ISLAND GOVERNORS
1838-1897

INTRODUCTION

The records of the governors of Oahu, Maui, Kauai and Hawaii span the years 1838-1897. The majority of documents are made up of correspondence and letterbooks which span the years 1844-1893. The collection also includes financial records and accounts, registers of brands, poundmaster's records, tax collector appointments and a minutebook. However, during the period from 1838-1843, there is not much information and material covering these years. The majority of documents are arranged chronologically, in bound volumes, and are in pretty fair physical condition. The collection contains a total of 105.75 linear inches.

AGENCY HISTORY

Kamehameha I appointed the first governors of the islands following the unification of the Hawaiian kingdom in 1795. Kamehameha centralized all government functions under him and appointed experienced, loyal associates as governors. The governors were the personal representatives of the king.

The Constitution of 1840 stated that there should be governors in charge of designated areas: one governor for Hawaii; one governor for Maui, Molokai, Lanai and Kahoolawe; one governor for Oahu and one governor for Kauai and Niihau. The duties of the governor were outlined in the laws of 1842 and specifically identified in the 1846 Act to Organize the Executive Departments. Each governor was superior over his island but subject to both the King and the Premier (Kuhina-nui). Each governor was responsible to direct and oversee the tax collectors/assessors of his island. The governors were also responsible for the appointment and conduct of district judges; the keeping of records of all brands and marks of animals; controlled the town's fort, prison system, police force, markets, public works; and allowed or disallowed marriages and divorces involving foreign men and native women.

The Constitution of 1852 revised the earlier constitution but the duties of the governor remained basically the same. However, the governors were now appointed by the King, with the advice of the Privy Council, to a four-year term of office and were also subject to impeachment and liable to trial for any malfeasance.
The governor's office was abolished by Act 29, Laws of 1887, but the king's veto was overridden and consequently the office was abolished again by Act 44 in 1888. During a period of political turmoil, the office was re-established in 1891 but was finally abolished in 1893 with the overthrow of the Hawaiian kingdom.

**Governors of Hawaii**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kuakini (John Adams)</td>
<td>1820-1844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leleiohoku, William Pitt</td>
<td>1844-1846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kapeau, George Luther</td>
<td>1846-1855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keelikolani (Princess)</td>
<td>Jan. 15, 1855-1872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyman, Rufus A.</td>
<td>Feb. 15, 1872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keelikolani (Princess)</td>
<td>March 30, 1872-1874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kipi, Samuel</td>
<td>March 2, 1874-1879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likelike (Princess)</td>
<td>March 29, 1879-1880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keakaulike (Princess)</td>
<td>Sept. 2, 1880-1884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poomaikelani, Virginia K.</td>
<td>Jan. 21, 1884-1886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ululani (Baker)</td>
<td>Oct. 15, 1886-1888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker, John T.</td>
<td>Feb. 8, 1892-1893</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Governors of Oahu**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boki</td>
<td>? - until Dec. 1829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liliha</td>
<td>Dec. 1829-April 1, 1831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuakini</td>
<td>April 1, 1831-?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinau</td>
<td>1833-1839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kekuanaoa, M.</td>
<td>Nov. 17, 1846-Feb. 18, 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominis, John O.</td>
<td>Feb. 18, 1864-Oct. 4, 1886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taukea, Curtis P.</td>
<td>Oct. 4, 1886-Aug. 5, 1887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosa, Antone (Acting)</td>
<td>April 12, 1887-July 7, 1887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleghorn, A.S. (Acting)</td>
<td>July 7, 1887-July 26, 1887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominis, John O.</td>
<td>Aug. 5, 1887-Aug. 23, 1888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominis, John O.</td>
<td>March 2, 1891-Nov. 11, 1891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleghorn, A.S.</td>
<td>Nov. 11, 1891-Feb. 28, 1893</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Governors of Maui**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kanehoa, James Young</td>
<td>1842-Oct. 1, 1851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na'aholehua, Paul</td>
<td>Dec. 3, 1852-1874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kapena, John Makini</td>
<td>Feb. 23, 1874-1876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moehonua, W. L.</td>
<td>Dec. 15, 1876-1878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominis, John Owen</td>
<td>Sept. 9, 1878-1886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker, Robert H.</td>
<td>Oct. 4, 1886-1888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everett, Thomas W.</td>
<td>May 17, 1892-1893</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Governor of Kauai

1824
1825-1839
1839-1842
1842-1844
October 21, 1846-January 4, 1877
January 4, 1877-1880
August 16, 1880-1881
January 12, 1881-1886
July 31, 1886-1888
February 8, 1892-February 28, 1893

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

67 CORRESPONDENCE. 1847-1889. 61.0 lin. inches; 9 vols.
Organized into 2 subseries: incoming letters and outgoing letters.
Contains letterbooks and a large collection of incoming letters, written in English and Hawaiian, primarily by Governor G.L. Kaepu and clerk R.A. Lyman. Most of the letters were sent to government officials and dealt with tax collection, responses to citizen inquires, appointment of individuals to government positions and registration of animal brands.
Five volumes (1849-1850; 1850-1851; 1851-1857; 1874-1876; 1877-1880) of typescript letterbooks included.

68 REGISTERS OF BRANDS. 1858-1897. 5.0 lin. inches; 4 vols.
Arranged chronologically by date and alphabetically by brand letter.
Contains date, name of person registering the brand, certificate number, the brand or mark, the address of the person and fee paid.
Includes an 1869 letter discussing brand registration of Kamehameha V.

69 FINANCIAL JOURNALS. 1866-1896. 2.0 lin. inches; 2 vols.
Arranged chronologically.
Contains daily financial records kept by the Minister of Finance and the Governor. Includes payments received from fines and penalties, taxes for real estate, personal property, mules and dogs. Outgoing payments include judge's salaries, payment to supervisors, tax collectors and supplies.
Includes a list of measuring instruments tested for accuracy and validity. These instruments include counter scales, yardsticks, spring balances, platform scales, weights and Chinese balances. Also contains name of person, plantation or company being tested, location and date.
GOVERNOR OF KAUAI

70  LETTERBOOK. 1882-1888. .75 lin. inch; 1 vol.
    Arranged chronologically.
    Contains letterbook, written in Hawaiian, by Governor P.
    Kanoa and clerk S. Naauao.

GOVERNOR OF MAUI

    Organized into 2 subseries: incoming letters and outgoing
    letters.
    Contains letterbooks, written in Hawaiian and English, by
    Governors J.Y. Kanehoa, P. Nahalelua and J.M. Kapena.
    Four volumes (1849-1857; 1874-1880; 1874-1880 in Hawaiian;
    1883-1884) of typescript letterbooks included.

72  MINUTEBOOK. 1851-1856. .75 lin. inch; 1 vol.
    Arranged chronologically.
    Contains a minutebook of divorce proceedings written in
    Hawaiian by P. Nahaoelua.

73  LIVESTOCK REGISTERS. 1863-1893. .5 lin. inch; 1 vol.
    Arranged chronologically.
    Contains a register of brands, written in Hawaiian, for Maui
    and Lanai.

74  FINANCIAL RECORDS. 1846-1888. 7.0 lin. inches; 5 vols.
    Arranged chronologically.
    Contains financial and account ledgers, and a cash journal,
    written in Hawaiian and English, by Governors J.Y. Kanehoa, P.

GOVERNOR OF OAHU

75  CORRESPONDENCE. 1844-1893. 10.0 lin. inches; 6 vols.
    Organized into 2 subseries: incoming letters and outgoing
    letters.
    Contains letterbooks and incoming letters written in English
    and Hawaiian by Governors Kekuanaoa, Dominis, Iaukea, Rosa and
    Cleghorn.
    Includes letters from the Deputy Marshall David Dayton
    giving recommendations for appointments from 1854-1884. Also a
    list of district judicial appointments (1863-1881) and City,
    Country and Special Police lists (1881-1887). These contain
    names, date of hiring, date of discharge and reason for
    dismissal. Also includes outgoing letters of Adjutant General
    Iaukea (1885-1888).
    Two volumes (1855-1856 & 1857-1875) of typescript
    letterbooks included.
76 POUNDMASTER RECORDS. 1861-1866. 0.5 lin. inch; 1 vol. 
Arranged chronologically.
Contains record book of Poomanu, poundmaster, written in 
Hawaiian. Includes date, location found, event, who brought the 
animal in, numbers, kinds of animals and brands.

77 REGISTER OF BRANDS. 1846-1892. 1.0 lin. inch; 2 vols. 
Arranged chronologically.
Contains list of brands registered, written in Hawaiian and 
English. Includes certificate number, date, brand, owner, 
location and fees paid.

78 TAX COLLECTOR APPOINTMENTS. 1863-1882. 0.5 lin. inch; 1 vol. 
Arranged chronologically.
Contains certificates, printed in English and Hawaiian, 
appointing tax collectors for districts on Oahu and signed by the 
governor.

79 FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS. 1838-1850. 1.75 lin. inches; 2 vols. 
Arranged chronologically.
Contains fort transactions (1838-1844) and stationary supply 
accounts (1849-1850), written in English and Hawaiian.
Includes dates, supplies purchased and intended office.

SERIES INVENTORY

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<th>Contents</th>
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<td>Box 1 67</td>
<td>Letters and Reports. No dates.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letters. 1849-1855; 1857.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letters. 1862.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letters. April-June 1862.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Letters. September 1862.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Letters. October-December 1862.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letters. 1863.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Letters. 1864.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Letters. April-June 1865.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letters. October-December 1865.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letters. April-June 1866.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letters. October-December 1866.</td>
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Letters. October-December 1867.
Letters. April 1868.
Letters. May-December 1868.
Letters. 1869.
Letters. April-July 1870.
Letters. August-December 1870.
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Letters. September 1874.

Box 3 67 Letters. October-November 1874.
Letters. December 1-14, 1874.
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Letters. August 1-9, 1875.
Letters. September 1-14, 1875.
Letters. October 1-11, 1875.
Letters. November 1-10, 1875.
Letters. November 11-17, 1875.
Letters. December 1-8, 1875.

Box 4 67 Letters. January 3-11, 1876.
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Letters. April 2-11, 1876.  
Letters. April 12-30, 1876.  
Letters. May 1-24, 1876.  
Letters. June 1-12, 1876.  
Letters. July 1-9, 1876.  
Letters. August 1-8, 1876.  
Letters. August 10-31, 1876.  
Letters. September 1-18, 1876.  
Letters. October 2-9, 1876.  
Letters. October 10-31, 1876.  
Letters. November 1-13, 1876.  

Box 5 67  
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Letters. December 2-9, 1877.  
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Box 7  67
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Letters. August-September 1879.
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       Letters. February-March 1883.
       Letters. April-May 1883.

       Letters. September-October 1883.
       Letters. (No date) 1884.
       Letters. February-March 1884.
       Letters. April-June 1884.
       Letters. August 1884.
       Letters. September 1884.
       Letters. October 1884.
       Letters. December (No date)-22, 1884.
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       Letters. February 1885.
       Letters. March 1885.
       Letters. April-May 1885.
       Letters. August 1885.
       Letters. September 1885.
       Letters. October 1885.
       Letters. December 1885.

       Letters. February 1886.
       Letters. March 1886.
       Letters. April 1886.
       Letters. May 1886.
       Letters. August 1886.
       Letters. September 1886.
       Letters. October 1886.
       Letters. February 1887.
       Letters. March 1887.
       Letters. April 1887.
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Box 10  67  Letters. May 1887.
Letters. August 1887.
Letters. September 1887.
Letters. October (No date)-13, 1887.
Letters. October 14-31, 1887.
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Box 13  69  Account Book. 1866-1874.
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Governor of Kauai

70  Letterbook. 1882-1888.

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Box 15  Letterbook (Typescript). 1849-1857.
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Box 16 72  Minutebook. 1851-1856.
73  Livestock Registers. 1863-1893.
74  Financial Ledger. 1846-1877.
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    Cash Journal. 1878-1886.
    Account Book. 1883-1886.
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Governor of Oahu

75  Letters. No date; 1844; 1853; 1866.
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    Letters. 1881.
    Letters. 1885.
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    Letters from Deputy Marshal. N.D.; 1854-1884

    75-75 Letterbook. 1855-1874. (Oversize).
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78  Tax Collector Appointment Book. 1863-1882.
79  Fort Transactions. 1838-1844.
    Account Book. 1849-1850.

Prepared by D. Yap
March, 1991
Revised: June, 1992
Revised: January, 2001

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