</p>	1900	Congress passes the Organic Act establishing Hawai'i's territorial government.
	1902	Elected in 1902, Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole Pi'ikoi (1871-1922) serves for 20 years as Hawai'i's delegate to the United States Congress.
	1921	Congress enacts the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA) affirming the special relationship between the United States and Native Hawaiians. Approximately 200,000 acres of land are set aside for Native Hawaiian homesteads. (also attributed to the year 1920 when the Act was written)
	1941	Pearl Harbor attacked, martial law declared. Governors lose administrative powers, territorial constitution suspended, the legislature and supreme court dissolved indefinitely. Military government established.
	1944	Martial law ends.
	1945	Hawai'i is placed under Article 73 of the United Nations Charter as a non-self-governing territory, under the administering authority of the United States.
<p>State of Hawai'i (1959-Present) Democracy</p> <p>Governor William F. Quinn (1959-1962)(R) John A. Burns (1962-1974)(D) George Ariyoshi (1974-1986)(D) John D. Waihee III (1986-1994)(D) Benjamin Cayetano (1994-2002)(D) Linda Lingle (2002-2010)(R) Neil Abercrombie (2010-2014)(D) David Y. Ige (2014-Present)(D)</p>	1959	Congress passes the Hawai'i Admission Act (Pub L. 86-3, 73 stat 4) in March 1959, which admits Hawai'i as a State of the Union on August 21, 1959. The Act transfers the United States' title for most of Hawai'i's public lands to the State as a public trust to be used for one or more of five purposes, including the betterment of the conditions of native Hawaiians as defined by the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. Certain lands are retained by the federal government for defense and other federal government uses.
	1963	Congress passes an act that allows lands retained by the federal government to be returned to the State if such lands are declared unnecessary for federal purposes.
	1978	The people of Hawai'i amend several provisions of the State Constitution in a Constitutional Convention.
		The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) is created to better of conditions of

		<p>Native Hawaiians. To Serve as the principal public agency for the performance, development, and coordination of programs and activities relating to Native Hawaiians; Asses the policies and practices of other agencies impacting on Native Hawaiians, and conducting advocacy efforts for Native Hawaiians; Apply for, receive, and disburse, grants and donations from all sources for Native Hawaiian programs and services; Serve as a receptacle for reparations.</p> <p>The constitutional amendments also affirm Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights, declare the Hawaiian language one of two official state languages, and require Hawaiian educational programs in public schools.</p>
	1993	<p>A joint Resolution regarding the 1893 overthrow was passed by Congress and President Clinton signs into law "Public Law 103-150" apologizing for the United States' role in the overthrow and for the deprivation of the rights of Native Hawaiians to self-determination.</p>
	2000	<p>RICE v. CAYETANO, Supreme Court of the United States. Held: Hawaii's denial of Rice's right to vote in OHA trustee elections violates the Fifteenth Amendment. Consequently, non-Hawaiians are allowed to vote in OHA elections.</p>
Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act (NHGRA)	2000-2011	<p>U.S. Senator's Akaka and Inouye introduce the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act (NHGRA), which aims to reaffirm the United States' special political and legal relationship with Native Hawaiians, provide a process for the reorganization of a Native Hawaiian governing entity within the framework of federal law, and provide for the federal recognition of the reorganized Native Hawaiian governing entity.</p>
Native Hawaiian Roll Commission (NHRC)	2011-2013	<p>Hawai'i Governor Neil Abercrombie signs into law Act 195, which formally recognizes the Native Hawaiian people as the only indigenous, aboriginal, maoli people of Hawai'i and establishes a Native Hawaiian Roll Commission (NHRC) responsible for preparing and maintaining a roll of qualified Native Hawaiians. Under Act 195, the roll of qualified Native Hawaiians compiled by the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission will be used to determine who is eligible to participate in the process of reorganizing a Native Hawaiian government for purposes of Native Hawaiian self-governance.</p>