



# IOLANI PALACE

Audio Tour Script

Large Print

**08.20.18**

**PLEASE RETURN TO LANAI**

## **Stop 1: Introduction – Inside the Palace in the Grand Hall**

**NARRATOR:** Ano ai kuaa, Welcome to Iolani Palace, the last official residence of the monarchs of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Traditionally in Hawaii a royal compound had a number of different homes, each serving a special purpose. One of the structures was set aside for meeting and entertaining. That's how our royal family used Iolani Palace.

***[SFX: Song for Kalakaua begins]***

What you are hearing is a mele, or song, offered as a hookupu or gift. The tradition of arriving with a gift for the alii—Hawaiian royalty, that is—is centuries old. Many schools offer musical hookupu when they come to tour the palace.

On today's tour, you're going to hear about three main figures who loom large in late 19<sup>th</sup> century Hawaiian

history: We'll start with King Kalakaua, who had this palace built in 1882. After his death, the Palace became the official residence of his sister, Queen Liliuokalani. After the monarchy was illegally overthrown, the Palace became the capitol for the governments that followed. During these succeeding governments, the Palace was changed from its original appearance. In 1969, restoration work began, and seven years and millions of dollars later Iolani Palace was restored to its original beauty.

Admission fees and donations from visitors like you support ongoing preservation and restoration efforts for our beloved Iolani Palace.

Today, the Palace is viewed by many as a symbol of the Hawaiian Kingdom and as a monument to the rich history of Hawaii. The name Iolani was given to the first Iolani Palace in honor of Kamehameha IV who also carried the name Iolani. It comes from the Hawaiian word *Io*, meaning hawk, and *lani*, meaning

royal or heavenly. When combined together, Iolani means the royal or heavenly hawk.

We hope you enjoy your tour.

## **Stop 2: Grand Hall**

**NARRATOR:** To hear the story of the Grand Hall, walk to the center of the room and face the grand staircase.

The year is 1887. Imagine: You are an artist, foreign diplomat or royal visitor to the Hawaiian Islands and you have been invited to meet the King. After entering the Palace grounds, a member of the King's staff welcomes you. As you enter the building, you are almost blinded by the brilliance of the electric chandeliers. Iolani Palace was one of the first royal palaces in the world to have electric lights-four years before the White House in Washington D. C.!

This magnificent staircase in front of you is made of native Hawaiian koa wood, with kamani and walnut

trim. It leads to the royal family's private quarters upstairs. It's a place you will see later on this tour.

The photo on your device is an image of the staircase before the carpet was installed.

This grand staircase served the Royal Family, guests and the household staff going about their daily chores. Unlike most stately homes of the era, Iolani Palace did not have a separate staircase for the staff. The treads of this staircase are original – they are the only original flooring left in the Palace.

The carpeting now in the halls, on the staircase and in the rooms are reproductions based on 19<sup>th</sup> century photographs. The image on your device is the 19<sup>th</sup> century photo we used when we recreated the carpet.

Check out how closely the design matches!

Turn to the right and look at the portraits on the wall. You're looking at the Hawaiian Kingdom's moi kane,

or kings, and moi wahine or queens. As they're being described, each of the portraits will be shown on your device.

Closest to the glass doors on your right is Kamehameha I. He wears a yellow feather cape called an ahuula. In 1810, through warfare and diplomacy, he united the Hawaiian Islands and established the Hawaiian Kingdom.

To the left is a portrait of Kekauluohi, one of King Kamehameha's wives who served as the prime minister. In Hawaiian she's called kuhina nui. Next, in a military uniform with a high collar, is Liholiho, the man who would become King Kamehameha II. His wife Queen Kamamalu is to the left.

The next set of portraits shows Kauikeaouli, also known as King Kamehameha III, and his wife Queen Kalama. Together they were the longest serving

monarchs of the Hawaiian Kingdom reigning for 29 years and 192 days.

Now turn to face the opposite wall. Here you'll see portraits of Alexander Liholiho Iolani, also known as King Kamehameha IV, and his wife Queen Emma, dressed in red. They were quite a team. They also brought the Church of England, now known as the Episcopal Church, to Hawaii, and established the church's headquarters close by. It is called St. Andrews Cathedral.

Look to the left. This portrait is of Lot Kapuaiwa, known as King Kamehameha V. During his time as King, he approved the construction of a number of new buildings to make room for the growing Hawaiian government. This included Aliiolani Hale, the magnificent palace-like building across the street.

Kamehameha V never married and had no heir to the throne. When he died, for the first time ever, an

election was held to decide who would be the next king of Hawaii.

The last portrait in the Grand Hall shows who was chosen: King Lunalilo, the last king of Hawaii from the Kamehameha dynasty. He was one of Hawaii's most beloved kings. This made it all the more sad for the people of Hawaii when he died—from an illness—only 13 months after being appointed King.

Interested in hearing more about the social and political changes that took place during the Kamehameha dynasty? Just press Play. Or proceed to the next room on your tour, the Blue Room.

### **Stop 3: Royal Portraits and the political changes during the Kamehameha dynasty.**

**NARRATOR:** We've piqued your curiosity, haven't we? By now you've seen what everyone looks like. But what did they do, exactly? Take a seat on the bench nearby and we'll hit a few highlights from the

reigns of each of the kings of the Kamehameha dynasty.

Kamehameha I united the islands of Hawaii into a single Kingdom. He was from Hawaii Island, also known as the Big Island. And so it came to be that all aboriginal—or native—people, no matter which island they came from, became known as Hawaiians.

Even before Hawaii was unified, it traded with other parts of the world. Because of this, King Kamehameha had access to European weapons and ideas and he used these to help him win in battles against other rival chiefs.

Another big change in Hawaiian society happened during the reign of Kamehameha II who was king from 1819-1824.

The kapu system, a traditional system of laws, was overturned. This included one of the most prominent laws, the ai kapu, or eating restriction. Under this law,

men and women ate separately and women were forbidden to eat certain foods, such as pork, bananas, coconuts and certain types of fish. The overturning of the ai kapu and other religious laws greatly changed the way Hawaiian society had done things for generations. Also, in 1820, missionaries from New England arrived in Hawaii, bringing further social and religious changes to the islands.

During his reign, Kamehameha III put a great emphasis on education. 80% of adults in Hawaii could read. He also gave his subjects Hawaii's first constitution. That was in 1840.

Kamehameha IV was the nephew of Kamehameha III. He and his wife Queen Emma personally raised money to open The Queen's hospital. It's been serving the community since 1859.

Kamehameha V succeeded his younger brother on the throne. He wanted to make some changes to the

constitution. When the delegates couldn't agree on the voting rights section, he dissolved the convention. Kamehameha V then drafted a whole new constitution and gave it to his subjects.

King Lunalilo was the last ruler of the Kamehameha dynasty. When Kamehameha V died without naming an heir, the Legislative Assembly had the job of choosing the next monarch. They had to select from a small group of eligible Hawaiian chiefs. Lunalilo wanted the people to choose the next monarch, so he requested the Legislative Assembly allow the people to vote. The people of Hawaii overwhelmingly voted to choose Lunalilo as their next king. But then, just thirteen months after ascending the throne, he died of tuberculosis. Once again, the King hadn't named a successor. This time, the Legislative Assembly elected David Kalakaua.

He became King in 1874. This was the start of the Kalakaua dynasty. You'll see his portrait and those of

other members of his family in the next room on your tour, the Blue Room.

#### **Stop 4: Blue Room**

***[SFX: Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century music begins, fades to be heard faintly in background]***

**NARRATOR:** This is the Blue Room. This room was often used for small receptions, concerts and private audiences. Several of the portraits you see hanging on the wall are of the Kalakaua Dynasty. King Kalakaua's portrait is hanging on the wall above the piano. Before he became king, he was a lawyer and held a variety of government positions. Kalakaua spoke fluent Hawaiian, English and had knowledge of other languages.

Now look to the left of the large double doorway for a portrait of Queen Liliuokalani wearing her black ribbon gown. The gown, which has been recreated by the Friends, was worn by Liliuokalani during Queen

Victoria's Jubilee in 1887. King Kalakaua named his sister, Liliuokalani, as his successor to the throne after his younger brother Leleiohoku died.

The largest portrait in the royal collection is in the corner of this room. Have you found it? It's of the Louis Philippe, King of the French, and was given to Kamehameha III as a diplomatic gift.

To hear about the political changes during the reigns of Kalakaua and Liliuokalani enter number 5 and press play.

### **Stop 5: Political changes during the Kalakaua and Liliuokalani years.**

**NARRATOR:** In 1887 King Kalakaua was given choice by a small group of economically powerful local residents: sign a new constitution or we will take over by force. It became known as the bayonet constitution. The right to vote was given to non-citizens who had money, property and were literate in

English or some other European language, which excluded the large Chinese population.

Native Hawaiians and others who were frustrated by these changes signed petitions asking Kalakaua and, later, Liliuokalani to return to the 1864 constitution.

When Liliuokalani met with her cabinet in 1893, she proposed changes that would restore power to the crown and return voting rights to native Hawaiians. A small group of influential people fought against these changes. They wanted something very different: for the Hawaiian monarchy to come to an end, and for Hawaii to become part of the U.S. So they called for the overthrow of the queen. They gained the support of the American Minister John Stevens who ordered U.S. troops to land on Hawaiian soil.

On January 17, 1893, a Provisional Government—which is a sort of emergency, temporary government—was put in place. Liliuokalani wanted to prevent bloodshed, and she trusted that the United

States would support her legal claim to be head of state. So she signed a letter of protest, giving her authority to the United States. She ends the letter stating:

**(FEMALE) LILIUOKALANI ACTOR:**

*“... I, Liliuokalani, yield my authority until such time as the Government of the United States shall, upon the facts being presented to it, undo the action of its representative, and reinstate me in the authority which I claim as the constitutional sovereign of the Hawaiian Islands.”*

**NARRATOR:**

The Queen believed – with good reason – that the United States government would hear her appeal and restore her power. The newly elected American president, Grover Cleveland, was sympathetic to her cause. He requested that the Provisional Government restore the Queen’s authority. But the leaders of the Provisional Government ignored the

American president's request and proclaimed Hawaii an independent republic. In this form of government, there are no kings or queens.

## **Stop 6: State Dining Room**

***[19<sup>th</sup> century music begins. The buzz of conversation starts and fades to be heard faintly in background.]***

**NARRATOR:** The gracious hospitality of the king was on full display here in the State Dining Room. Guests from around the world enjoyed pleasant conversation and the best food and drink the king could offer.

If you were invited to dine here, you might find yourself seated next to a diplomat from Japan, a judge from the United States, an opera singer on tour, or a French naval officer. Some of the more famous guests at the king's table were Prince Oscar of Sweden and Norway, and Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson.

***[SFX: clinking of silverware and china]***

The room is arranged for a small yet formal breakfast or dinner. The table is set with French china decorated with the coat-of-arms of the Hawaiian Kingdom. There is also an assortment of French, English and American flatware and fine Bohemian crystal. When Kalakaua hosted a dinner to celebrate his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, a local artist, Isobel Strong, hand-painted and wrote out the menus. You can see one of these menus on the left side of the room. To see a typed copy of the menu, look at your device.

Strong also created individualized place cards for each guest. His Majesty's card featured two young pages in scarlet, bowing low.

For larger meals, more tables were brought into the room.

***[SFX: softly, in the background, music plays]***

The king sat near the center of the table, to make it easy for him to talk with all his guests. During meals, the windows were left open and the music of the Royal Hawaiian Band floated in on a soft breeze.

The portraits on the walls are of European nobility.

At the far end of the room to the right is the portrait of Admiral Thomas, Commander-in-Chief of the British Pacific Fleet. He visited Hawaii during the reign of Kamehameha III and this was painted at the request of the king. Thomas Square near the Honolulu Museum of Art is named for him.

There are also portraits of two Prussian kings, a French emperor and a Russian czar. These presents hung here to remind Kalakaua's guests that the Hawaiian Kingdom was recognized by nations all around the world.

Don't forget to view the service area. It's number 7 on your map.

### **Stop 7: Service Area**

**NARRATOR:** This was the service area for the State Dining Room. The bathroom you see here has luxuries we currently take for granted: both hot and cold running water *and* a flush toilet. Dumbwaiters carried food from the kitchen, which was in the basement, up to the dining area. A small storage area called the Butler's Pantry was also here. This was a place to plate food and stack dirty dishes to be sent back to the kitchen in the basement.

### **Stop 8: Throne Room**

***[SFX: Hawaii Ponoï is heard over the sound of conversation, the conversation ends as the narrator begins, Hawaii Ponoï continues]***

**NARRATOR:** This magnificent Throne Room is where members of the Royal family held receptions and welcomed visitors. It's decorated with both Hawaiian and Western symbols of power. To either side of the thrones are kahili, or feather standards. The ones you see here are modern. The white kahili are Laysan albatross feathers, chosen to replicate kahili carried during Kalakaua's 1883 coronation.

Check out the wooden ball between the thrones. It's covered with gold leaf and sits on the tusk of a narwhal to make a staff called a puloulou. Puloulou—also called kapu sticks. These are traditional symbols of rank. They were used to mark the boundaries of a royal residence and lead the way when royals walked in processions. This one was an 1883 coronation gift to Kalakaua. Look at your device to see it up close.

Look around the room for other symbols of royalty. The crowns, sword and scepter in the case were ordered for Kalakaua's coronation. We're fortunate to

be able to see them now—after the ceremony, they were a rare sight. One year, however, Kapiolani displayed her crown for guests who attended a benefit garden party.

The gold frames on the wall hold Royal Orders. These Orders are exchanged between monarchs. They're also given to individuals who provide service to the monarch or nation. Each case has a coat-of-arms above it to show which nation the Royal Order is associated with. You can see more Royal Orders on display in the basement.

This room was used for more than just receptions. It was also a place for royal funerals. King Kalakaua, Queen Kapiolani and Queen Liliuokalani all lay in state here. And it was the site of more joyous occasions. During King Kalakaua's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations, his gifts were displayed in this room. Look at your device to see the elaborate display of gifts.

And balls were held here!

***[SFX: ballroom music begins playing and then fades.]***

Imagine this room beautifully decorated with bouquets of flowers. Their sweet scent fills the air. Guests in fancy gowns and other formal wear arrive for an evening of dancing and fun. Listen—The Royal Hawaiian band has started to play.

***[SFX: music momentarily gets louder]***

But where is the band? Sometimes the musicians would set up on a balcony; other times they tucked themselves into the alcove next to the thrones. Please head to the elevator to continue your tour.

**Stop 9: Upstairs Hall**

***[SFX: Piano music, which fades to be heard faintly in background]***

**NARRATOR:** Please step out of the elevator and turn to your left. When you arrive at the second floor hall, head to the grand staircase located on the far side of the room.

The second floor was intended to be a private living quarters. But the royal family didn't spend much time here—they preferred to spend their personal time in their other homes. They may have considered this space too large, too formal and requiring too big of a staff. Look for the dumbwaiters at the far end of the room on the left. They tell us that when the family was here, they used this area as an informal dining room.

On the same side of the hall as the elevator you'll find the king's rooms. The queen's rooms are on the opposite side of the hall. Separate bedrooms gave the king and queen a private place to dress for a

formal event and a place to rest between meetings and parties. Each of the four bedrooms had its own bathroom, a dressing room, and sitting room located in the towers.

***[SFX: Music stops]***

Now turn around and face the windows. From here the King could see the harbor, less than two blocks from the front gates of the palace. Kalakaua's boathouse, where he hosted luau and cards games, was also near the waterfront. You can see an image of it on your device now.

At that time, there were elaborate gardens within the grounds, creating a beautiful, peaceful atmosphere.

Then in January of 1891, something unexpected happened. King Kalakaua was about to return from his trip to California. The city was decked out to welcome him home. But when his ship, the USS

Charleston, was spotted off Diamond Head, it told a sad story. It was draped in black and its flags were at half mast. The king had passed away on his trip abroad. His queen, who was expecting to celebrate his homecoming, instead had to prepare for her husband's funeral.

As the king's body was brought through the Palace gates, Queen Kapiolani stood on the lanai, or balcony, just outside this very room, watching the procession.

Colonel Curtis P. Iaukea, a member of the king's staff, was there that day. He later wrote:

**(MALE) CURTIS P. IAUKEA ACTOR:**

*As the sorrowful procession passed through the Palace gate, we were overcome by a heart-rending cry and wailing which could have come only from a heart bereft of all that was most dear and precious. It came from the Queen Dowager*

*Kapiolani, standing alone and unattended on the balcony of the Palace, weeping and leaning over the railing to have a full view of her late husband's casket as it was being borne up the broad Palace steps.*

## **Stop 10: The King's Bedroom**

**NARRATOR:** It's said that you can tell a lot about a person by their bedroom. What did King Kalakaua's bedroom look like during his lifetime? Take a close look at the large black and white photograph to find out. It was taken before electric lights were installed. As you can see, he kept a mix of furniture and objects from Hawaii and from around the world. This photograph shows us something else, too. After Kalakaua's death and, later, After the overthrow of the monarchy, many royal and governmental possessions you see in the photograph were scattered to different places. They have yet to be returned home to Iolani Palace.

The bedroom furniture was part of a large set ordered from the A. H. Davenport Co. of Boston. The Coat-of-Arms quilt is a historically accurate reproduction of an original quilt that's too fragile to display.

Look for a large blue vase in the corner of the room. This vase was an 1883 coronation present to the King. It was made in England in the mid 1860s by the Minton Company. On top, you'll see the Greek god Prometheus tied to a rock with a vulture eating his flesh. According to Greek myth, this was Prometheus's punishment for stealing fire and giving it to man. Only four such urns exist in the world.

Now, turn around so your back is facing the entrance to the bedroom. Then look across the room on the right hand side. There you'll see a small open door, leading to a tower room.

Tower rooms can be found in all four corners of the Palace, on the first and second floors. Each one is 12

feet wide by 12 feet long. On the first floor, the only way to get into a tower room is through one of its windows on the balcony. Up here on the second floor, there's a door in the corner of the room. Second-floor tower rooms were used as small parlors, sitting rooms, offices, or a place to relax and play cards. Look at your device for a view of the King's tower room.

### **Stop 11: The King's Library**

**NARRATOR:** This is the King's library. Around the room, you can see a small selection of books from his extensive book collection. He was well read and collected volumes about everything. These included books by John James Audubon, French and English dictionaries, biographies of European monarchs, a two-volume Spanish edition of *Don Quijote de la Mancha*, and photo albums of Pompeii and Paris.

Kalākaua was the type of King who made quite an impression. Those who met him often described him

as highly intelligent and well-traveled. In 1874, the *National Republican*, a newspaper in Washington D. C., published this description of Kalakaua during his visit to Washington, DC: “His face is one of great strength, full of character and intelligence. He speaks English with the greatest of ease and purity, and in all his conversation there is a strength and character which mark him as no ordinary man.”

On this same trip to the United States, Kalakaua was the first ruling monarch to appear before a joint session of the United States Congress. President Ulysses S. Grant also made the King his guest of honor at the first state dinner ever hosted at the White House. Kalakaua was also the first head of state to visit the United States.

In 1881, King Kalakaua became the first monarch to travel around the world. The pictures on the wall show places he visited on his trip. Some also show his friends and family. During his world tour, the King

visited the International Exposition of Electricity in Paris. Several weeks later he spent an evening in New York City with Thomas Edison, the inventor of the incandescent lightbulb. Five years later, the king spent his own money to install electric lights in the Palace.

In keeping with the king's fascination with modern technology, there's a telephone hanging on one wall. Telephones were installed in Iolani Palace five years after Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone. It allowed the king to call his Chamberlain downstairs in the basement, his boathouse down the street, or any one of the several hundred Honolulu residents who had telephones by late 1885.

## **Stop 12: The Music Room**

***[SFX: Hawaii Ponoï plays in the background]***

**NARRATOR:** Look for the sheet music on the sofa—these are compositions by King Kalakaua and his sister, Queen Liliuokalani. Music was an important

part of everyday life at Iolani Palace. The king and his siblings were all gifted musicians. Together they were known as Na Lani Eha or The Royal Four. During his reign, King Kalakaua wrote Hawaii Ponoī, the national anthem of the Hawaiian Kingdom. In English the title means Hawaii's Own. Today it's Hawaii's official state song.

King Kalakaua's sister, Queen Liliuokalani, composed more than 150 songs! Internationally, her best-known composition is *Aloha Oe*, also known as *Farewell to Thee*. On most Fridays at noon The Royal Hawaiian Band holds a concert at Iolani Palace. They begin with Hawaii Ponoī and close with *Aloha Oe*.

Look for the portrait of Queen Kapiolani, King Kalakaua's wife, in her coronation gown. It's hanging between the windows. Queen Kapiolani was also a talented musician. She wrote *Ka Ipo Lei Manu*, or *Cherished Sweetheart*, in honor of her husband. Sadly, he passed away before he could hear it.

***[SFX: Chant - beginning of the Kumulipo]***

During his reign, King Kalakaua helped to bring energy and enthusiasm back to a number of Hawaiian traditions and cultural practices. Chanters were an important part of court ceremonies. The king encouraged people to document ancient Hawaiian oli, or chants. And he led by example, writing down the Kumulipo, the Hawaiian creation chant, which can be heard now in the background. He also helped put Hawaii's oral history into writing to make sure it would be preserved.

Hula performances are another tradition King Kalakaua supported. During his reign, there were often Hula dances on the Palace grounds. On your way to the next stop, take a moment to look at the photo of hula dancers on Iolani Palace grounds. This photo was taken during a hula performance given in honor of Kalakaua's 49<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1885.

## **STOP 13: Queen Kapiolani's Bedroom**

***[SFX: Chant for Queen Kapiolani begins and fades to be heard faintly in background]***

**NARRATOR:** This is where Queen Kapiolani dressed for formal occasions. She was the granddaughter of King Kaumualii, the last King of Kauai. Her upbringing at the court of King Kamehameha III and IV taught her, at an early age, the duties and responsibilities of royalty. No matter what she was doing—attending official ceremonies and social functions at Iolani Palace, or traveling throughout the United States and England—Queen Kapiolani conducted herself regally and with a quiet dignity befitting her rank.

Her personal motto, *Kulia i ka nuu*, is embroidered on the pillow shams on the bed. In English it translates into “strive for the summit.” Queen Kapiolani put this

ideal into action by doing works of charity to improve the health and welfare of her people. She held a series of charitable events for her subjects suffering from Hansen's disease—also known as leprosy. The money she raised went to their care and to support their families. Without any concern for her own health, the Queen made personal inspections of facilities treating Hansen's Disease patients on Oahu and at the Kalaupapa settlement on the island of Molokai.

The Queen was troubled by the steady decline of the Hawaiian race. From the time Captain Cook arrived in Hawaii in 1778 to the time this Palace was built one hundred years later, the native Hawaiian population shrank to about one-fifth its original size. This was largely a result of introduced diseases such as measles and smallpox. As part of the effort to support the health and wellbeing of her people, the Queen and her committee raised money to establish the Kapiolani Maternity Home in 1890. Today it's

known as Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children. It's become a multi-service health care system and research center that helps people of all races throughout the Pacific. This organization is Queen Kapiolani's greatest legacy, and it still bears her name.

Find the photograph on the large easel. Queen Kapiolani is seated and her sister-in-law, then Princess Liliuokalani, is standing. This image was taken in 1887 when the two alii women attended Queen Victoria's jubilee in London. Victoria treated Kapiolani and Liliuokalani with utmost respect. During the jubilee service at Westminster Abbey, she seated them in a place of high honor next to members of her own family.

Move to the next stop to learn about Queen Kapiolani's nephews, the Piikoi brothers. Press number 14 and play on your device.

## **STOP 14: Middle Bedroom**

**[Music, which fades to be heard faintly in background]**

This room stands between the bedroom of Queen Kapiolani and the bedroom occupied by her three nephews, the Piikoi brothers. Look at your device to see their photo.

Their names were David Kawananakoa, Edward Keliiahonui and Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole. After their mother Princess Kekaulike died, the boys were placed under the guardianship of their aunt, Queen Kapiolani. As members of the royal family, they were named heirs to the throne. Edward Keliiahonui passed away in 1887. But his brothers and their descendants continued the family tradition of civic responsibility and service to the people of Hawaii.

Prince Kuhio served as a territorial delegate to Congress from 1902 until his death in 1922. One of

his many lasting legacies is the Hawaiian Homestead Act, which seeks to provide land for native Hawaiians.

Prince Kawananakoa's daughter, Liliuokalani Kawanakoa Morris, established The Friends of Iolani Palace, the organization responsible for the restoration and ongoing care of the Palace and its royal collections. Her image is on your device now.

## **STOP 15: Imprisonment Room**

**NARRATOR:** For many, this is one of the most emotionally charged rooms in the palace. It shares a story of both great sorrow and perseverance.

The Piikoi brothers and their mother Princess Kekaulike once lived here. But in 1895, Queen Liliuokalani was imprisoned in this room for almost eight months.

How did this happen?

In 1893, Liliuokalani proposed changes to the existing constitution that would restore power to the crown and return voting rights to native Hawaiians. A small group of influential people fought against these changes.

They wanted something very different: for the Hawaiian monarchy to come to an end, and for Hawaii to become part of the U.S. So they called for the queen to be overthrown. On January 17, 1893, a Provisional Government—which is a sort of

emergency, temporary government—was put in place.

Eighteen months after Queen Liliuokalani was removed from the throne, a group of her supporters began planning to return her to power. In the summer of 1894, their plans turned into action. They started gathering weapons.

The Republic of Hawaii, then in control of the islands, heard of these plans. In the fall of 1894, the Republic arrested the men who were involved. The men were tried, convicted of treason and sentenced to death. In January of 1895, Queen Liliuokalani was arrested.

In her autobiography, Liliuokalani wrote:

**(FEMALE) LILIUOKALANI ACTOR:**

*That first night of my imprisonment was the longest night I have ever passed in my life; it seemed as though the dawn of day would never come. I found in my bag a small Book of Common Prayer... It was a great comfort to me... Outside of the rooms occupied by myself and my companion there were guards stationed by day and by night, whose duty it was to pace backward and forward through the hall, before my door, and up and down the front veranda. The sound of their never-ceasing footsteps as they tramped on their beat fell incessantly on my ears... I could not but be reminded every instant that I was a prisoner, and did not fail to realize my position.*

**NARRATOR:** Shortly after her arrest, Liliuokalani signed a document of abdication, formally giving up the throne in return for the lives of her supporters. She was put on trial—in what had once been her

Throne Room. Convicted of being an accessory to the plan to return her to power, Queen Liliuokalani was sentenced to five years' hard labor, and fined \$5000. Almost immediately her sentence was changed by the Executive committee, the governing body of the Republic of Hawaii, to imprisonment in this suite of rooms. She was paroled 8 months later and allowed to return to her home Washington Place.

In letter to her niece and heir, Princess Kaiulani, she wrote:

**(FEMALE) LILIUOKALANI ACTOR:**

*Did I suffer? Yes – for my people, for yours and mine and while they suffered and were imprisoned with myself for the sake of their country and ours. I suffered with them and yet I felt proud of it. When I signed away my rights as an Alii and to the throne and other promises made in that paper- it only concerned myself for I had no rights to sign away my peoples' rights or*

*anybody else's rights except my own-and I do not regret it, for the lives of seven people depended on my own signature and I gave it freely for their sakes.*

During her imprisonment, Queen Liliuokalani spent many hours composing music. In her autobiography she said that music was a comfort in both happy and sad moments.

One of her especially moving musical compositions is known as *The Queen's Prayer*. It speaks of her sorrow, faith and spirit of forgiveness.

To hear more about the extraordinary quilt that you see in this room, enter number 16 and press play.

### **Stop 16: The Queen's Quilt**

***[SFX: The Queen's Prayer begins to play]***

**NARRATOR:** While imprisoned in this room, Queen Liliuokalani was allowed only a few visitors. These included her steward who delivered her meals three times a day and two ladies-in-waiting. In a letter to her niece, Princess Kaiulani then living abroad in England, Queen Liliuokalani wrote:

**(FEMALE) LILIUOKALIANI ACTOR:**

*Every morning we rise. We arrange our room then have our devotions. After that we wait for a visit of the officers of the Military Guard whose duty it is to see and report to the Superior officer or Colonel that I am safe. Then, after breakfast and for the rest of the day we are occupied in sewing fancy work or darning stockings or mending some rent garments or in reading or composing music.*

Queen Liliuokalani and her companions began work on this quilt during her imprisonment. It's in a style known as a "crazy quilt" that was popular in Victorian

times. Some of the rich fabrics are thought to be leftover pieces from dresses created for the queen and her ladies-in-waiting. Throughout the quilt you'll see carefully embroidered details.

The center block includes the Hawaiian coat of arms – and embroidery recording some of the happier times in the queen's life: her birth, her proclamation as heir apparent, and her ascension to the throne. Look at the image on your device to see some of these details.

Other squares list dates for some of the sadder moments – her dethronement, the failed attempt to restore her to power, and her abdication. One square is especially heart-wrenching. Under her embroidered name, the queen wrote: "Imprisoned at Iolani Palace, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 1895. We began this quilt there."

## **STOP 16: Conclusion**

**NARRATOR:** In 1993, President Clinton signed a formal apology to the Hawaiian people, issued by the United States Congress. It acknowledged that the overthrow and annexation of Hawaii had been unlawful. Today, this sacred site stands as a powerful symbol of Hawaii's former independence and proud heritage.

Mahalo, thank you, for visiting Iolani Palace. Please exit using the elevator and return your audio guide on the lanai. Afterwards, we invite you to continue your tour in the basement galleries. If you would like additional information about Iolani Palace and the Hawaiian monarchy, visit The Gallery Shop in the basement or The Palace Shop in the Barracks.

A hui hou!

***[SFX: Kaulana Na Pua- The Stone Eaters Song plays]***