

THE ROYAL HAWAIIAN BAND AND PRINCE JONAH KŪHIŌ KALANIANAOL‘E PI‘IKOI

Friday, June 15, 1928 seemed like a typical, beautiful day in Hawai‘i nei, and it was. The Royal Hawaiian Band was in position at Pier 7 to greet upon her morning arrival, the *SS Sierra* from Australia, then again for a second arrival when the *RMS Aorangi* sailed into the harbor. The day’s weather was perfect as Honolulu’s citizens scurried about their business. The Schuman Carriage Company was promoting their newest line of Hudson motor coaches, boasting 18 miles to the gallon and with a sleek starting price of \$1,590.00. The Hawaiian Civic Club held their weekly 12-noon luncheon meeting in Cooke Hall at the Central Y.M.C.A. while the Women’s Christian Temperance Union was holding a tempting benefit food sale, including a special table for Japanese food, at the Y.W.C.A. It was also the day when hundreds of members from the Order of Kamehameha were preparing to depart for the island of Kaua‘i in order to participate in a very special ceremony that would honor Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana‘ole Pi‘ikoi.

More than 350-members of the Royal Order, comprised from Hawai‘i Chapter No. 1 of O‘ahu, the Mamalahoa Chapter No. 2 of Hawai‘i island, and the Kahekili Chapter No. 4 of Maui assembled together as one on the grounds of the Territorial Capitol promptly at 8:00 p.m. It was only right that so many from the Royal Order participated in this event, as it was the Prince, who In 1903, had reorganized the Order of Kamehameha, which is still devoted to the perpetuation of the memory of Kamehameha the Great. It was also the Prince who officiated at the first observance of Kamehameha Day held in 1904 in front of the statue of the King in Honolulu. The organization of the Order of Kamehameha set the pattern for the revival of many of the old Hawaiian societies.

The Royal Hawaiian Band now stood waiting and was about to lead the entire contingent in a procession from the Capitol to the King's statue, then ewa on King Street to Nu'uanu, before turning left toward Pier 12. Upon arrival at the pier, they would perform yet another musical program for the entourage prior to boarding the steamer *Mauna Kea* for a 10:00 p.m. departure to Waimea, Kauai. The Hawaiian Band, under the leadership of Professor John Amasiu, was joined by a number of special singers and hula artists. The entire group was about to set sail on an historical voyage that would transport them to the birthplace of Hawai'i's beloved patriot and statesman.



The Royal Hawaiian Band with Professor John Amasiu and Captain Henry Berger.
Photograph: Hawai'i State Archives

The *Mauna Kea* arrived at Waimea during the early morning hours of Saturday, June 16, where the Kaumuali'i Chapter No. 3 of the island met the visitors. They would be their guests for the weekend festivities. They would also serve as their hosts and tour guides, showing points of interest and insuring that everyone would make it to their

destinations, helping to guarantee an enjoyable experience for all. First stop would be on the north shore and beautiful Waimea Canyon, then a short journey to Hanalei Bay for an afternoon luau. Following the luau would be another trip to the town of Lihu'e, where the group would attend a large fair for the evening before retiring in preparation for the dedication on the following day.

By the time the travelling contingency woke up on Sunday morning, newspapers back in Honolulu were already in circulation. While their entertainment sections were announcing that Duke Kahanamoku could be seen in the upcoming film, "Old Ironside," the other half of the globe witnessed Amelia Earhart taking off from Newfoundland to begin her world famous trans-Atlantic flight. For the Hawaiian Band and the Royal Order, it was off to Kōloa in order to prepare for the events of the day and the main purpose of their journey.

The days' festivities began promptly at 9:15 a.m. with a parade dedicated to Prince Kūhiō. Following the parade was an open-air worship service presided by the Reverend S.L. Desha. All of those participating in the main ceremony later that day were an integral part of the service, which began with the congregation's singing of the *Doxology*. Reverend Desha then delivered a prayer, a scripture reading and the sermon, each intertwined with a special song presented by the Order of Kamehameha, Chapter No 1 from O'ahu. At the conclusion of the service was a three hour luau held for the entire contingency along with traditional Hawaiian sporting events. Toward the end of the events, the supreme council of the order dismissed themselves so that they could hold a special business meeting in final preparation for the afternoon and evening, then at 3:30 p.m., the official ceremony began. Approximately 10,000 spectators had assembled to witness the special dedication ceremony at Hoai Bay in Kōloa.

The Honorable Mayor of Honolulu, John C. Lane and Ali'i Aimoku from the Order of Kamehameha presided that afternoon. Following the opening anthem, which was performed as a mixed chorus by the Kaumuali'i Chapter No.3 came a prayer by the Reverend I. K. Kaauwai, then finally the moment that all in attendance were waiting for, the unveiling of the sculpture that was created by Jacob Rosenstein. David Kalākaua Kawānanakoa, the nephew of the Prince, drew the veil, uncovering the bust and tablet. With the work finally revealed to the public, all could view the Prince looking out toward the sea, the sea that he forever loved. Engraved upon the bronze plaque was the name of the Prince and the phrase "Ke Ali'i Maka'āinana" (The Citizen Prince). Immediately the Hawaiian Band struck the opening chords to Hawai'i Pōno'i and the thousands in attendance sang along in full force with strong Hawaiian voices. When the final note had sounded, Governor Farrington stepped forward to deliver the main address in remembrance of the Prince, which was followed with the decorating of the tablet by each chapter of the Royal Order. Again, a musical contribution by the Hawaiian Band with a performance of "Na Lei O Hawai'i" validating the gifts of the Royal Order and the never ending circle of love for the Prince from his people. Completing the ceremony was an address in Hawaiian by the Reverend Desha, followed by a benediction delivered by the Reverend Charles K. Holokahiki, and finally concluding with the playing and singing of the "Star-Spangled Banner."

The official ceremony was now complete, but the day's celebration would continue. Beginning at 5:30 that evening would be a special concert performed by the Royal Hawaiian Band, followed by a song contest between the glee clubs from each of the

participating orders. Finally a closing pageant, “Uma,” would complete a long day of remembrance and celebration on the island of Kaua’i.

Late in the evening on Sunday, June 17, a tired but fulfilled group once again boarded the *Mauna Kea* for their return trip to Honolulu. The events of the weekend would forever live within the memories of those in attendance. To Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana’ole Pi’ikoi - “Ke Ali’i Maka’āinana.”



Prince Kūhiō Park. Kōloa, Kauai'i, Hawai'i.