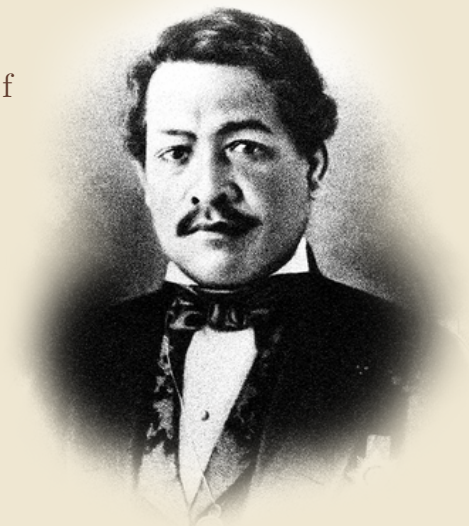
Lā Kūʻokoʻa

Hawaiian Independence Day

What is Lā Kūʻokoʻa?

Lā Kūʻokoʻa celebrates and commemorates the 1843 Proclamation that formally recognized the Kingdom of Hawaiʻi as a sovereign nation. Following the ratification of the Kingdomʻs first constitution in 1840, Kauikeaouli (Kamehameha III) strived to attain international recognition for Hawaiʻi—sending a delegation to Europe and the Americas to negotiate treaties and build alliances with the worldʻs powers. Through the tremendous efforts of a small group of Aloha ʻĀina, Hawaiʻi gained recognition on the international stage. On November 28, 1843, France and Great Britain signed the Anglo-Franco Proclamation, a joint declaration to acknowledge the sovereignty and nationhood of the Kingdom of Hawaiʻi.

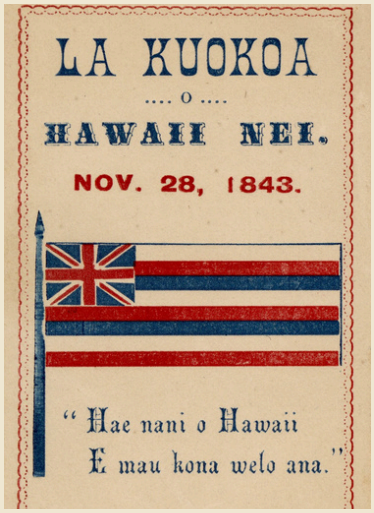


Kauikeaouli, Kamehameha III

Aloha ʻĀina – Hawaiian Patriots

Timoteo Haʻalilio

Timoteo Haʻalilio, a member of the delegation and one of the Kingdomʻs first Hawaiian diplomats, traveled across continents for many months to negotiate treaties with foreign nations in pursuit of Hawaiian Kingdom independence. While in Europe in 1843, Timoteo played an integral role in negotiating the restoration of Hawaiian sovereignty after an attempted takeover by British admiral Paulet. This day is known and celebrated today as Lā Hoʻihoʻi Ea (Sovereignty Restoration Day).



Following his two-year long journey, Timoteo fell ill and sadly passed away before making it back home to Hawaiʻi. Timoteoʻs work and sacrifice for Hawaiian independence continues to be an inspiration for many generations of Aloha ʻĀina.

CONT. ON NEXT PAGE

Loko ea & Lā Kūʻokoʻa

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

Within the greater moʻolelo of the Hawaiian movement, Mālama Loko Ea is a moʻopuna born through generations of struggle. On Lā Kūʻokoʻa, we honor those before us who have remained steadfast in spite of insurmountable odds and shown our present-day kiaʻi the way to holomua and hoʻomau.

Join us in celebrating all Aloha ʻĀina, at home and abroad, past and present. As we work together to revitalize lands, waters, and ea for present and future generations of kānaka, we look to those who came before us to guide our movements. I ka wā ma mua, i ka wā ma hope. Aloha Lā Kūʻokoa!

Ea has many meanings, all of which are interwoven like a lauhala mat. Ea is the action of rising. Ea is life. Ea is sovereignty. Ea is each breath we take. When we understand the many interwoven meanings of ea, we understand what our kūpuna knew—that to lose one's sovereignty is to lose one's ability to breathe.

A piko and wahi pana of Waiālua moku, Loko ea is an inseperable link in the moʻokūʻauhau of Hawaiian nationhood and of Aloha ʻĀina who have fought to preserve ea across the pae ʻāina. The ea of Loko ea is protected & preserved when we mālama its many sources: the wai, the ʻanae, the kiaʻi loko, the moʻo akua, the kupaʻāina, the lāhui.