

## **Kamehameha V (Lota Kapuāiwa Kalanimakua Aliʻiōlani Kalanikupuapaʻīkalaninui)**



Lot Kapuāiwa Kalanimakua Aliʻiōlani Kalanikupuapaʻīkalaninui was born on December 11, 1830 to High Chiefess Elizabeth Kīnaʻu, one of the daughters of Kamehameha I, and High Chief Mataio Kekūanāoʻa. He was the third oldest of five siblings, which included David Kamehameha, Moses Kekūāiwa, Alexander Liholiho, and Victoria Kamāmalu. His name Kapu āiwa means “mysterious kapu” and was a reference to one who is sacred protected by supernatural powers. Lot was adopted as a hānai of his maternal aunt, the Princess Nāhiʻenaʻena, and, after her death in 1836, he was subsequently adopted by his grandmother Queen Kalākua Kaheiheimālie and step-grandfather the High Chief Ulumāhehe Hoapili.

Lot was educated at the Royal School like his cousins and siblings since King Kamehameha III declared him eligible for the throne. He was also betrothed to Bernice Pauahi at birth, but she chose to marry American Charles Reed Bishop instead. Lot never married and remained a bachelor.

As a young man, Lot traveled overseas with his younger brother Alexander Liholiho (who would later become Kamehameha IV) under the supervision of their guardian Dr. Geritt P. Judd, in September 1849 to California, Panama, Jamaica, New York City and Washington, D.C. At Washington, they met with US president Zachary Taylor and vice president Millard Fillmore. The brothers also toured Europe and met with various heads of state including French president Louis Napoleon and British prince consort Albert, the husband of Queen Victoria of England.

Lot served in many important government positions for the Kingdom. From 1852 to 1855, he served on the Privy Council, and from 1852 to 1862 in the House of Nobles. He was the Minister of the Interior from 1857 to 1863, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Kingdom from 1857 to 1858, and held other offices. His more charismatic younger brother Prince Alexander Liholiho was chosen to become King Kamehameha IV in 1854 upon the death of their uncle Kauikeaouli or Kamehameha III. In 1862, he was officially added to the line of succession in an amendment to the 1852 Constitution of the Kingdom of Hawaii. Lot and his heirs, followed by his sister Princess Victoria and her heirs, would succeed in the case his brother died without any legitimate heirs. The change was made shortly before the death of Prince Albert, the only son of Kamehameha IV.

Lot ascended to the throne as Kamehameha V on November 30, 1863, after his brother's death, but refused to uphold the previous constitution of 1852. In May 1864, he called for a constitutional convention. On August 20, 1864 he signed a new constitution, which limited voters to being residents who passed a literacy test and possessed property or had income qualifications. In 1866, after much consideration, Kamehameha V set aside public lands on the peninsula of Kalaupapa, Molokaʻi to establish a colony in order to quarantine those residents afflicted with Hansen's Disease. He was also the first king to encourage revival of traditional practices. Under his reign, the laws against "kahunaism" were repealed. A Hawaiian Board of

Medicine was established, with kahuna members, and lā'au lapa'au or Hawaiian medicine was again practiced. He brought kahuna practitioners to Honolulu to document their remedies.

Growth in travel to the islands increased during Kamehameha's reign. Mark Twain arrived in the Islands and described the King in 1866 this way:

He was a wise sovereign; he had seen something of the world; he was educated & accomplished, & he tried hard to do well by his people, & succeeded. There was no trivial royal nonsense about him; He dressed plainly, poked about Honolulu, night or day, on his old horse, unattended; he was popular, greatly respected, and even beloved.

Lot founded the Royal Order of Kamehameha I society and the Royal Order of Kamehameha I decoration on April 11, 1865 named to honor his grandfather. On December 22, 1871, he proclaimed June 11th a national holiday in honor of his grandfather, which is observed to this day as an official state holiday known as Kamehameha Day. Kamehameha V was also instrumental in appealing to Kaiser Wilhelm I of Germany, who eventually sent Henri Berger to organize the Royal Hawaiian Band, a gift of music from the king to his people.

Kamehameha V did not name a successor to the throne and died on his birthday December 11, 1872. His only sister and named Heir Apparent to the throne, Crown Princess Victoria Kamāmalu, had died childless previously in 1866. He had offered the throne to his cousin Bernice Pauahi Bishop who refused. He was buried in the Royal Mausoleum of Hawaii at Mauna 'Ala.