

Chronology of Important Events

1778. Captain James Cook makes first European contact with the Hawai'ian people while searching for the Northwest Passage. He names this archipelago the Sandwich Islands.
1810. Kamehameha I, powerful chief of the island of Hawai'i, successfully defeats rivals and establishes himself as sovereign over all Hawai'i. He unites a scattered nation and keeps it together in the face of vast cultural changes due to the arrival of foreign ships bringing animals, trees, fruits, plants, firearms, liquor, and diseases never before seen in Hawai'i. Internal peace and stability in foreign affairs mark his reign. He is referred to as Kamehameha The Great and is memorialized in Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol. His traditional ascension date was 1795, and he ruled until 1819.
1819. Kamehameha I's son, Liholiho, becomes king and begins a reign characterized by weakness and vacillation. Early in his rule an event of major proportions occurs when, pressured by his mother and his father's favorite wife, he openly sits down to eat with a group of noble women, thus violating a sacred taboo that forbids men and women from eating together. Later he orders religious images burned and heiau demolished, thus irrevocably tearing the ancient social fabric of the islands. He dies from measles in London in 1824.
1820. American Protestant missionaries from New England arrive in Hawai'i. Although primarily interested in the salvation of souls, they are an important catalyst of civilization. They seem narrow-minded and intolerant, but accomplish much that is good for the Hawai'ians by putting the Hawai'ian language in written form, establishing schools, and encouraging agricultural and manufacturing industries.

1824. Kauikeaouli, last son of Kamehameha The Great to rule, becomes King Kamehameha III at age ten upon his older brother's death. His reign of twenty-nine years is the longest of any Hawaiian monarch. He is a progressive ruler, moving his people toward democracy and constitutional monarchy. He rules until 1854.
1827. The first Catholic missionaries arrive in Hawai'i.
1832. The Reverend Harvey R. Hitchcock is sent to christianize the natives of Moloka'i. He establishes the first Christian mission at Kalua'aha on the southeast shore of the island.
1838. Barbara Koob (Mother Marianne Cope) is born in Heppenheim, Germany.
1839. A substation of Kalua'aha mission is established on Kalaupapa peninsula. A French frigate enters Honolulu harbor and demands freedom for Catholic prisoners. The right of Catholics to remain in Hawai'i and preach and convert is established.
1840. Joseph de Veuster (Father Damien) is born in Tremeloo, Belgium, into a well-to-do peasant family.
1843. Ira Barnes Dutton (Brother Dutton) is born near present-day Stowe, Vermont.
1850. Board of Health is organized by Kamehameha III to protect the health of the people and take measures to cure them of epidemic diseases.
1853. Calvinist Church (Bldg. No. 301) is built on Kalaupapa peninsula.
1854. Alexander Liholiho succeeds his uncle Kamehameha III, taking the title of Kamehameha IV. He is the first grandson of Kamehameha The Great to become king of Hawai'i, and is one of the most anti-American of all Hawai'i's monarchs. During his reign there is

agitation on the part of sugar planters for annexation to the United States, while at the same time the monarchy tries to strengthen its own power. There is also pressure to extend democracy to the citizenry.

1863. Lot Kamehameha, as King Kamehameha V, is the final direct descendant of Kamehameha The Great to reign and the last monarch to rule in the old style. Afterwards, kings will be elected by the Hawaiian legislature. A reciprocity treaty allowing Hawai'ian sugar to enter American duty-free is promoted during his reign. He dies in 1872 without naming a successor, ending the Kamehameha The Great dynasty.

1864. Joseph de Veuster, a member of the missionary party of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts to the Hawai'ian Islands, is ordained to the priesthood in Honolulu.

1865. "An Act to Prevent the Spread of Leprosy" in Hawai'i is passed. This law provides for setting aside land for the isolation and seclusion of leprous individuals. Land on the peninsula of Moloka'i is purchased for use as an isolation settlement. Kalihi Hospital and Detention Station opens for the admission of leprosy patients. It is designed as a hospital for light cases and as a temporary detention station for severe ones.

1866. In January the first group of leprosy victims is deposited at Kalawao. Siloama, "Church of the Healing Spring" (Congregational), is organized in December.

1871. Siloama Church (Bldg. No. 710) is dedicated.

1872. St. Philomena Catholic Church (Bldg. No. 711) is erected at Kalawao.

1873. Dr. Gerhard Henrik Armauer Hansen, a Norwegian physician, detects the leprosy bacillus (Mycobacterium leprae). William

Lunalilo is confirmed as king of Hawai'i by the legislature. He is descended from one of the half-brothers of Kamehameha The Great. A liberal monarch who attempts to democratize the constitution, he has an advanced tubercular affliction that causes his death a little over a year later. He also fails to name a successor. Father Damien volunteers as resident priest at the leprosy settlement. During the summer, a store is established at Kalawao to supply staple goods at low prices to the residents. Another Catholic church, Our Lady Health of the Sick, is built at Kalaupapa.

1874. Father André Burgermann is sent to Moloka'i to minister to the needs of the rest of the island. David Kalākaua, Hawai'i's last king, is elected ruler by the legislature. Concerned with the well-being of native Hawai'ians, he is a hard-headed individualist who suffers setbacks to his power toward the end of his reign. In April he visits Kalaupapa. A new constitution depriving him of much of his power is written. Due to declining health, he goes to California in 1890, leaving Liliuokalani as regent, and dies there of a stroke.
1876. St. Philomena Church is remodelled and a nave and steeple added. In June the "Committee of Thirteen," leading members of the Hawai'ian legislature, land at Kalaupapa to investigate the condition of the residents. Dr. G.W. Woods, medical inspector in the U.S. Navy, visits Kalaupapa peninsula.
1878. Father Damien establishes orphanages for young boys and girls at Kalawao.
1879. The first semi-resident doctor, Nathaniel B. Emerson, arrives at Kalawao. New Siloama chapel is dedicated at Kalaupapa.
1880. Siloama is rebuilt, including changing the orientation of the front elevation, tapering the steeple, and raising the belfry.

1881. Princess Liliuokalani, sister of King Kalākaua, visits the leprosy settlement. Father Albert Montiton begins service at Kalaupapa. Kaka'ako Hospital opens in December on the east side of Honolulu harbor, taking the place of the old Kalihi Hospital. The site becomes unsuitable due to periodic inundation by the sea, and about 1889 the buildings are moved back to the old Kalihi Hospital site. It is used as a detention station and hospital for mild leprosy cases.
1883. Mother Marianne and six Sisters of St. Francis arrive in Hawai'i.
1884. Queen Kapiolani, Princess Liliuokalani, and Dr. Eduard Arning, German medical expert, arrive at Kalaupapa to assess the condition of the settlement. Charles Warren Stoddard, professor of English literature at Notre Dame University and author of Lepers of Molokai, first visited the leprosarium in 1868 and returns in 1884. Damien's leprosy is diagnosed.
1885. Kapiolani Home for Girls opens in Honolulu as a home for children of leprous parents.
1886. Ira Dutton arrives at Kalawao to help Father Damien.
1888. A stone addition and tower are added to St. Philomena Church. The Charles R. Bishop Home for Unprotected Leper Girls and Women is completed at Kalaupapa. The leprosy branch hospital at Kaka'ako is closed. Mother Marianne and two Catholic sisters arrive at Kalaupapa to supervise the Bishop Home. Father Wendelin Moellers arrives to be pastor at the Kalaupapa Church and at the sisters' convent.
1889. Father Damien dies from the effects of leprosy. Robert Louis Stevenson, noted British writer, visits Hawai'i and the leprosy settlement.

- 1890s. Gradual move to Kalaupapa of leprosy patients begins. Kalawao to be abandoned as place of residence as buildings decay.
1893. Dr. Masanao Goto is engaged by the Board of Health to treat Hawai'i's leprosy victims.
1894. The Henry P. Baldwin Home for Boys and Helpless Men opens at Kalawao.
1895. The last kama'āinas are evicted from Kalaupapa peninsula.
1898. The United States annexes the Hawai'ian Islands.
1900. The Territory of Hawai'i is created. St. Francis Catholic Church is dedicated at Kalaupapa.
1901. The Bay View Home for the Aged and Helpless is built on the waterfront at Kalaupapa.
1904. Dr. C. B. Cooper, president of the Board of Health of the Territory of Hawai'i, requests the federal government to undertake scientific research on leprosy in the Islands.
1905. The "Act to Provide for the Investigation of Leprosy" is passed by the U.S. Congress. Construction begins on a hospital and laboratory at Kalawao: the first hospital for research on a specific disease authorized by Congress.
1906. St. Francis Church at Kalaupapa burns.
1908. A general hospital is built at Kalaupapa. The new St. Francis Church (Bldg. No. 291) is completed.
1909. The Moloka'i lighthouse is built on the tip of the Kalaupapa peninsula. The U.S. Leprosy Investigation Station at Kalawao opens.

1910. The McVeigh Home for White Foreigners opens. Laboratory space is given to the Public Health Service at Kalihi Hospital in Honolulu, and the majority of personnel from the Kalawao station are transferred there.
1913. The U.S. Leprosy Investigation Station is officially closed for scientific studies, although routine work continues.
1914. The Bay View Home burns.
1915. Kalaupapa social hall (Bldg. No. 304) and Kanaana Hou Church (Bldg. No. 286) are built at Kalaupapa.
1917. The new Bay View Home opens.
1918. Mother Marianne dies.
1921. The "Louisiana Leper Home," established in Carville in 1894, is purchased by the U.S. Government and designated as the National Leprosarium.
1922. The U.S. Leprosy Investigation Station buildings and land are transferred from the federal government to the Territory of Hawai'i.
1928. The McVeigh Home burns.
1929. The U.S. Leprosy Investigation Station is dismantled. A new McVeigh Home is built.
1930. The Board of Leper Hospitals and Settlement is created.
1931. The poi shop and landing dock at Kalaupapa are built. Brother Joseph Dutton dies.

1932. The ice plant and airport at Kalaupapa are completed. A new hospital (Bldg. No. 282) opens. The old Kalaupapa general hospital is converted to the new Baldwin Home, while the old home at Kalawao is burned. This completes the transfer of patients to the Kalaupapa side of the peninsula.
1934. The post office/courtroom and service station are built at Kalaupapa.
1936. Father Damien's body is exhumed and removed to Louvain, Belgium, for burial.
1938. Beatification proceedings are begun toward canonization of Joseph de Veuster as Saint Damien.
1946. A destructive tidal wave hits the west shoreline of Kalaupapa settlement, inflicting heavy damage. Sulfone drugs are introduced in Hawai'i as part of routine therapy for the treatment of leprosy, introducing hope for the alleviation and arrest of symptoms.
1947. Lawrence M. Judd is appointed resident superintendent of Kalaupapa settlement and introduces new social and therapeutic activities.
1949. The Board of Hospitals and Settlement is abolished. Administration of the Hansen's Disease (leprosy) program is given back to the Board of Health.
1950. The Baldwin Home for Men and Boys merges with the Bay View Home.
1966. Old Siloama at Kalawao is reconstructed.
1969. The Hawai'i Board of Health decides to end the isolation of leprosy patients.

1976. The Secretary of the Interior is directed to study the feasibility of adding Kalaupapa settlement to the National Park System.
1977. Father Damien is declared Venerable by the Roman Catholic Church.
1980. Public Law 96-565 establishes Kalaupapa National Historical Park.

Some data extracted from:

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