

1820 2020

Hawaiian Mission Bicentennial

Commemorating the Hawaiian Mission Bicentennial

The Second Great Awakening was a Protestant religious revival during the early 19th-century in the United States. During this time, several missionary societies were formed. The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) was organized under Calvinist ecumenical auspices at Bradford, Massachusetts, on the June 29, 1810.

The first of the missions of the ABCFM were to Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and India, as well as to the Cherokee and Choctaw of the southeast US.

In October 1816, the ABCFM established the Foreign Mission School in Cornwall, CT, for the instruction of native youth to become missionaries, physicians, surgeons, schoolmasters or interpreters. By 1817, a dozen students, six of them Hawaiians, were training at the Foreign Mission School to become missionaries to teach the Christian faith to people around the world.

One of those was 'Ōpūkaha'ia, a young Hawaiian who came to the US in 1809, who was being groomed to be a key figure in a mission to Hawai'i. 'Ōpūkaha'ia yearned "with great earnestness that he would (return to Hawai'i) and preach the Gospel to his poor countrymen." Unfortunately, 'Ōpūkaha'ia died unexpectedly at Cornwall on February 17, 1818.

The life and memoirs of 'Ōpūkaha'ia inspired other missionaries to volunteer to carry his message to the Hawaiian Islands.

On October 23, 1819, the Pioneer Company of ABCFM missionaries from the northeast US, set sail on the Thaddeus for the Hawaiian Islands. They first sighted the Islands and arrived at Kawaihae on March 30, 1820, and finally anchored at Kailua-Kona, April 4, 1820.



You may track the voyage of the Thaddeus and read some of the daily journal entries from the missionaries onboard by [Clicking Here](#) - or sign up for daily email updates by subscribing here: <https://bit.ly/31YIzEN>.

Over the course of 44-years (1820-1863 – the ‘Missionary Period’) about 200-men and women in twelve Companies, including Hawaiians, Tahitians and several independent missionaries, served in Hawai‘i to carry out the mission of the ABCFM in the Hawaiian Islands.

[Click HERE for background information on the ABCFM Companies](https://bit.ly/2NoahrG) (or type link <https://bit.ly/2NoahrG>)

Collaboration between Native Hawaiians and American Protestant missionaries resulted in, among other things, the

- Introduction of Christianity;
- Development of a written Hawaiian language and establishment of schools that resulted in widespread literacy;
- Promulgation of the concept of constitutional government;
- Combination of Hawaiian with Western medicine; and
- Evolution of a new and distinctive musical tradition (with harmony and choral singing)

Listing of Bicentennial and Associated Events

The following are some of the many Bicentennial commemoration and associated events being planned by Hawaiian Mission Houses and others for New England, Washington DC and Hawai‘i that we want you to know about, plan for and join us.

Dates/times and details are still fluid and may change - many of the reported dates and details are place holders, tentative and/or need further confirmation. The listing is somewhat chronological. New England, Kailua Kona, Waimea and Bicentennial Week in Honolulu programs are grouped into separate pages, so some of the dating of events is not strictly chronological in the overall listing.

Hawai‘i in New England

In the Fall of 2019 (September 29, 2019 through October 23, 2019), Hawaiian Mission Houses partnered and presented a month-long series of events commemorating the New England People, Places and Events leading to the departure of the Pioneer Company of American Protestant Missionaries for the Islands.



“My Name is ‘Ōpūkaha‘ia”, a dramatic one-person play portrayed by Moses Goods, as well as Hawaiian musical performances by Po‘ai Lincoln that outline the development of music throughout the history of Hawai‘i, helped celebrate the life of ‘Ōpūkaha‘ia, one of Hawai‘i’s most influential historical figures who helped form the mission to the Islands. Performances were held across New England, as well as in Washington, DC.



A large contingent from the Islands helped to commemorate the events in New England. Here they are on the Long Wharf in Boston Harbor at the same spot the first missionaries left for the Islands aboard the Thaddeus – literally 200-years before (to the day).



The final Bicentennial Commemoration event in New England was held at Park Street Church. It was in this same Church, 200-years ago, that the Mission to Hawai'i was formed, and Instructions were given. The Prudential Committee of the ABCFM in giving instructions to the missionaries said: "Your mission is a mission of mercy, and your work is to be wholly a labor of love."

"Your views are not to be limited to a low, narrow scale, but you are to open your hearts wide, and set your marks high. You are to aim at nothing short of covering these islands with fruitful fields, and pleasant dwellings and schools and churches, and of Christian civilization. ... It is for no private end, for no earthly object that you go. It is wholly for the good of others, and for the glory of God our Saviour."



We appreciate the generous support from Hawaiian Airlines in their sponsorship in getting our performers to/from New England.



Hawaiian Mission Bicentennial Activities in Kailua-Kona

March 30, 2020 – Kawaihae Commemoration (the missionaries first sighting of the Islands)

After 160-days at sea, on March 30, 1820, the Pioneer Company of American Protestant missionaries first see the Islands and arrive at Kawaihae. Later that day, they learned Kamehameha was dead, Liholiho was King and the Kapu was abolished.

10 am – Gathering in the vicinity of the Pua Ka'ilima Cultural Surf Park at Kawaihae Harbor to share stories of the Thaddeus

- **Start of a torch run from Kawaihae to Moku'aikaua Church in Kailua-Kona** (expected arrival at Moku'aikaua Church at 3 pm)

7 pm Youth service at Moku'aikaua Church with the passing of the torch to carry on the flame



“When the watch at four [am] was called, Honoree came down saying, ‘Owhyhee sight!’”

“There was but little sleep. When the day afforded more light than the moon we were all out, and judge you, if possible, what sensation filled our breasts as we fixed our eyes upon the lofty mountains of Owhyhee! O! it would be in vain to paint them. I attempt it not.” (Sybil Bingham)

“... at early morning, March 30th, to the joy of our expectin little company, the long looked for Hawaii appeared in the West. The lofty Mauna Kea lifted its snow crowned summit above the dark and heavy clouds that begirt its waist.” (Hiram Bingham)

“We could, hardly credit all this, but were constrained to exclaim in the language of our hearts, ‘What hath God wrought.’” (Samuel Ruggles)

March 31, 2020 – 9 am Worship and Prayer Service at Moku‘aikaua Church
(75-5713 Ali‘i Dr, Kailua-Kona)

April 1, 2020 – The New Testament will be read all day continually,
from the front steps of Moku‘aikaua Church

9 am Worship and Prayer Service at Moku‘aikaua Church
(75-5713 Ali‘i Dr, Kailua-Kona)

7 pm Thanksgiving Service at Moku‘aikaua Church

Special Thanksgiving Service to commemorate Moku‘aikaua Church as the first church formed in the Islands. The present structure (completed in 1837) is the first and one of the largest stone churches in Hawai‘i.

As the oldest surviving stone church the Islands, it became an example that other missionaries would imitate. (In 1910, a memorial arch was erected at the entrance to the church grounds to commemorate the arrival of the first missionaries.)



April 2, 2020 – 9 am Worship and Prayer Service at Moku‘aikaua Church

April 3, 2020 – 9 am Worship and Prayer Service at Moku‘aikaua Church

April 4, 2020 – Kailua-Kona, Hawai‘i Island (Commemorating the Bicentennial of the Arrival of the Pioneer Company and Formation of Kailua-Kona Mission Station and Moku‘aikaua Church (present structure completed in 1837))

After 164-days at sea, the Thaddeus arrived and finally anchored at Kailua-Kona on the Island of Hawai‘i. April 4, 2020 marks the bicentennial of the first anchoring of the Thaddeus in the Islands, as well as the formation of Moku‘aikaua Church and the Kailua-Kona Mission Station.

On April 11, 1820 King Kamehameha II gave the missionaries permission to stay. However, “The King gives orders that Dr. H[olman] and our teacher [Thurston] must land at Kiarooah - the village where he now resides, and the rest of the family may go to Oahhoo, or Wahhoo.”

April 4, 2020 – Kailua-Kona, Hawai‘i Island Activities

Hawaiian Mission Houses is partnering with Kōkua Kailua (Kailua Village BID), Moku‘aikaua Church, Daughters of Hawai‘i (Hulihe‘e Palace) and others on an all-day (8 am to 6 pm) closure of Ali‘i Drive from the Kailua Pier to Moku‘aikaua/Hulihe‘e with:

8 am - Pre-event music at Kailua Pier area

9 am - Morning ceremonies on Kailua Pier

9:30 am - The Great Hawaiian Missionary Pageant at Kailua Pier

10:30 am - Proceed along Ali‘i Drive from Kailua Pier to Moku‘aikaua Church

April 4, 2020 – Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i Island Activities

9:30 am to 6 pm – Ali'i Drive will be closed from the Pier to Hualālai Road

11 am – 4 pm Entertainment at Moku'aikaua Church and Hulihe'e Palace

- Concurrent performances/entertainment in Moku'aikaua Church and on the Hulihe'e Palace lawn throughout the day
 - Music by John Keawe, LT Smooth, Chauncey Wong Yuen, Brian Boshard
 - Presentation by Daniel Kikawa
 - Making the Ali'i Letters Alive (Living History Performances)
 - Choral singing

1 pm – 6 pm Craft and Food booths lining Ali'i Drive throughout the afternoon

Performances in Mokuaikaua Church

11 am – Making Ali'i Letters Alive – Focus on Kailua-Kona Station (free)
Living History Theater Performances presented by Hawaiian Mission Houses
Kuakini - Asa Thurston - Lucy Thurston

12 noon - Kamehameha School Choir

1 pm - Making Ali'i Letters Alive – Focus on Honolulu Mission Station (free)
Living History Theater Performances presented by Hawaiian Mission Houses
Kalanimōku - Kalākua - Hiram Bingham

3 pm - Making Ali'i Letters Alive – Focus on Waimea Mission Station (free)
Living History Theater Performances presented by Hawaiian Mission Houses
Kaumuali'i – Kapule - Samuel Ruggles



April 4, 2020 – Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i Island Activities

Performances on Hulihe'e Palace Grounds

- 11 am – Daniel Kikawa and ministry team
- 12 noon – West Hawai'i County Band
- 1 pm - Kamehameha School Choir



Evening Luau on Kailua Pier

- 3:00 pm – Gates open on Kailua Pier for the evening Luau (Reservations required)
(\$60 per person <https://www.kona2020.org/>)
- 3:30 pm - Welcome & Recognition of dignitaries
- 4 pm – John Keawe music performance
- 4:30 pm Welcoming music for Luau that evening on Kailua Pier (Reservation Required)
- 5:00 pm Luau food lines start (Reservations \$60 per person <https://www.kona2020.org/>)
- 6:30 pm – Island Breeze Luau Entertainment
- 8 pm Fireworks Display



April 5, 2020 – 9 am Bicentennial Celebration Service at Moku‘aikaua Church
(75-5713 Ali‘i Dr, Kailua-Kona)

After the Church service, the Thurston descendants will be at Laniākea, Asa and Lucy Thurston’s former house site for walking tours on the grounds (uneven, loose rock walking surfaces)



Hawaiian Mission Bicentennial Week Activities in Honolulu

Friday April 17, 2020 - 7 pm - The Royal School (Honolulu Theatre for Youth – Tenney Theatre)

An original musical entitled Ke Kula Keiki Ali'i: The Royal School about the Chiefs Children's School. The performance focuses on the young leaders at a time of transition that would speak to young people here today. The play is slotted to run at Tenney Theatre (at the Cathedral of St. Andrew) in April/May of 2020 (as well as schools) and then travel to the Neighbor Islands in the Fall.

April 18 through 26, 2020 - Bicentennial Week in Honolulu - Hawaiian Mission Houses

(Commemorating formation of Honolulu Mission Station, Bicentennial of Kawaiaha'o Church (present structure completed in 1842); also, Hawaiian Mission Children's Society Annual Meeting at 9 am, Saturday, April 25, 2020 - 553 S. King Street Honolulu.)



Saturday April 18

Hawaiian Mission Houses Family Day

Uncle Wayne and the Howling Dog Band
Punahou School Campus Tour

Sunday April 19

Hawaiian Mission Houses Open House

11 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm - Free Historic house tours
2 pm Ke Kula Keiki Ali'i: The Royal School (Honolulu Theatre for Youth (Tenney Theatre) An original musical: www.htyweb.org/royal-school
5 pm Nā Mele Series Slack Key Bicentennial Concert by Hawaiian Mission Houses and Kawaiaha'o Church (free)

Monday April 20

Hawaiian Mission Houses Open House

11 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm - Free Historic house tours

2 pm Literacy Forum (Mission Houses Classroom)

Literacy (as the new technology) John Laimana

3:30 pm New Books & Research - Mission Houses Archives Reading Room

Hear the latest research from authors of recent publications

Ralph Kam discussing Kōkua Aku, Kōkua Mai and Partners in Change

5:30 pm Making Ali'i Letters Alive – Focus on Waimea Mission Station

Living History Theater Performances (ticketed event - \$35)

Kaumuali'i – Kapule - Samuel Ruggles



Tuesday April 21

Hawaiian Mission Houses Open House

11 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm - Free Historic house tours

3 pm Architecture theme tour 3 (\$15, reservation required)

10 am Hawaiian Mission Houses Cemetery Tour

3:30 pm New Books & Research - Mission Houses Archives Reading Room

Hear the latest research from authors of recent publications

Chris Cook discussing Hawai'i Mission Bicentennial - Preparing the Way

4 pm Punahou School Speakers' Forum in the Thurston Chapel Punahou School

Performances with discussion about Complex Histories and Theater



Wednesday April 22

Hawaiian Mission Houses Open House

11 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm - Free Historic house tours

3 pm Hawaiian language tour 3 (\$15, reservation required)

10 am O'ahu Cemetery Tour (focus on Missionary Families)

4 pm Historic Walking tour of Mission-associated businesses and buildings (\$65)

7 pm Pau Hana Music Concert at Kawaiaha'o Church (ticketed event \$45)

***** (Historic Walking Tour and Concert - \$100)**



Thursday April 23

Hawaiian Mission Houses Open House

11 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm - Free Historic house tours

10 am Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands will put lei on the gravestones at the Mission Memorial Cemetery (People wishing to donate lei may drop them off on Wed., 4/22, at the HCUCC Main Office (1848 Nu'uaniu Ave, Honolulu) 9:00 am-3:00 pm or on Thurs., 4/23, at Hawaiian Mission Houses, between 9:00-10:00 am. For information, contact Elly Chong (808) 225-7175 or eleanorechong21@gmail.com.)

Thursday April 23

Hawaiian Mission Houses Open House

3:30 pm New Books & Research - Mission Houses Archives Reading Room

Hear the latest research from authors of recent publications

Phil Coar discussing his new book on missionary Titus Coan

5:30 pm Pau Hana – Making Ali'i Letters Alive – Focus on Kailua-Kona Station

Living History Theater Performances (ticketed event - \$35)

Kuakini - Asa Thurston - Lucy Thurston

Friday April 24

Hawaiian Mission Houses Open House

11 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm - Free Historic house tours
3 pm History buff tour 3 (\$15, reservation required)

10 am Hawaiian Mission Houses Cemetery Tour

3:30 pm New Books & Research - Mission Houses Archives Reading Room

Hear the latest research from authors of recent publications
Hawaiian Historic Society representative discussing Na Kahu

4 pm Kawaiaha'o Church Tea (on Kawaiaha'o Church lawn) (ticketed event)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kawaiahao-bicentennial-tea-event-kawaiahao-bicentennial-event-tickets-85591523551>

6 pm 'Open Your Hearts Wide' PlayBuilders of Hawaii Theater Company in Collaboration with Hawaiian Mission Houses (ticketed event - \$30)

A special reading of the first draft of the play written by Marion Lyman Mersereau based on interviews with missionary descendants, their ancestors' journals and letters, and the recently translated Ali'i Letters. After the reading, missionary descendants are invited to provide feedback directly to Marion and to give final feedback for the play to be presented in November. The play explores perspectives of missionary descendants in relationship to their ancestors



Saturday April 25

Hawaiian Mission Houses Open House

10 am Hawaiian Mission Children's Society Annual Meeting

Partners in Development Presentation of "Ka Baibala Hemolele: The Holy Bible"
(recently published bilingual - Hawaiian and English - with parallel text)
to Museum of the Bible

12: 30 pm Making Ali'i Letters Alive – Focus on Honolulu Mission Station

Living History Theater Performances (free)

Kalanimōku - Kalākua - Hiram Bingham

Uncle Wayne and the Howling Dog Band

Saturday April 25

Hawaiian Mission Houses Open House

**2:30 pm Ke Kula Keiki Ali'i: The Royal School (Honolulu Theatre for Youth
(Tenney Theatre) An original musical: www.htyweb.org/royal-school**

**5 pm Bicentennial Luau by Kawaiaha'o Church at Coral Ballroom, Hilton
Hawaiian Village (Ticketed Event - Reservation Required - \$200)
<https://www.kawaiahao.org/bicentennial-luau/>**



Sunday April 26

9 am Bicentennial Church Service at Kawaiaha'o Church



Hawaiian Mission Bicentennial Weekend Activities on Kauai

May 2-3, 2020 – Bicentennial Weekend in Waimea, Kauai

Commemorating the formation of the Waimea Mission Station on Kauai and formation of what is now the Waimea Mission Church (present structure completed in 1854)

Saturday, May 2

8 am Fellowship Prayer Breakfast (Waimea Plantation Cottages Restaurant, Chicken in a Barrel BBQ, 9400 Kaumuali'i Hwy, Waimea) (\$15 cost. Please call for reservations to the Waimea Church at (808) 338-9962 or e-mail waimeachurch@gmail.com)

10 am Reenactment of the landing at Pa'ula'ula (Russian Fort) with an 1854 Bible being brought in by canoe club – activities at the Fort Watch as actors portray the landing, bringing an ancient Bible onshore, Governor's Proclamation, all-churches choir, hula, and kids' contest. Hosted by Pastor Lon Malapit of Calvary Church, Lihue, and KESU radio.

1 pm Historical Tour of Westside

All Day - West Kauai Technology & Visitor Center to have special exhibition of artifacts from that time. (9565 Kaumuali'i Hwy, Waimea)



May 3, 2020 – Bicentennial Weekend in Waimea, Kauai (Commemorating Mission Station on Kauai)

May 3, 2020 marks the bicentennial of the arrival of Pioneer Company missionaries Samuel Ruggles and Samuel Whitney to Waimea, Kauai and the return of Humehume to his father King Kaumuali'i. It also marks the formation of the Waimea Mission Church and of the Waimea Mission Station.

Sunday May 3, 2020

10 am Special worship at Waimea Mission Church

(Old Stone Church) with Rev. Julian Linnell (4080 Makeke Road). Rev. Dr. Julian Linnell is mission pastor of the Park Street Congregational Church in Boston (Park Street Church is the original mission-sending church in New England).

11 am Decorate the graves of Samuel & Mercy Whitney

(first missionaries who arrived in 1820) in the adjoining historical cemetery after the worship service. (4080 Makeke Rd, Waimea)

12 pm No Host Lunch at Waimea Theater

1 pm Making Ali'i Letters Alive in Waimea Theater

- Living History Performances with focus on Waimea Mission Station - portrayals of Kaumuali'i – Kapule - Samuel Ruggles.



Followed by discussion about King Kaumuali'i with Aletha Kaohi, and discussion of Chris Cook's writings about the early Christian mission. Books will be available for purchase.



Bicentennial Books Published by Hawaiian Mission Houses

Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives published two new books in print and a third on its 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, working together.

Partners in Change: A Biographical Encyclopedia of American Protestant Missionaries in Hawai'i and their Hawaiian and Tahitian Colleagues, 1820-1900

Partners in Change is a reference work for individuals involved in the Mission work. It includes the Hawaiians and Tahitians who worked with the Mission, ABCFM missionaries, and London Missionary Society missionaries. The expanded nature of Partners in Change will be a boon to researchers in its expanded scope from the 1969 Missionary Album.



Click on the Book to order it - \$50

Kōkua Aku, Kōkua Mai: Chiefs, Missionaries, and Five Transformations of the Hawaiian Kingdom

Kōkua Aku, Kōkua Mai (Help others and be helped) is a series of essays which develop the HMH site theme: Collaboration between Native Hawaiians and the American Protestant missionaries resulted in, among other things,

- the introduction of Christianity
- the development of a written Hawaiian language and establishment of schools that resulted in widespread literacy
- the promulgation of the concept of constitutional government
- the combination of Hawaiian with Western medicine, and
- the evolution of a new and distinctive musical tradition with harmony and choral singing.



Click on the Book to Order it - \$20

The authors of the essays in Kōkua Aku, Kōkua Mai are among the leading scholars in their essay topics.



Special price if you buy both
\$60 - (Click on books)

No Ke Kālai'āina (Free on-line English translation and background of William Richards' book)

William Richards was hired by King Kamehameha III to teach the Ali'i (chiefs) about political economy. The original text No Ke Kālai'āina was written for this purpose by Richards and published by Lahainaluna Press in 1839. Published together online are the original text, its English translation by Awaiaulu. Click the following links for the Hawaiian and English versions:

[No Ke Kālai'āina \(Original Richards Book – Hawaiian – free on-line\) - goo.gl/yaDcmg](http://goo.gl/yaDcmg)

[Follow this link for the English translation of No Ke Kālai'āina \(free on-line\) - goo.gl/kWiqBg](http://goo.gl/kWiqBg)

Click on the following links to get summaries that describe aspects of the Mission:

Before the Hawaiian Islands Mission

[Haystack Prayer Meeting](#)

[The ABCFM](#)

['Ōpūkaha'ia](#)

[Obookiah Memoirs](#)

[Four Young Hawaiians](#)

[Foreign Mission School](#)

['Ōpūkaha'ia & the Mission](#)

[Kapu Abolished](#)

The Pioneer Company

[Ordination in Goshen](#)

[Finding a Bride](#)

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[Melton Mowbray](#)

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Mission Relationship With Ali'i and Hawaiians

[Chiefs' Letters](#)

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Some Lasting Legacies in the Islands

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