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Hawaii NATIONAL PARK

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A HISTORY OF HAWAII NATIONAL PARK

by I. J. Castro

IMPORTANT

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A History of Hawaii National Park by I. J. Castro

The Pacific is a big ocean: it covers more than one-third of the earth's surface and more area than all of its land. It stretches more than 10,000 miles from Panama to the Philippines and almost as far from the Bering Sea to Antarctica. The Pacific is the mother of oceans; the setting of romantic, moonlit isles; the hunting ground of a parade of explorers, buccaneers, and traders; the battle-ground where an empire bent upon world conquest was vanquished by a nation determined to preserve its hard-won freedoms; and the home of the Polynesians, a hardy breed of people whose beginnings are obscure and full of conjecture.

Three distinct regions make up the Pacific World, Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia. The designation Polynesia is derived from the Greek nesos, an island, and poli, many. Largest among these regions is Polynesia, which forms an almost perfect equilateral triangle with Easter Island at the apex, Hawaii at the left corner of the base line, and New Zealand at the right. The distance between each point of the triangle is between four and five thousand miles.

The islands of the Pacific number into the thousands and range from shoals and atolls to mighty land masses. They are commonly identified as continental or oceanic islands, depending on the geological story they tell. Continental islands are geologically parts

of the continental platforms, for their rock types and structures are similar to those of the continental land masses; oceanic islands, generally the product of volcanism, are far removed from the continents and differ in geological structure with the continental masses.

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Stretching from northwest to scutheast for a distance of 1,500 miles across the Pacific lie the Hawaiian Islands where nature blended a forerunner to Paradise. The archipelago was built by sustained and prodigious volcanic activity that probably began some 60 million years ago through a series of fissures in the ocean floor. The islands represent the tops of an enormous submarine mountain range. Wind, rain, surf, and other agents have eroded some of the islands into small remnants that project only a few feet above the surface of the ocean.

The Hawaiian archipelago consists of 18 islands, reefs, shoals, atolls, and pinnacles varying in size from 4,030 square miles to a few acres. Largest in the group is the Island of Hawaii, which boasts two of the world's most consistently active volcanoes, the highest insular mountain, and the largest single mountain mass. Smallest of the lot is Gardner Pinnacle, a stack of volcanic rock of three acres.

Midway, which marked the beginning of the end for the Japanese Empire in World War II, is a part of the chain, as are such places as Lanai and Kauai and Molokai and others.

The timeless buildup of the islands continues, and if one could look into the future he would probably see new islands thrusting their tops above the ocean to the southeast.

Plant spores and seeds borne by currents, winds, and migratory birds eventually found their way to these once barren islands and mantled them with a carpet of vegetation. The native birds were probably blown in by strong winds; the Hawaiian bat and seal, the only native mammals, probably came in under their own power; and the coconut, along with the pig, dog, and other plants and animals, was introduced by the first settlers.

Into this isolated community came the Polynesians, who had ventured out into the unknown fastnesses of the vast Pacific in search of a homeland. Their conquest of the Great Ocean and its far reaches must be one of the most thrilling achievements of the human drama, but little is known about it.

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The origin of the Polynesian branch of the human family is nebulous. Analogies have been traced to Egypt, India, Persia, and South America but no evidence has been uncovered to lend conclusive credence to these theories. Affinities with the Egyptians and Indonesians give weight to the belief that they may have had their beginnings in Egypt, sojourned in Indonesia for a spell, and then made their way east into the Pacific. As to anthropological characteristics, they are probably a composite of the main divisions of the human race but do not constitute a race in their own right.

In his <u>An Account of the Polynesian Race</u>, Abraham Fornander summarizes the migrations of the Polynesians as follows:

"At the close of the first and during the second century of the present era the Polynesians left the Asiatic Archipelago and entered the Pacific, establishing themselves on the Fiji group, and thence spreading to the Samoa, Tonga and other groups eastward and northward.

"During the fifth century A. D., Polynesians settled on the Hawaiian Islands, and remained there, comparatively unknown, until:

"The eleventh century A. D., when several parties of fresh emigrants from the Marquesas, Society and Samoan groups arrived at the Hawaiian Islands, and, for the space of five or six generations, revived and maintained an active intercourse with the first named groups; and

"From the close of the above migratory era, which may be roughly fixed....about twenty-one generations ago, Hawaiian history runs isolated from the other Polynesian groups, until their rediscovery by Captain Cook in 1778."

Fornander's assertions are based on exhaustive research into Hawaiian and related Polynesian legends and traditions and reasonable establishment with confirmed historical events.

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The conquest of the Pacific by the Europeans began with Magellan, who discovered a western passage to the east in 1520.

Sailing under the Spanish flag, he set the course for subsequent discoveries and explorations by the Spanish, French, Dutch, and English. Mendaña, Torres, Schouten, Bougainville, Tasman, La Perouse, and Cook-these are some of the discoverers who brought the beginning of the end to centuries of myth and legend. A strong sense of duty to save souls from purgatory, promises of fabulous riches, colonial expansion, and searches for new trade routes and sources were the motivating factors behind these explorations.

Most illustrious among the many explorers of the Pacific was Captain James Cook of the British Royal Navy. Born in 1728, he went to sea early in his youth and quickly established a reputation as an outstanding astronomer and mariner. He made three voyages into the Pacific between 1768 and 1779, discovering many new lands and changing many geographical concepts. The new knowledge that he gave to the world made him immortal.

The third and last of Cook's voyages resulted in his discovery of the Hawaiian Islands on January 18, 1778. Of this momentous feat he recorded a simple entry in his journal: "An island appeared, bearing north-east-by east. Not long after, more land was seen, which bore north, and was totally detached from the former."

Cahu, Kauai, and Niihau are the islands which Cook and his men had seen and were unaware of the existence of other islands in the group. After provisioning his ships, Cook sailed into the North Pacific in search of the legendary Northwest Passage. In February

1779 he returned to Hawaii and discovered the other islands in the archipelago.

Cook had a fondness for the Hawaiians, writing of them:
"We met with less reserve and suspicion in our intercourse with the
people of this island than we had ever experienced among any tribe of
savages. The inhabitants of Tahiti have not that confidence in our
integrity. Whence it may be inferred that those of Hawaii are more
faithful in their dealings with other than the Tahitians."

Ironically it is these hospitable people of whom he thought so much who brought the end to his brilliant career in 1779. In a skirmish precipitated over the loss of one of his ship's small boats, Cook was stabbed to death at Kealakekua Bay. By this time the path had been blazed for the traders, missionaries, and whalers who were to follow.

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The Hawaiian Islands were consolidated into a kingdom by

Kamehameha I, who abolished the ancient system of government by

district chieftains and appointed governors over the principal islands.

The Hawaiian monarchy continued until the reign of Queen Liliuokalani,

whose government was overthrown in 1893. The Republic of Hawaii succeeded the provisional government established after the depose of

Liliuokalani, and in 1900 the United States annexed the islands into

the Territory of Hawaii.

The influences that the white man brought to Hawaii were many, but none was more penetrating than that of the missionaries,

who arrived in 1820. Along with converting the Hawaiians to Christianity, they taught them the three R's and industrial crafts and founded for them a written language. Eventually the missionaries branched out into the kingdom's affairs of state and through their influence a constitutional government was established in 1840.

It is significant that the Reverend Asa Thurston, whose grandson sparked the movement to establish Hawaii National Park in the 20th century, was one of the first two American missionaries who came to Hawaii. Equally as significant is the fact that the Reverend Thurston was a member of the first white party to gaze upon the land of Pele, the home of Hawaii National Park.

Numerous legends about her have been handed down through the generations and many of them have one thing in common, that Pele first settled on the Island of Kauai and moved progressively through Oahu, Molokai, and Maui to the Island of Hawaii where she settled permanently in Halemaumau, the fire pit of Kilauea Volcano. The ancient Hawaiians were apparently sufficiently good geologists to recognize the age succession of the islands for the Pele tradition sustains remarkably the geological concepts regarding the progression of volcanic activity from Kauai to Oahu to Molokai to Maui to Hawaii. To the Hawaiians of old and to many who cling to the traditions of their forefathers, the home of Pele was and is hallowed ground, for it was there that they humbled themselves before the fire goddess to appease her wrath,

which took the form of volcanic eruptions that destroyed their lands and villages. In 1824 the High Chiefess Kapiolani challenged the existence of the fire goddess by eating the sacred ohelo berries growing in Kilauea Crater without first offering some to Pele. This historic act of defiance followed by five years the abolition of the ancient idolatrous system and its many restrictions and prohibitions.

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The account written by the English missionary, Reverend William Ellis, of his tour of the Island of Hawaii in 1823 with three American missionaries gives the first impressions of a white man of Kilauea, which was in vigorous activity at the time, and it is appropriate to include them here: "A spectacle, sublime and even appalling, presented itself before us - 'We stopped and trembled.' Astonishment and awe for some moments rendered us mute, and, like statues, we stood fixed to the spot, with our eyes riveted on the abyss below." Many after him have thus been impressed by the fiery spectacle of Kilauea, including an Oregon visitor who remarked, "I've seen hell. Now I want to go home."

Ellis and his companions made careful observations of the region, recording many facts relating to the scientific and aesthetic aspects of the area. Ellis told about seeing flocks of Hawaiian geese in an area a few hundred feet west of the present park headquarters. The geese were the nene, which have since been decimated by hunters, encroachment upon natural habitat, and other factors, into less than 50. The missionary explored the unique Sulphur Banks area and the

craters along the present Chain of Craters Road. His telling and comprehensive narrative made the region known to the civilized world for the first time.

Long before the land of Pele was established as a national park, the wonders of the region attracted explorers, sightseers, and entrepreneurs. A significant appraisal was made in 1824 by Lord George Byron, cousin of the distinguished English poet. Eyron's voyage to Hawaii aboard the HMS Blonde was a depressing one, for he brought to their final resting place the remains of Kamehameha II and his queen, Kamamalu, who died of the measles on a visit to Great Britain. After accomplishing this mission, Byron visited Kilauea, and a narrow plateau separating the main crater from one of its satellites, Kilauea Iki, bears the name Byron Ledge to recall this early expedition into the region. The first map of Kilauea Crater was compiled by Lieutenant Charles Malden, a colleague of Byron's.

Of particular significance was the exploration conducted in 1840 by the United States Exploring Expedition under Commander Charles Wilkes, USN. This expedition was sanctioned by Congress in 1836 for the purpose of exploring and surveying the Facific in the interests of commerce and navigation. Wilkes and his retinue of officers, scientists, seamen, and natives spent a miserable three weeks making scientific observations on the summit of Mauna Loa in the dead of winter and amidst temperatures well below the freezing point. Wilkes compiled important scientific knowledge of Mauna Loa, including the first map of the summit crater, and became one of the first men of

record to stand on the summit of the world's most massive mountain.

Archibald Menzies, Vancouver's botanist, was the first white man to ascend Mauna Loa, accomplishing the feat in February 1794. The Wilkes Expedition also devoted considerable attention to documenting the scientific aspects of the Kilauea region.

Probably one of the most harrowing experiences sustained by anyone in the Hawaii National Park area occurred to Dr. G. P. Judd of Honolulu, a member of the Wilkes party. While collecting volcanic specimens in Kilauea Iki, the crater erupted and a jet of molten lava suddenly rose near him to a height of forty-five feet. He found himself under a projecting ledge so close to the lava fountain that he could not turn his face toward it because of the scorching heat. The ledge opposed his ascent and the lava fountain stood between him and the route over which he had descended. Considering himself lost, he prayed, at the same time calling to the natives, all of whom had become terrified and vanished by now except one, Kalumo. He held his ground above the endangered man and, stretching his arm over the ledge, grasped the doctor and pulled him to safety with a quick and mighty jerk. According to Wilkes, "Another moment and all aid would have been unavailing to save Dr. Judd from perishing in the fiery deluge." So close were Dr. Judd and Kalumo to the lava fountain that both sustained severe burns from the intense heat.

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An early commercial enterprise in the Kilauea region was undertaken about 1851 with the establishment of a pulu factory between Makaopuhi and Napau Craters. Pulu is a soft, woolly fibre produced by several varieties of ferns growing in the luxuriant rain forests of the area. The material was used for stuffing mattresses and pillows, as well as for certain medical purposes. Natives were hired to pluck the pulu from the buds and stalks of the fern fronds, after which it was dried and bagged in the factory and hauled over a rough road to Keauhou Landing on the coast for further consignment to Honolulu and the mainland. At the peak of its activity, which ended in 1884, the factory produced over 300 tons of pulu valued at some \$160,000. The decline of the industry came about with the development of more suitable materials.

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A visit to Kilauea in those early days represented a major undertaking and required a strong constitution. Extremely poor accesses into the region required at least two days of travel by horse-back from either of the takeoff points existing at Hilo and Keauhou Landing. In 1891, Peter Lee, an enterprising pioneer with an eye to the future, built a 24-mile wagon road from Pahala to Kilauea, following by seven years the construction of a hotel at Punaluu, which became a third takeoff point. Peter Lee set upon this venture in an effort to popularize the Punaluu-Pahala route to Kilauea, but by this time construction of the Volcano Road had begun and 15 miles of it were

completed by the following year. With the completion of the Volcano Road in 1894, four-horse stagecoaches came into the picture, reducing the travel time from Hilo from two days to six and one-half hours, and Hilo became the principal departure point for Kilauea. The 30-mile road from Hilo cost \$90,000 to build.

Consistently increasing numbers of sightseers to Kilauea stimulated the Hilo Railroad to extend its service to Glenwood, nine miles north of the volcano, in 1901. Visitors transferred from the railroad cars to horse-drawn carriages and later to motor busses for the remainder of the trip to Kilauea. Increasing acceptability of the horseless carriage and paving of the Volcano Road in 1925 caused the railroad to discontinue its Glenwood run a year later.

As the region became better known, it began to see increasing numbers of sightseers who were compelled to spend the night in uncomfortable lean-tos that were well inhabited by fleas. Improvised shelters made of boughs, grass, fern fronds, and other readily available materials were constructed one after another by various individuals but these lasted only briefly. Benjamin Pitman, Sr., a Hilo businessman, built a grass but about 1846 on the northeastern side of the crater and appropriately called it the Volcano House, a name which was to last for a long time. Apparently the enterprise did not prove profitable, for Charles Hitchcock, an 1856 visitor, found the grass house but no sign of life in it, not even the manager. The unpretentious house at the time consisted of one room about fourteen by twenty feet in size with a mat covering the earthen floor. An 1860 visitor claims that

twenty-three persons slept in that small space one night, another that it was capable of accommodating forty!

Visitors before 1860 brought their own food, linen, and other necessities with them, but about that time these facilities were made available at the Volcano House. In a region that receives upwards of ninety inches of rain a year, water was unbelievably scarce because of the complete lack of collecting and storage facilities, and it was obtained from condensed steam issuing from the many earthquake cracks in the vicinity.

A partnership identified as J. L. Richardson & Co. and consisting of six local businessmen was formed in 1864 and the second Volcano House came into being in 1866. Mr. Richardson supervised the construction of the building and became the first manager of the business. The grass-thatched building boasted four bedrooms, a parlor, and a dining room, and advertisements in the Honolulu press that first year of operation assured visitors of comfortable rooms, a good table, prompt attendance, and reasonable prices.

Mark Twain, an 1866 visitor to Kilauea, was impressed with the Volcano House, commenting in a letter to a friend in California that the surprise of finding a "good hotel" at such an outlandish spot startled him considerably more than the volcano did. He approved of the food also, saying it was good.

One of the original partners in the 1866 Volcano House venture, George W. C. Jones, acquired sole interest in the business

in 1876 and the following year constructed a larger and better appointed hotel. This historic building stands today, much the same in appearance as it looked in 1877. William H. Lentz, who supervised the construction of the new building, succeeded Mr. Jones as owner and in 1883 sold out to Oliver T. Shipman and James F. Jordan. In 1885, Wilder's Steamship Company of Honolulu purchased the Volcano House and actively operated it until 1891. That year Lorrin A. Thurston, the Hawaii National Park movement spearpoint, along with others formed the Volcano House Company and acquired the hotel. At the same time, the new company purchased the Punaluu Hotel from Peter Lee, who was placed as manager of both hotels.

A new building was constructed by the owners in 1891 and the 1877 Volcano House underwent extensive remodelling and was added to the new structure. The new two-story frame building contained fourteen rooms and included a special observation room to enable visitors to see the lava activity in Kilauea Crater, a few hundred yards away. A billiard table was installed in the old building and frequently doubled as a bed when accommodations were crowded.

George and Demosthenes Lycurgus took over the management of the hotel in December 1904 after becoming the principal stockholders of the Volcano House Company. Kilauea conspired against the Volcano House by being inactive for almost a year, telling on the cash receipts. Less than two months after Lycurgus took over the business, the volcano erupted. Seventy-five Honolulans immediately set out for Hilo on the steamer <u>Kinau</u> to observe the eruption, but when the ship docked the passengers were disappointed to learn that the volcano's activity had been short-lived and ceased. Knowing that the Volcano House had recently changed hands, a passenger was heard to remark that Lycurgus was up to his old tricks again.

Lycurgus came to Hawaii in 1889 more by accident than plan. After he arrived in San Francisco from his native Greece in 1881, he ventured into the wholesale fruit business and shipped California fruits to his cousin, a banana grower and fruit merchant in Honolulu. Lycurgus distributed his cousin's bananas in San Francisco and his Hawaii cousin the California fruit sent him by Lycurgus. Ships of the Oceanic Steamship Company, which was owned by the Spreckels family, carried the shipments both ways. In an effort to expand their shipping business, Gus and Rudolph Spreckels attempted to interest Lycurgus into entering the banana growing business with his cousin in Hawaii. Lycurgus was happy with his lot in San Francisco and spurned the suggestion just as regularly as it was renewed. In October 1889 Lycurgus went to the San Francisco docks to see off a shipment of fruits consigned to his cousin in Honolulu. There he ran into the Spreckels brothers, who invited him to the ship's cabin for a chat. The conversation was undoubtedly stimulating and the refreshments good, for when Lycurgus bid his adieus and went on deck to leave the ship he was astonished to find himself at sea well beyond the Farallon Islands, en route to Hawaii.

The Spartan remained in Honolulu for a week and returned to San Francisco, but the islands had made their imprint upon him and the following year he came to stay, going back and forth from time to time to look after his mainland interests. In 1893 he entered the hotel business in Honolulu. Robert Louis Stevenson, Jack London, and other greats were numbered among his guests and friends. A year later he made his first trip to Kilauea as a guest of Admiral Ingersoll, travelling to Hilo aboard the <u>USS Philadelphia</u>. The uniqueness of the region impressed him and his enterprising mind made note of the business possibilities there.

A gemuine affection for the Hawaiians resulted in an enjoyable friendship between Lycurgus and the royal family, and in the short-lived and ineffective 1895 attempt to restore the monarchy he sided with the royalists. For this he spent 51 days in jail.

After establishing himself in Honolulu, Lycurgus sent to Greece for his young nephew, Demosthenes, who joined him in business in Hawaii. Demosthenes actively managed the Volcano House from 1904 until 1919, when he died by tragic coincidence in Greece on his wedding night. The nephew is remembered by kamaainas (old timers) for the warm greeting and jovial smile with which he welcomed all of his guests.

The Lycurgus' interest in the Volcano House was purchased in 1921 by the Inter-Island Steam Navigation Company, which immediately embarked on a \$150,000 improvement program that resulted in the

expansion of facilities to 115 rooms. In 1932 George Lycurgus re-acquired the property for \$300 at a receivership sale.

Kilauea had been inactive for some time when Lycurgus re-acquired the Volcano House and the change of management did not impel Pele, the volcano goddess, to alter the situation for the volcano remained inactive during the remainder of 1932 and all of 1933. Lycurgus faced bankruptcy in the late summer of 1934. The Volcano House was empty and few guests had shown up during the summer months. A firm believer in Pele, the Spartan took matters into his own hands on the night of September 5, 1934. He and Alex Lancaster, a Cherokee Indian who had guided visitors around the region since 1885, walked down to Halemaumau, the fire pit of Kilauea, and invoked some prayers to the volcano goddess. Following that they ceremoniously tossed into the pit an ohelo berry lei made by Lancaster. As a final gesture, Lycurgus tossed in a bottle of gin which had been partially drained by him and Lancaster on the walk to the pit. More prayers followed, and the two of them returned to the Volcano House for the night.

A few hours after they went to bed, at 2:44 a.m. on September 6, the volcano erupted for the first time in almost four years. Lycurgus immediately got on the telephone to pass the word to the press and his friends, greeting them with "Happy New Year; the volcano has erupted again." The response to this greeting from one of his sleepy and astonished friends was "George, you have been drinking again!"

The 1934 eruption of Kilauea lasted only for a month and two days, but the crowds of sightseers patronizing the Volcano House reduced appreciably the financial worries that Lycurgus had been sustaining for some time. But this did not impress him as much as the fact that Pele had helped him out at a time when he was desperate, and his faith in her is a serious matter to this day.

A disastrous fire originating in the kitchen burned the Volcano House to the ground in February 1940. Undaunted, Lycurgus immediately embarked on the construction of the present building, which was dedicated the following year. To the venerable old Spartan, now 92 years of age, the Volcano House is not a hotel but his private villa. However he thinks of it, <u>kaamainas</u> know that the Volcano House is as much of an Hawaiian institution as he is a legend.

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The future of the land of Pele was cast in 1903 by William R. Castle, Honolulu lawyer and financier, who wrote in the Volcano House guest book: "The time has come when the United States Government might well reserve the whole region from Mokuaweoweo (the summit crater on Mauna Loa) to the sea in Puna." Three years later some lady correspondents and magazine writers touring Hawaii under the sponsorship of the Portland Daily Journal visited Kilauea. The Weekly Hilo Tribune for March 6, 1906, reporting on the visit of the ladies to Kilauea the previous week, noted: "Mrs. Weatherred also expressed the

opinion that the Volcano should be made a national park." The lady was Mrs. Edyth Tozier Weatherred, an Oregon newswriter who chaperoned the group.

The <u>Hilo Tribune</u> apparently did not grasp the significance of the suggestion mady by Mrs. Weatherred, for it did not follow it up until after Lorrin A. Thurston's <u>Advertiser</u> came out endorsing the idea. In an article quoted in the <u>Tribune</u> on March 20, 1906, the <u>Advertiser</u> said: "The park idea is a popular one with the man on the street. Of a score of businessmen and others seen yesterday on the subject not one expressed himself as other than favorable to the scheme and many gave excellent reasons why the government should adopt it." Editorially the <u>Advertiser</u> was quoted by the <u>Tribune</u> on the same day as follows: "The advantages of having the volcano district put into a Federal reservation are well worth thinking about....Mrs. Weatherred is to be thanked for the suggestion.... We hope that our commercial bodies will take this matter up and press it. Perhaps it is not too late to have something done at this session of Congress, if no more than to secure the appointment of a commission."

In an effort to establish the fact that the <u>Tribune</u> was the first to report the idea, it commented editorially on March 20, 1906:
"The suggestion that Kilauea be made a national park meets with a unanimous response in its favor. The idea, after all a most natural one, was published first by the <u>Tribune</u>, and was made by the leader of the Oregon party, recent visitors at the volcano... It is eminently proper and in line with national policy that the volcano and its

environs should be in the keeping, and under the care of the federal government, for the benefit of the people and in order that its surroundings may be both protected and improved.

Thus Mr. Castle became the first person to sound the call for preservation of the area by the Government, Mrs. Weatherred the first to conceive specifically the Hawaii National Park idea, and the <u>Hilo Tribune</u> the first to report it. But it was Lorrin A. Thurston, one of Hawaii's builders, who fanned the sparks that brought the land of Pele into the fold of the National Park System.

A grandson of the first American missionaries who came to Hawaii from New England in 1820, Thurston devoted his life to the development of Hawaii's industrial, political, and cultural life. He was a man of great vision and had a boundless faith in the future of Hawaii. Born in Honolulu in 1858, he received his early education in island schools. Thurston moved with his family to the Island of Maui when he was ten years old and on school vacations acted as guide to tourists to the top of the mountain and the crater as well, becoming the earliest guide of record in the lands now comprising the Haleakala Section of Hawaii National Park. He had his first glimpse of Kilauea in 1879 and became so interested in the region that in 1891 he formed the company that operated the Volcano House for the next thirteen years.

After studying law at Columbia, Thurston returned to Hawaii and entered the local political scene. At the age of 28 he was elected to the House of Representatives, and later to the House of Nobles.

Thurston was one of the spearpoints in the revolutionary movement that marked the end of the Hawaiian monarchy in 1893, and with Sanford B. Dole authored the constitution on which the Republic of Hawaii was established. Later he served as ambassador to Washington and Portugal from the short-lived republic. Following the political unrest of the 1890's in Hawaii, Thurston engaged in numerous business enterprises and in 1900 entered the newspaper field as publisher of the Honolulu Advertiser.

Through his Advertiser, Thurston hammered regularly at the park idea and kept it alive before his readers. To acquaint Congress with Hawaii's problems, the Territorial Legislature enacted a special appropriations of funds to bring a group of Congressmen to Hawaii in 1907. The group, numbering fifty members of Congress and their wives, visited the area now comprising the Haleakala Section of Hawaii National Park and later Kilauea. A special feature of the party's visit to Kilauea was a dinner cooked over the hot lava vents on the edge of Halemaumau. Roast pig, stewed chicken, and other delicacies were served to the visitors, who were impressed by the food but more by the unique cooking method used. Thurston accompanied the Congressional party to Haleakala and Kilauea and capitalized on the opportunity of acquainting the visitors with the park project.

Secretary of the Interior James R. Garfield visited Kilauea in 1908 in company with Thurston, and another convert to the park proposal was won. The following year saw another Congressional party

at Kilauea and again Thurston took up the cudgels for the park proposal. It was Congressman John C. Lane, a member of the 1909 party from Washington, who commented that "Teachers of the bible should visit Madam Pele so as to enable them to deliver the gospel with great force."

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En route to Japan in 1909 to study the then active volcances Tarumai and Asama, Dr. Thomas A. Jaggar, Jr., head of the geology department of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, visited Hawaii to observe Kilauea Volcano. A young man of 38, Jaggar by this time had visited the scenes of earthquake and volcanic activity elsewhere in the world, including Martinique, Italy, and other places. Only three years before, San Francisco had been flattened by an earthquake, and four years before that all but one of the 30,000 inhabitants of Martinique had lost their lives in a disastrous volcanic eruption. These disasters, along with interest generated by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology since 1898 through various investigations in volcanology, impelled the trustees of the Estates of Edward and Caroline Whitney to subscribe \$25,000 to the Institute for conducting research in this science.

Jaggar's appraisals of various volcanic areas throughout the world led him to conclude that Kilauea afforded the best opportunities for the type of research envisioned, summing up his recommendations as follows: "The main object of all the work should be humanitarian-earthquake predictions and methods of protecting life and property on

the basis of sound scientific judgment." Following his preliminary observations at Kilauea, Jaggar looked up Thurston in Honolulu and promptly sold him on the need to establish a research laboratory at Kilauea. Thurston personally launched a fund drive for the project, resulting in the collection of several thousand dollars.

Jaggar returned to his teaching duties at Boston and in the spring of 1911 arrangements were made by the Institute for Dr. E. S. Shepherd of the Carnegie Institution of Washington and Volcanologist F. A. Perret to conduct some studies at the Hawaiian volcano. Out of this research the first scientific laboratory at Kilauea came into being, a crude wooden shack on the edge of Halemaumau built in 1911 by Perret, who called it the Technology Station. Weekly reports on the activity of the volcano were issued by Perret during a part of the six months he spent at Kilauea, and these were published in Thurston's Advertiser, developing interest locally in the scientific studies. On October 5, 1911, Thurston gave a luncheon at the University Club in Honolulu for the purpose of reviving the program begun two years earlier by him and Jaggar as well as to revive the subscription fund begun at the same time. Thurston presented a review of the history of the observatory movement and went on to suggest that a local organization be established to obtain funds to carry on volcanic research, the funds to be administered and expended by an unpaid executive committee to be elected annually.

Thurston was elected chairman of the committee, which developed the name "Hawaiian Volcano Research Association" for the

fledgling organization. The committee then went on to subscribe \$5,000 annually for five years to supplement the Whitney Fund furnished by the Institute. Along with this, Clarence H. Cooke, Treasurer of the Association, guaranteed the amount subscribed by the committee in the event of failure on the part of subscribers to provide the funds.

With this encouraging start, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology granted a leave of absence to Jaggar in December 1911 and directed him to Kilauea to continue the work begun earlier that year by Perret and Shepherd. Jaggar arrived in Honolulu the following month and after conferring with the committee and apprising the members of the program he was going to conduct departed for Kilauea, arriving there on January 17, 1912. The next day Jaggar issued the first report of activity in the volcano since Perret's departure, and the day after that he and Demosthenes Lycurgus launched a drive in Hilo to raise funds for the construction of an observatory building. By February 16, carpenters were busily constructing the building out of the \$1,785 subscribed by Hilo merchants and individuals.

The cornerstone on which the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory was laid by Dr. Jaggar and the principles and objectives he defined for it are firm and lasting, for the institution has now begun its fifth decade of operation. For more than thirty years the observatory was managed by Dr. Jaggar under varied auspices, including the combined Hawaiian Volcano Research Association-Massachusetts Institute of Technology arrangement, the Weather Bureau, U. S. Geological Survey, and National Park Service, reverting in 1948 to the Geological Survey

under R. H. Finch and subsequently under Dr. Gordon A. Macdonald. When Dr. Jaggar reached the compulsory civil service retirement age in 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt approved an Executive Order extending the distinguished scientist's services for another year to enable him to complete some important work on which he was engaged at the time. A second Executive Order approved by the President in 1939 exempted the scientist from retirement for another year.

Dr. Jaggar's devoted application to the study of Hawaiian volcanoes transformed speculation into science and gave him a place of eminence among the select men of science. He left a rich heritage for those who follow in his footsteps and for all of mankind as well.

* * * * *

Thurston's work in the park movement quickly won the support of Governor Walter R. Frear of Hawaii, who appointed the spirited park booster to represent the Territory in negotiating with the Bishop Estate and other landowners in working out the boundaries for the proposed park. Governor Frear took such an active interest in the project that he personally looked up the statutes on national parks and studied them. It was he who recommended that the procedure involving an enactment by Congress be pursued, and in his annual report for 1910 suggested to the Secretary of the Interior that legislation be sought to establish the park. Frear endorsed the idea publicly from time to time, and at a meeting at the Hilo courthouse in 1910 spoke of it as an excellent one. It was at this meeting that an enterprising Hilo

citizen outlined twenty-seven lines of attack on Congress to pass the park bill. Governor Frear commented that twenty-six might be enough but that it would not be "Thurston'esque" not to take the full quota!

Thurston's plan called for local public support of the park, and in 1910 he organized the Trail and Mountain Club of the Island of Hawaii and became its first secretary. Before that he had been instrumental in founding a similar organization in Honolulu. At Thurston's suggestion, the newly-formed club immediately endorsed the park project and stated its establishment as one of its objectives.

After his appointment by the governor to work with the landowners in determining the park boundaries, Thurston approached the
individual trustees of the Bishop Estate, the principal landholder.

They indicated that, while they were favorable to the general plan, they
would prefer to retain ownership of the Volcano House site and other
property in the immediate vicinity. They also indicated that they would
consider any proposal made to them and that they would be willing to
convey their interest in such lands as might be required for the park
either for fair market value or in exchange with the Territory for other
lands of like character.

A resolution suggested by Thurston through the Trail and Mountain Club of the Island of Hawaii was placed before the Territorial Legislature in April 1911 petitioning Congress to approve the park bill. Endorsement of the project by the local Legislature would give weight to the proposal, Thurston thought, and would approve the boundaries

contained in the 1910 survey of Thomas Cook, which had been recommended by Governor Frear, the Trail and Mountain Club, and others. C. Brewer and Company, which leased some lands proposed for inclusion in the park for ranching operations, objected to the resolution before the Public Lands Committee of the Legislature, holding that the park would intrude upon its grazing rights. Thurston was in Hilo at the time attending to business matters, and getting wind of this sat down and wrote a telling letter to the Public Lands Committee urging inclusion of the lands. Not wishing to jeopardize the project and to insure the presentation of a solid front in Washington when the legislation was considered, Thurston compromised by asking that if the resolution could not be passed as proposed, then one limited to recommending a park without fixed boundaries would serve the immediate purpose. The alternate resolution was passed and the draft of a bill was sent by Frear to Prince Kuhio Kalanianacle, Hawaii's Delegate to Congress, the following December for introduction in Congress. The park was envisioned by the bill as the summit of Mauna Loa, the Kilauea area, and a connecting road rightof-way between the two. Haleakala was not in the running in the original bill. Lack of a survey description of the lands involved appears to be the reason the bill did not make any progress. When this technicality became known to Thurston, he talked to the governor and at Frear's request Claude H. Birdseye, chief of the U. S. Geological Survey topographical party working elsewhere on the Island of Hawaii, undertook the topographical mapping of the proposed park early in 1912.

Thurston and Frear considered the work so urgent that Birdseye and his surveyors had but one day's notice to begin the job.

In a 1913 talk before the Honolulu Ad Club designed to promote his "See Hawaii First" campaign, Thurston summarized the park picture and boosted the project, saying "I am possessed of an intense That the establishment of the Hawaii National Park, from conviction. the standpoint of the people of this Territory, is one of the greatest projects now pending; that commercially it will contribute greatly to our financial advantages; that socially and from a health standpoint it will open a new chapter in our lives; that nationally it will be a great educational measure, as well as a big addition to the Nation's pleasure and health; that internationally it will give an impetus to scientific investigation and the advancement of knowledge. Hawaii has been agitating and working for this park for eight years. We have almost reached the goal. All that is required to achieve success is to keep everlastingly on the job; keep the project from being sidetracked either at Washington or Honolulu, and, most of all, stand ready to ourselves help whenever and wherever help is required."

Thurston's comprehensive understanding of national park philosophy is demonstrated by the following extract from an article he wrote in March 1911 for the <u>Mid-Pacific Magazine</u>: "Examples of what Congress has deemed worthy to be taken under national control and protection are the geysers, lakes, and waterfalls of the Yellowstone; the cliffs, waterfalls, and scenery of the Yosemite; and the big trees of California; the petrified forest of Arizona. The standard is a

high one and should be kept so. Before Congress sets its seal of approval upon any proposition to create a new national park, it should be satisfied beyond the possibility of a doubt that the subject matter is of national importance and not one of local pride only; a unique object and not merely one of many similar objects."

Thurston knew the values the proposed park contained, for he had seen them through numerous explorations of the area. On the morning of August 2, 1913, in company with Dr. Jaggar and others,

Thurston explored the Twin Craters and discovered a large underground cave leading northeast from the wall of Kalua Iki Crater. An important park feature that has since become highly popular with visitors, it was named the Thurston Lava Tube to commemorate its discoverer.

Thurston's work in behalf of the park brought endorsements from President Theodore Roosevelt, Stephen T. Mather, and other influential persons. On trips to Washington, Thurston talked to anyone who lent a sympathetic ear to his park proposal and made them curious to come and see for themselves. The consistent lava lake activity in Halemaumau had made the region known as one of the wonders of the world. By 1915, Stephen Mather had made Congress and the Nation highly park conscious, and the moment was ripe for the final thrust for Hawaii National Park.

That year, 124 members of Congress visited Hawaii. Thurston accompanied them to Kilauea and showed them the proposed park, all the while arousing their interest in the project. A pledge of support

from Senator James A. Martine of New Jersey, who said, "On my return to Washington I shall urge action on the part of Congress as may establish this area as a national park," was typical of many prompted by Thurston's enthusiasm. His work with this influential group gave the final impetus to the plan.

On December 6, 1915, Hawaii's Delegate to Congress, Prince Kuhio Kalanianaole, introduced a bill in the House of Representatives to establish the park. Dr. Jaggar, who helped draft the bill, was sent to Washington at the expense of the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce to testify in behalf of it, along with Charles R. Forbes, Superintendent of Public Works for the Territory. The bill proposed three tracts of land on the Island of Hawaii, and at Dr. Jaggar's suggestion, a tract on the Island of Maui that included Haleakala Crater. Hearings on the bill were held by the House Public Lands Committee in January 1916 and Jaggar presented statements prepared by him and Thurston. The Committee issued a favorable report on the bill on February 7. Subsequently it was enacted by both houses of Congress and signed into law by President Wilson on August 1, 1916.

* * * *

Saturday morning, July 9, 1921, found a group of about one hundred persons gathered on the brink of Halemaumau to dedicate the park. In the group were Thurston, Jaggar, Mrs. Jaggar, a group of writers from the <u>Brooklyn Eagle</u>, and others. The Reverend D. K. Kaaiakamanu, a Hawaiian minister, offered a chant to Pele to commemorate the occasion, followed by the Reverend Stephen Desha of Hilo, who

gave a prayer of dedication. A wreath made of roses and ferns, symbolizing the unity of Americans and Hawaiians, was tossed into the fire pit by Desha, and Mrs. Jaggar deposited some of the sacred ohelo berries, as the Hawaiians had done for centuries. Thurston then gave the dedicatory address, touching on the legendary and written history of Kilauea and exhorting all those present to boost the park. At this gathering Thurston envisioned the construction of a road to the summit of Mauna Loa. Thurston then transferred jurisdiction of the park to the Federal Government on behalf of the Territory, and the property was formally accepted by Acting Superintendent A. O. Burkland, who represented the National Park Service. At a luncheon held at the Volcano House following the simple dedication ceremony, Dr. Milton Rice, President of the Hilo Board of Trade and the day's master of ceremonies, said, "As is usually the case in matters leading up to events such as this momentous occasion, the achievement can be traced to the genius and unselfish support of one man--Lorrin A. Thurston, to whom all praise and credit is due."

Local administration of the park did not begin until the arrival in February 1922 of Superintendent Thomas Boles. Before that B. G. Rivenburgh, Commissioner of Public Lands for the Territory, and later A. O. Burkland, Chief of the U. S. Geological Survey in the Territory, acted as agents for the National Park Service in looking after the affairs of the new park. Boles remained in active charge until July 1926, when he was relieved by Burkland, who was designated

as acting superintendent. In January 1927, Burkland was succeeded by Richard T. Evans. Thomas J. Allen followed in November 1928, remaining until January 1931 when Ernest P. Leavitt succeeded him. Edward G. Wingate took over the reins from Leavitt in November 1933, and Frank R. Oberhansley from Wingate in June 1946. Oberhansley continues as superintendent of the park at this writing.

Development of the park area began taking shape even before its establishment. By 1911 a road from the Volcano House to Halemaumau, by way of Kilauea Iki, had been built by local prisoners at the expense of the Territory and county. In August 1915 Thurston aroused interest in Hilo and Honolulu for the construction of a trail to the summit of Mauna Loa. He appeared before the Hawaii County Board of Supervisors and other groups and urged support for the project. Then he and Jaggar undertook a fund drive in Hilo and Honolulu and raised \$3,000 for the job. With the help of a company of the 25th Infantry, a trail was laid out and built to Red Hill at an elevation of 10,000 feet on Mauna Loa. A resthouse was constructed at this point on a site selected by Thurston. A trail was also marked from Red Hill to the summit of Mauna Loa as a part of the job. Through Thurston's initiative, a military camp was constructed on the northern edge of Kilauea Crater in 1916. Thurston personally escorted Army representatives from Oahu who came to appraise the possibilities for such a camp. The camp has been much improved since its inception and attracts thousands of military personnel and their dependents from Oahu each year.

Significant development of the park has taken place under each of the superintendents. The depression years made available public works and CCC funds with which a long-planned development program was inaugurated. World War II forced a retrenchment in the park development, but the arrival of Superintendent Oberhansley in 1946 has resulted in the improvement of park facilities, including the opening of the Hilina Pali area by road in 1949, development of an urgently-needed museum, and many other facilities. Oberhansley has planned a program of development for the future that will open new vistas and experiences for the visitor.

Cooperating with the park in the development of its facilities for the benefit of visitors is Hui O Pele (Society of Pele), which was formed in 1923 at the suggestion of Charles C. Moore, a renowned San Francisco engineer who visited Kilauea in 1922. Moore was so impressed with the park that he suggested in an address to the Honolulu Advertising Club on May 9, 1922, that some organization be formed that would grant membership certificates to those who had seen Kilauea. Moore contributed \$100 to start the organization, and through the interest of various Honolulans the Hui was formed the following year. All of the organization's funds are derived through the sale of membership certificates and are subscribed to the improvement of visitor facilities. The Mauna Loa resthouse was built out of funds donated by the Hui and other improvements have been made possible through it. Most notable among its contributions is the \$11,950 donation made by the organization for the development of the park museum.

More than 30,000 members belong to the Hui. Other noteworthy donations to the museum have been made by Mr. & Mrs. Guido Giacommetti and Mrs. Laura V. Kennedy of Hilo, and Mrs. David Forbes of Kamuela, Hawaii.

An organization functioning along the lines of Hui O Pele was formed on the Island of Maui in 1951 at the suggestion of George T. Armitage, who for many years was highly active in managing the affairs of Hui O Pele. Hui Ahinahina (Silversword Society), as the Maui organization is known, has made an encouraging beginning. The improvement of visitors' facilities at Haleakala is the object of the new organization.

* * * * *

Both sections of Hawaii National Park played important roles in World War II. At Haleakala, the Red Hill area, one of the highest points in the Territory, was assigned to the Army for a radar installation. Along with it, a tract at the 7,000-foot elevation on Haleakala was turned over to the military authorities for the operation of an Army camp. A portion of the Kilauea Section was withdrawn for military purposes as part of the defense of the Territory, and Army tanks rumbled in the Kau Desert area of the park as part of a training program for military personnel.

Several adjustments of the park's boundaries have been made from time to time to round out the area to provide for maximum human enjoyment. Most comprehensive of these is the extension authorized by

Congress in 1938, which will bring into the park the magnificent coastal features of the island to the vicinity of Kalapana. Along with the scenic features and other values, the extension contains a wealth of archeological evidences.

As the result of a suggestion made in 1949 by Colin G.

Lennox, President of the Territorial Board of Agriculture and Forestry,
the park is negotiating with the Territory in the acquisition of a

7,212 acre tract in the Upper Olaa Forest Reserve adjoining the Kilauea
Section of the park. This tract contains some of the most outstanding
forest values in the Territory and will comprise a valuable addition
to the park, to be held in perpetuity for the enjoyment of visitors.

* * * *

Hawaii National Park stands as a monument to Lorrin A.

Thurston, its architect, for through his consummate effort it came to be. The man who executed the dreams of William R. Castle and Edyth Tozier Weatherred, Thurston would take immense satisfaction in knowing how greatly he enriched the cultural life of the Nation through its makings.

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Appendix

List of Other Important Personnel

Baldwin, Paul H., Collaborator and Assistant to the Superintendent

Barton, Eugene J., Assistant Superintendent, Haleakala Section

Castro, I. J., Assistant Superintendent, Kilauea Section

Christ, Joseph H., Chief Park Ranger

Doerr, John E., Jr., Park Naturalist

Fagerlund, Gunnar O., Chief Park Ranger

Field, Ernest K., Chief Park Ranger

Finch, Ruy H., Volcanologist and former Director, Hawaiian Volcano Observatory

Fox, John R., Chief Clerk

Giacometti, Guido, Collaborator

Higashida, James K., Chief Clerk

Hjort, Frank A., Chief Park Ranger

Hubbard, Douglass H., Park Naturalist

Jaggar, Dr. Thomas A., Jr., Volcanologist and first Director,
Hawaiian Volcano Observatory

Jeffery, Robert D., Supervisor of Construction and Maintenance

Kekahuna, Henry E. P., Collaborator

Kelsey, Theodore, Collaborator

Kim, Kenneth C. S., Chief Clerk

Lancaster, Alexander P., Guide and Park Ranger

Macdonald, Dr. Gordon A., Volcanologist and Director, Hawaiian Volcano Observatory

Moomaw, Benjamin F., Assistant to the Superintendent

Powers, Dr. Howard A., Park Naturalist

Quick, Herbert J., Supervisor of Construction and Maintenance
Schulz, Paul E., Geologist

Waesche, Hugh H., Assistant Geologist

List of Important Friends of Hawaii National Park Now Living, With Postoffice Address of Each

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- Best, Dr. Henry A., Chairman, Department of Entomology, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, T. H.
- Blickhahn, Harry M., Editor, Hilo Tribune-Herald, Hilo, Hawaii, T. H.
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- Lycurgus, George, President, Kilauea Volcano House Co., Ltd., Hawaii National Park, T. H.
- Lycurgus, Nicholas, Manager, Kilauea Volcano House Co., Ltd., Hawaii National Park, T. H.
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