

**VOLUME 1**

**NUMBER 128**

**Revolution in Paradise (Hawaii)**

**Lead: Its strategic position and economic potential were too great for Hawaii to retain its independence.**

**Intro.: "A Moment in Time" with Dan Roberts.**

**Content: In January 1891 David Kalakaua the last King of the Hawaiians died while on trip to California. His reign had characterized by rising political corruption and the increasing influence of Asian immigrants and white people, most especially citizens of the United States. While resenting**

**this growing foreign influence Kalakaua contributed to it by signing two Reciprocity Treaties with the States which gave Americans a larger share of the Hawaiian economy as each year passed. Toward the end of his life he was forced by public opinion aroused by influential Americans to surrender many of his personal powers to the legislature by agreeing to what his successor called the "bayonet constitution."**

**Kalakaua was succeeded by his sister Queen Liliuokalani. She had acted as regent during her brother's frequent trips abroad and perhaps due to her education in London was highly skeptical of growing American influence in the Islands and suspicious**

**of the whites who were developing the resources of her country.**

**Soon after taking office she began to plan dumping the "bayonet constitution." Two years later she was ready. Her plan was to restore the powers of the monarch and the influence of native Hawaiians. Only they could vote and their property would be exempt from taxation.**

**To combat the Queen a Committee of Safety was formed and when she attempted to ditch the old constitution, the Committee offered the Presidency to Sanford B. Dole, a white born in the islands. Three days later he proclaimed an end to the monarchy and a provisional government which**

**would seek annexation by the United States. Queen Liliuokalani, under protest, was forced to abdicate.**

**Many obstacles lay in front of those Hawaiians seeking U.S. control, not the least of which were those Americans on the mainland who didn't want their country acquiring an Empire, but in the summer of 1898 the infant Republic of Hawaii became a territory of the United States. Revolution had come to Paradise.**

**At the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.**

#### **Resources**

**Wyndette, Oive. *Islands of Destiny: A History of Hawaii*.  
Rutland, VT: C.E. Tuttle Company, 1968.**

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