

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

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

Governors of Oahu

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

Governors of Maui

Kanehoa, James Young	1842-Oct. 1, 1851
Nahaolelua, Paul	Dec. 3, 1852-1874
Kapena, John Makini	Feb. 23, 1874-1876
Moehonua, W. L.	Dec. 15, 1876-1878
Dominis, John Owen	Sept. 9, 1878-1886
Baker, Robert H.	Oct. 4, 1886-1888
Everett, Thomas W.	May 17, 1892-1893

Governor of Kauai

Kahalai'a	1824
Kaikio'ewa	1825-1839
Emelia (Keaweamahi)	1839-1842
Kekauonohi	1842-1844
Kanoa, Paulo	October 21, 1846-January 4, 1877
Bush, John E.	January 4, 1877-1880
Beckley, F. W.	August 16, 1880-1881
Kanoa, Paul P.	January 12, 1881-1886
Lanihau, Anna	July 31, 1886-1888
Rice, William H.	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. Kapeau 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

- 71 **CORRESPONDENCE.** 1846-1893. 14.0 lin. inches; 9 vols.
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. Nahaolelua.
- 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. Nahaolelua, J.M. Kapena, J. Dominis and R.H. Baker.

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 (1886-1888).
Two volumes (1855-1856 & 1857-1875) of typescript letterbooks included.

- 76 **POUNDMASTER RECORDS.** 1861-1866. .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 **REGISTERS 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. .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.

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Governor of Oahu

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