

Creating Hawai'i

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Discovered by British explorer James Cook in 1778, Hawai'i quickly felt the impact of the West. Traders, missionaries, whalers, merchants, immigrant workers, and finally tourists traveled to the Hawaiian Islands. The arrivals soon overrode the indigenous culture, creating a myriad of new traditions.

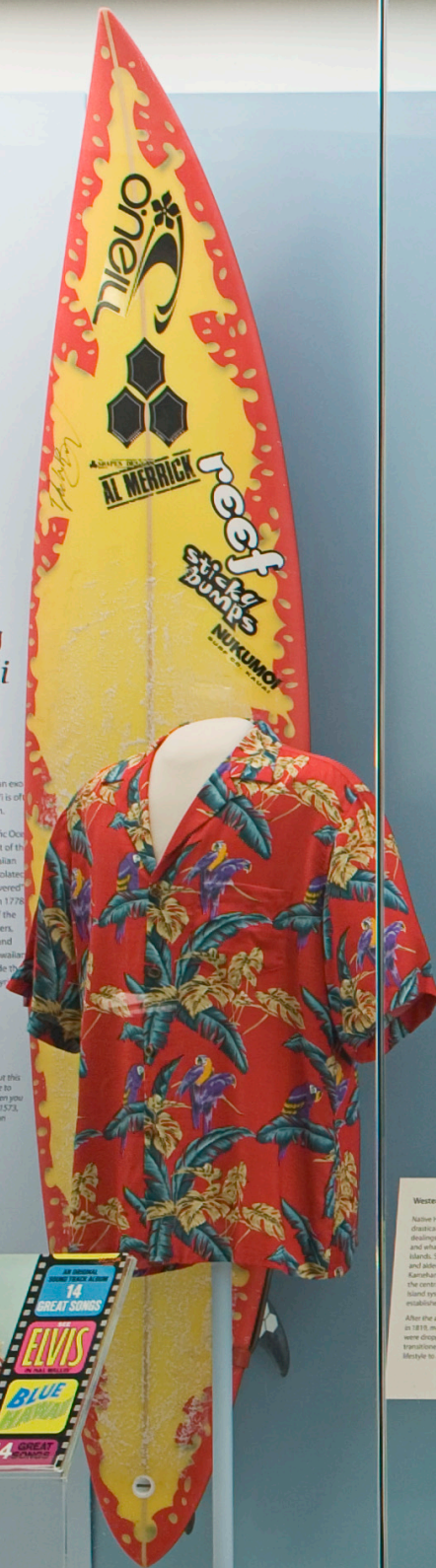


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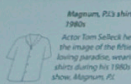
In several locations throughout this exhibition, use your cell phone to listen to sound selections. When you see this symbol, dial 202-633-1573, then enter the specific selection number shown.



Crane line brochure
1950s



Surfboard
2003
Surfing symbolizes a laid-back beach culture. This fiberglass board used by professional surfer Michelle Ballew of Kauai shows innovations to the longer traditional Hawaiian wood surfboards.



Baggins, P.J.'s shirt
1980s
Actor Tom Selleck helped promote the image of the 1980s state as a fun island paradise, wearing Hawaiian shirts during his 1980s TV detective show, *Magnum, P.I.*

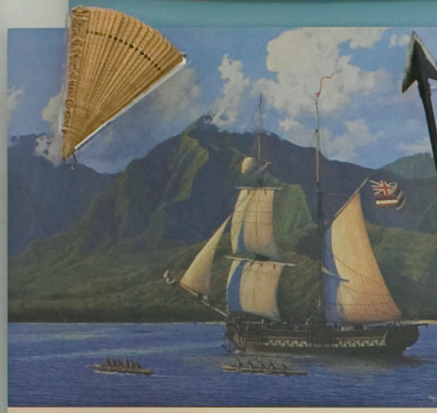


Record cover
1967
The *Blue Hawaii* film. *Blue Hawaii* reinforced many popular stereotypes of Hawaiian life.

Whaling harpoon
early 18th century
Nineteenth-century demand for whale oil brought many New England ships with sailors from around the world to the rich Pacific fishery Hawai'i became an important provisioning stop for the whalers.

Western Influence, 1810-1893

Native Hawaiian ways were drastically transformed by frequent dealings with traders, missionaries, and whalers who came to the islands. Seeking greater power and aided by Western technology, Kamehameha the Great standardized the central and southern Pacific island system of local rulers and established a monarchy in 1810. After the ascent of Kamehameha II in 1819, many traditional customs were dropped as the islanders transitioned from a subsistence lifestyle to a cash economy.



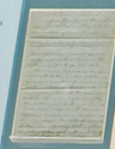
He ahiahi i Hawaii (Night in Hawaii)
1828-34

King Kamehameha II arranged a treaty with the missionaries. A significant consumer of Western goods, he purchased a American-made sailing vessel that he used for personal and political purposes. In 1824 it was captured on a reef and sank.

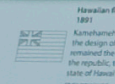


Missionaries

In 1820 American missionaries from New England arrived in Hawai'i to convert the inhabitants to Christianity. Permitted by the monarchy to land at Kailua on O'ahu, they established missions, learned an alphabet for the Hawaiian language, and opened schools. The native Hawaiians found some missionaries helpful, others were criticized as self-serving and opportunistic.



Diary transcription
"Our hearts were strong; we God for we find that we are where we left our native life."



Hawaiian flag
1891
Kamehameha the Great commissioned the design of a flag in 1816. It has remained the official flag of the kingdom, the republic, the territory, and the state of Hawai'i.



Chinese sandalwood fan
1850s
American traders purchased sandalwood in Hawai'i and exchanged it in China for goods bound for the United States and Europe. Sandalwood was highly prized in China; the demand for it decimated the Hawaiian sandalwood groves.



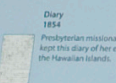
Pu
about 1824
Plants and animals have always been part of the imagery and reality of Hawaiian life. A conch shell from a pu—was used for sending messages and signaling a ship's arrival and departure. This one is from the wreck of the *Prize of Hawaii*.



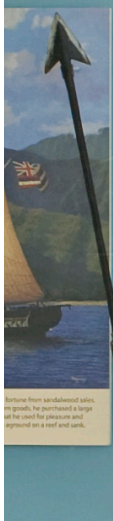
Ki Pule A Ki Moku Nalu (Lord's Prayer)
Reproduction of 1864 original
Missionaries brought Western style church architecture along with their Christian religious system.



Lamp
about 1824
This lamp from the wreck of the *Prize of Hawaii* is made of a rock. It was fueled by oil from kukui trees.



Diary
1854
Presbyterian missionary Nanc kept this diary of her experience in the Hawaiian Islands.



Before the endowment wars, he purchased a large staff for protection and support for a staff and work.



Oahu sugar plantation about 1900



*Our hearts were strong, as when we first
came to this land, we felt that we were going to a
land of freedom, as we did not feel
in other lands where we were.*

Early transcription

Our hearts were strong, as when we first
came to this land, we felt that we were going to a
land of freedom, as we did not feel
in other lands where we were.

Sugar

The sugar industry dominated
Hawaiian life from the 1850s to the
1950s. The American Civil War raised
Northern demand for Hawaiian sugar,
when the Union could no longer obtain
the commodity from the Southern
states. In 1875, tariffs were dropped,
making Hawaiian sugar price-
competitive in the United States.

With the expansion of the industry,
thousands of low-paid laborers from
China, the Philippines, Korea, Portugal,
and especially Japan were recruited.
Despite the harsh conditions,
immigrant workers established ethnic
communities, quite different from
those of native Hawaiians.

1824
Lamp from the wreck of the
of Hawaii) is made of volcanic
It was fueled by only nuts from
trees.

Sugarcane tool
about 1900
Plantation laborers used simple hand
tools to plant and cut sugarcane. The
work in the cane fields and mills was
hot, dirty, and dangerous, a sharp
contrast to the image of a land of
retirement and leisure.

Sugarcane cutter's hat
1920s
Cheap cotton hats protected
sugarcane workers from the hot
Hawaiian sun. The sound selection
features a Japanese sugarcane
worker's song.

Ukulele
early 1900s
The ukulele is not originally Hawaiian.
Portuguese sugar workers brought their
native instrument, the machete de braga,
to Hawaii, and by 1896 the modified
guitars were called ukuleles.



Troops from the USS Boston 1893



Protest song
1893
Through the lyrics of this popular song,
native Hawaiians objected to the overthrow
of Queen Lili'uokalani. Declining numbers
in the native population made protests like
this ineffectual.



Hawaiian flag quilt 1898



During World War II, American GIs experienced Hawaii as an exotic new world.



Troops from the USS Boston
1893
The presence of the U.S. military was
enough of an implied threat to force
Queen Lili'uokalani to yield to a
provisional government headed by
Seward Dole. A prominent lawyer, Dole
was the son of an American missionary
and a living Hawaiian resident.

Hawaiian flag quilt
1898
Western missionaries introduced quilting
in Hawaii in the 1820s, and by the 1840s
the flag image had appeared in quilts.
Soon after annexation in 1898, there was
an increase in the making of Hawaiian
flag quilts.

Protest song
1893
Through the lyrics of this popular song,
native Hawaiians objected to the overthrow
of Queen Lili'uokalani. Declining numbers
in the native population made protests like
this ineffectual.

Lyrics, in part:
No one will fix a signature
To the paper of the wrong.
With its sin of annexation
And sale of native civil rights.
We back Lili'uokalani
Who has won the rights of the land.

Wedding photo
1918
By 1900 Asian immigrants with
new customs outnumbered native
Hawaiians. Sugar worker Kichizo
Sugimoto (standing) emigrated from
Japan with his father and married
Nobuko Matsuyama.

Pineapple knife
1900s
Laborers used this knife to trim
pineapples in a Hawaiian cannery.

Artwork for
1927
When prom
as a tropical
heavily to t
the greese
Hawaiian

