

Thomas A. Woods, ed., *Kōkua Aku, Kōkua Mai: Chiefs, Missionaries, and Five Transformations of the Hawaiian Kingdom* (Honolulu: Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, 2018)

David W. Forbes, Ralph Thomas Kam, Thomas A. Woods, *Partners in Change: A Biographical Encyclopedia of American Protestant Missionaries in Hawai'i and their Hawaiian and Tahitian Colleagues, 1820-1900* (Honolulu: Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, 2018)

Awaiulu and Puakea Nogelmeier, translation of William Richards's *No Ke Kalaiaina*, and Thomas A. Woods, *No Ke Kalaiaina and William Richards's Seminar for the Ali'i: A Major Catalyst for Mid-Nineteenth-Century Change in Hawai'i* (<https://hmha.missionhouses.org>)

Challenging the Conventional Narrative

Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives has published two new books in print and a third on their website. These works challenge the popular notion that the early American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) Protestant missionaries who began arriving in 1820 were colonial usurpers and focuses on the agency of the *ali'i* and the early shared goals these two groups achieved as they worked together.

Ali'i Agency

Scholars explore this idea in *Kōkua Aku, Kōkua Mai: Chiefs, Missionaries, and Five Transformations of the Hawaiian Kingdom*, a collection of six essays by leading scholars that explores the relationships between *ali'i* and the missionaries of the ABCFM's Sandwich Islands Mission.

Five Transformations of Hawaiian Culture

In an introduction and five chapters, scholars examine the relationships between missionaries and Native Hawaiians on **five specific issues**:

- 1) The introduction of Christianity and literacy and the leadership of the *ali'i* in a process that transformed the Kingdom;
- 2) The influence of previous Polynesian linguists in the development of the written Hawaiian language;
- 3) The search, begun by Kamehameha I and continued through Kamehameha III's reign, for political strategies to protect Hawai'i from Western military powers that led the *ali'i* to request a teacher who could educate them about capitalism, private property, and a constitutional government, a move that led to the establishment of a constitutional monarchy and recognition of Hawai'i's sovereignty by the world powers and other major changes;
- 4) How Hawaiians and missionaries worked together to introduce Christian hymns with choral harmony and its future impact on Hawaiian music;

- 5) How missionary doctors trained a few Hawaiians and worked with them to record traditional Hawaiian medicine and, in isolated cases, combine Western and Hawaiian medicine.

The *Ali'i* and the First Missionaries

Partners in Change: A Biographical Encyclopedia of American Protestant Missionaries in Hawai'i and their Hawaiian and Tahitian Colleagues, 1820-1900 is a 688-page work that replaces previous “albums” that briefly identified the ABCFM missionaries. The biographical encyclopedia strips away the notion that these individuals can be generically categorized as “the missionaries” by demonstrating their diverse individual stories. This is the first time that a biographical encyclopedia with citations has recorded substantial individual stories of more than 200 people—American, Hawaiian, Tahitian, and European—involved in the mission to Hawai'i, unraveling each story one by one. Many of these fascinating stories reveal a close relationship between *ali'i* and missionaries. Some of the stories reveal the failures, ambitions, and human frailties of individual missionaries. For their own reasons, many of the Hawaiian *ali'i* and their advisors became avid supporters of the Mission, and their stories are here. Who were these missionaries as individuals? Who were the Hawaiians and Tahitians who were “partners in change,” why and how did this diverse group work together, and what were some of the challenges each individual experienced?

The Idea of Constitutional Monarchy in Hawai'i

The translation and interpretation of William Richards's ***No Ke Kalaiaina*** is a deep dive that unlocks the mystery of the landmark seminar Richards taught the *ali'i* at their request. William Richards wrote *No Ke Kalaiaina* as a textbook as the seminar progressed, and it is the best source of information about what the *ali'i* learned and provides insight into the major changes in law and governance that accelerated at the end of the 1830s and into the 1840s. The translation makes the book accessible to a non-Hawaiian speaking audience. The interpretation explores why the *ali'i* wanted a teacher, how they made their desire for a teacher known, how Richards was selected, what he taught the *ali'i*, what sources he used in developing the seminar, who attended it, where it was held, and what impact it had in developing the first constitutional monarchy and other changes, such as private property ownership.

A New Narrative of Early Collaboration

Together, these publications provide an important new way of looking at the relationships between early ABCFM missionaries to Hawai'i and the *ali'i*. The carefully researched works, using copious archival records in both Hawaiian and English-language sources, demonstrate the agency of the leaders of the Native Hawaiian people in the changes that occurred through the first half of the nineteenth century. While all of the ABCFM missionaries may have been cultural imperialists in their confident belief that Western culture was superior to Hawaiian culture, their efforts to ease Hawai'i's entrance onto the world stage was a collaborative effort that could not have succeeded without the willing assistance of the *ali'i*. This collaboration began to erode in many ways and for many reasons after the death of Kamehameha III and the formal end of the mission in 1863.