

Lā Kū'oko'a

Hawaiian Independence Day

Lā Kū'oko'a commemorates the day that the Hawaiian Kingdom was formally recognized as an independent and sovereign nation. The ratification of the Anglo-Franco Proclamation on November 28, 1843 meant that both France and Great Britain, two of the world powers of the era, acknowledged the sovereignty of Hawai'i and its people. Following the establishment of the Kingdom's first constitution in 1840, King Kamehameha III (Kauikeaouli) strived to attain formal recognition for the nation—in which he sent representatives throughout Europe and the Americas to negotiate treaties and build alliances.



Kauikeaouli, Kamehameha III



Timoteo Ha'alilio

Timoteo Ha'alilio, one of the first Hawaiian diplomats for the lāhui, traveled many miles for many months away from home to negotiate treaties with foreign nations—eventually helping to secure sovereignty in 1843. While in Europe, Ha'alilio also played an integral role in negotiating the

restoration of Hawaiian sovereignty after an attempted takeover by a British admiral, the day known as Lā Ho'iho'i Ea (Sovereignty Restoration Day). Following his two-year long journey, Timoteo fell ill and passed away on the return trip home to Hawai'i.



Today, we celebrate Lā Kū'oko'a and past aloha 'āina like Timoteo Ha'alilio, whose courage and commitment to ka po'e o Hawai'i continue to inspire many young Hawaiians. Years following the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawai'i and the subsequent bans on our language and cultural practices, we once again celebrate Lā Kū'oko'a and those who have worked to set the foundation for the lāhui to continue moving forward.

CONT. ON NEXT PAGE

A mo‘okū‘auhau of ea

*ea — to breathe, to rise, life,
sovereignty & independence*



Ea has many meanings, all of which are interwoven like a fine lauhala mat. Ea is sovereignty. Ea is life. Ea is in the action of rising. Ea is in each breath we take. Our kūpuna understood that to lose one’s sovereignty, is to lose one’s ability to breathe. The ea of our nation is kept alive through generations of aloha ‘āina who have been steadfast and fought for the preservation of culture, language, and ‘āina. It is from this mo‘okū‘auhau (genealogy) that Loko ea is given new breath and life. The ea of the loko is held within the water, the land, the i‘a, the kia‘i loko, the community, the lāhui.

Mālama Loko Ea is a mo‘opuna whose mo‘okūauhau is made up of countless aloha ‘āina—warriors who have fought to protect and mālama ‘āina as our kūpuna have done for thousands of years. We honor those aloha ‘āina who have struggled so that now we are able to build for future generations.

On Lā Kū‘oko‘a, we celebrate all aloha ‘āina, at home and abroad, past and present. As we work together to reclaim and revitalize land, water, and ea for the next seven generations, we look to those behind us to guide our movements. I ka wā ma mua, i ka wā ma hope.

Aloha Lā Kū‘oko‘a!

