



# Decolonizing HIV Care

## History of Colonization in Hawai‘i and Solutions for a “Post-Colonial” World

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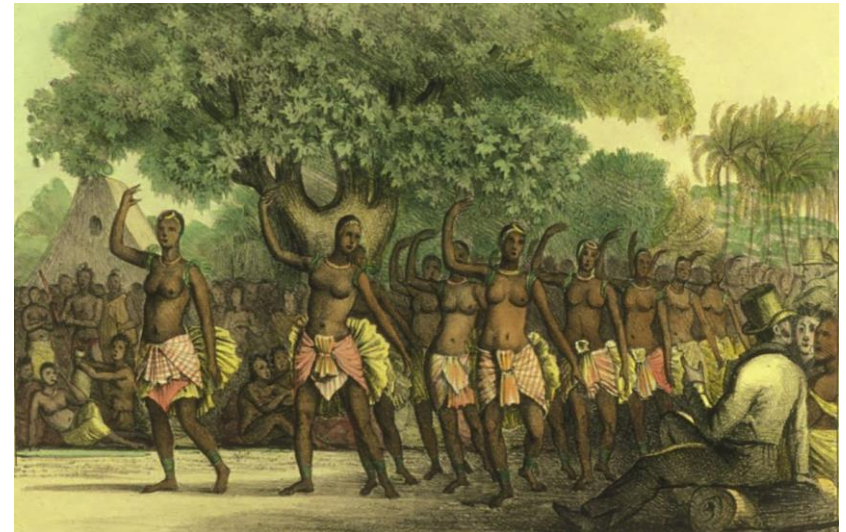
# Timeline of Contact & Major Turning Points



- 1778: Captain Cook arrives in Hawai'i
- 1778: ***TB and Syphilis arrives***
- 1804: Cholera arrives
- 1810: Kamehameha Unites Hawai'i
- 1819: 'Aikapu abolished
- 1820: ***American Missionaries Arrive***
- 1820: Influenza arrives
- 1825: Kaahumanu converts
- 1825: ***Sugar established as industry***
- 1839: Mumps arrives
- 1840: First Constitution of Hawai'i
- 1848: ***The Great Mahele***
- 1848: Measles arrives
- 1852: Revised Constitution
- 1853: Smallpox arrives
- 1875: Reciprocity Treaty
- 1887: ***Signing of Bayonet Constitution***
- 1890: McKinley Tariff Act
- 1893: ***Hawaiian Kingdom Overthrown***
- 1896: Hawaiian Lang. banned in schools

# Putting the Pieces Together

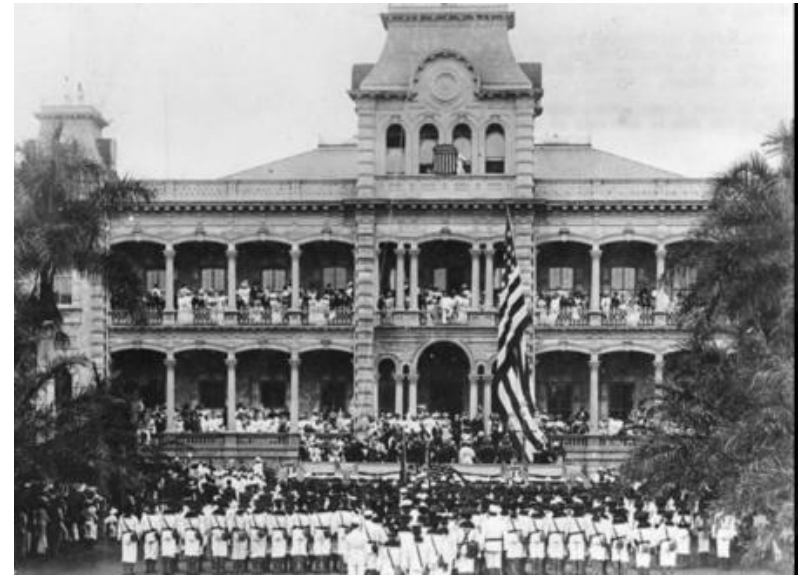
- **Rapid Population Decline**
- **Conversion to Christianity**
- **Western (American) Influence**
- **Land Privatization, Displacement**
- **Political Conquest, Theft of a Nation**



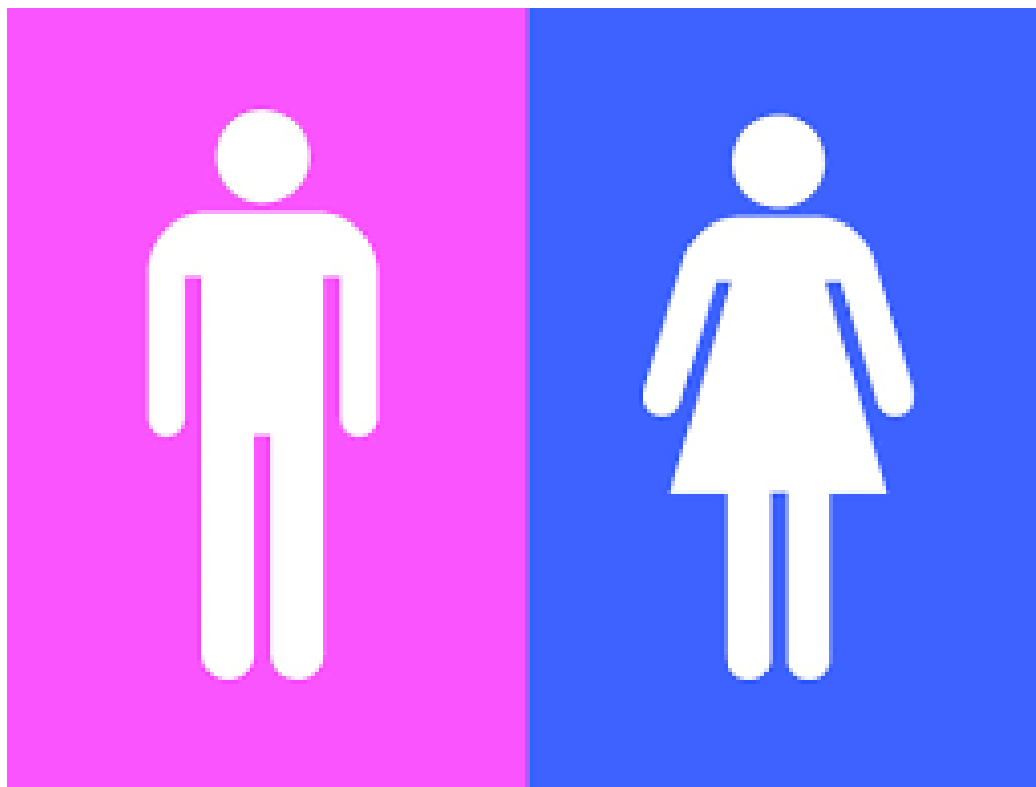
# Colonization in Hawai'i in Two parts



**Christian Missions**



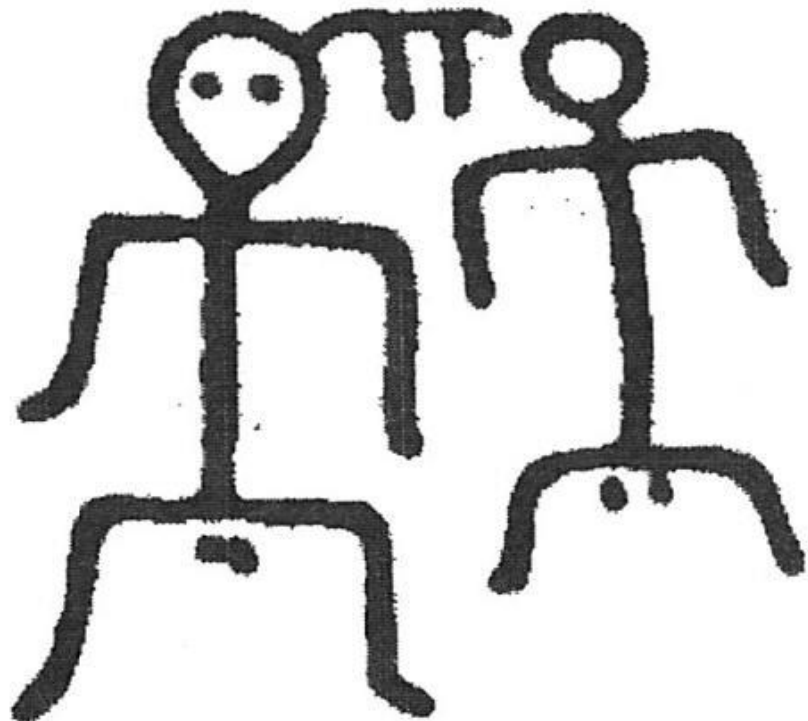
**Economic & Political Capital**



## **Christianity and the Gender Binary**

Christian missionaries used religion as a tool to enforce gendered rules in all societies. Christian conversion in Hawaiian society has led to oppression of Māhū in mainstream society, forced underground.





## **Christianity and Aikāne (Sexual Minorities)**

Christian missionaries used religion as a tool to invalidate and eliminate same sex relationships or anything that deviates from heteronormativity or the “one man, one woman” relationship rule.





## **Economic Abandonment of Subsistence**

An economy in transition forced the diversion of water from natural streams to sugar plantations. This forced Kanaka Maoli away from subsistence living and away their ancestral lands.





## **Economic Drivers of Displacement**

The sugar industry boomed in the mid 1800s, led by American businessmen. This growing mono economy drove land privatization, relocation of a large number of people, and forced labor for “vagrants.”







## **Political Motivation**

American sugar growers intended to take control of the Hawaiian Islands specifically to aid in American imperialism and to gain a competitive edge on their product in the American Market. Consistent with “Manifest Destiny” ideology.



# The Sociology of Colonization

- **Two dimensions of relations based on subjugation:**
  - Social relations with the colonizing power and its agents
  - Social relations with each other
  - Determines how, why, when, where people interact
- **Inferiority complex imposed on the colonized**
- **Colonial prejudice perpetrated against the colonized.**
- **Colonization, by virtue of its violent and exploitative nature, leads to resistance.**



# Social Determinants of Health

- **Gendered health disparities reflect a colonial past**
  - Women caregivers
  - Male “breadwinners”
  - Anti-Trans violence
  - Sexual “deviance”
- **NH/PI disproportionately affected by CVD, Diabetes, reflects change in lifestyle and diet as a result of colonialism**
- **Racialized disparities reflect a colonial past**
  - Displacement
  - Lack of resources and opportunities
  - Poor education
  - Economic inequality
  - Lack of political leverage



# Lasting Impacts

- Loss of cultural roles that mitigate harmful effects of anti-LGBT bigotry
- Reconciling a history of exploitation and displacement
- Navigating western systems with distrust
- Embracing western norms, indoctrination that Hawaiian culture is “useless”
- Generational Trauma



# Potential Solutions



- Reconnecting with culture and embracing that cultural perspective that validates one's gender and sexual expression
- Acknowledging history of exploitation and displacement as motivation to improve social circumstances (legislative, community, or other action)
- Native Hawaiian representation in the healthcare system
- intentional inclusion of cultural practices that affirm deeply rooted identities
- Respecting cultural boundaries, cultural humility and competency training.

# Ke Ola Pono at HHHRC

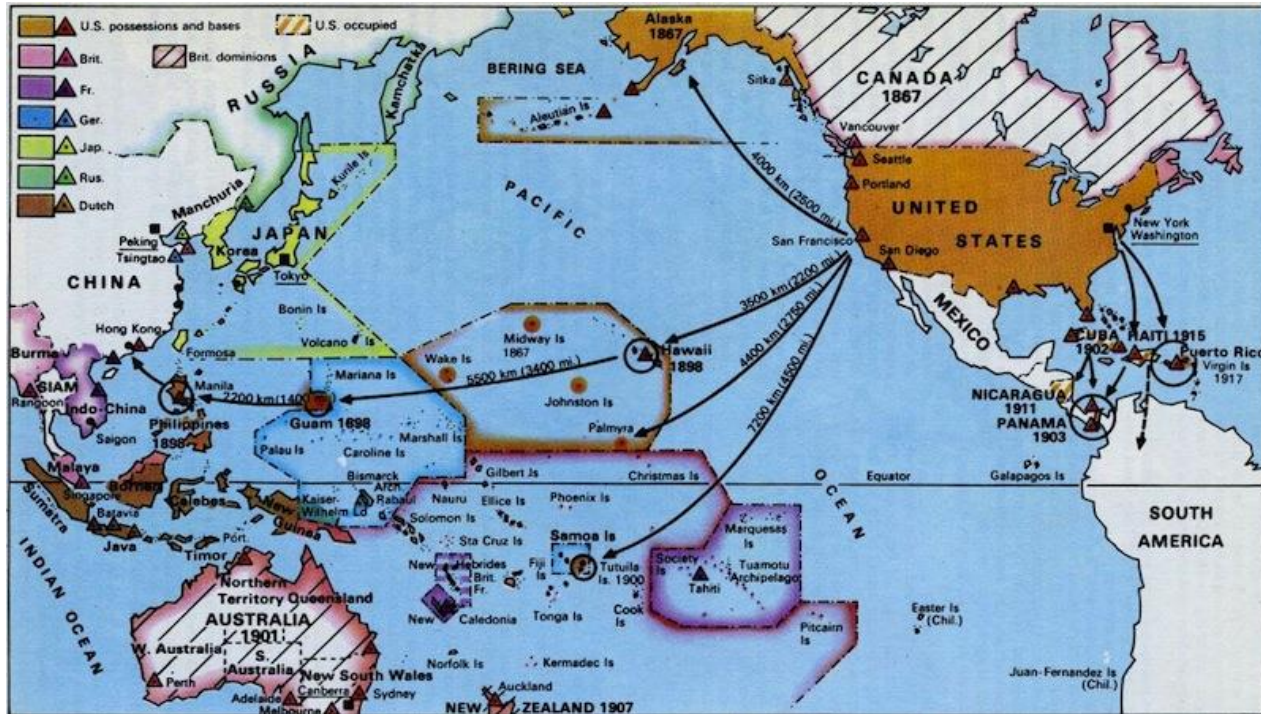
## Serving Kanaka Maoli

- Reconnecting Kanaka Maoli to culture
- Increasing presence in Hawaiian communities
- Reducing stigma among marginalized and disenfranchised people

## Improving Outcomes

- Until 2020, NH/PI were more likely than any other group in the USA to be diagnosed with AIDS at time of HIV diagnosis. This is no longer true!
- Hawai'i overall improved linkage to care during pandemic lockdowns





## Colonization Throughout the Pacific

Hawai'i is not alone. The entire Pacific region has a history of colonization that has had lasting impacts.



# More Resources

Hawai'i HIV Surveillance Reports and Epidemiologic Profile:  
<https://health.hawaii.gov/harmreduction/hiv-aids-surveillance/>

HIV Care and Prevention Services in Hawai'i:

O'ahu (HHRC): [www.hhhrc.org](http://www.hhhrc.org)

Hawai'i Island (Kumukahi Health + Wellness): [www.kumukahihealth.org](http://www.kumukahihealth.org)

Maui (Maui AIDS Foundation): [www.mauiaids.org](http://www.mauiaids.org)

Kaua'i: (Mālama Pono Health Services: [www.mphskauai.org](http://www.mphskauai.org))



# Mahalo nui!

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