

Ex-Queen Liliuokalani to the President.

(Received February 3, 1893.)

His Excellency BENJAMIN HARRISON,

President of the United States:

MY GREAT AND GOOD FRIEND : It is with deep regret that I address you on this occasion. Some of my subjects, aided by aliens, have renounced their loyalty and revolted against the constitutional government of my Kingdom. They have attempted to depose me and to establish a provisional government, in direct conflict with the organic law of this Kingdom. Upon receiving incontestable proof that his excellency the minister plenipotentiary of the United States, aided and abetted their unlawful movements and caused United States troops to be landed for that purpose, I submitted to force, believing that he would not have acted in that manner unless by the authority of the Government which he represents.

This action on my part was prompted by three reasons: The futility of a conflict with the United States; the desire to avoid violence, bloodshed, and the destruction of life and property, and the certainty which I feel that you and your Government will right whatever wrongs may have been inflicted upon us in the premises.

In due time a statement of the true facts relating this matter will be laid before you, and I live in the hope that you will judge uprightly and justly between myself and my enemies.

This appeal is not made for myself personally, but for my people who have hitherto always enjoyed the friendship and protection of the United States.

My opponents have taken the only vessel which could be obtained here for the purpose, and hearing of their intention to send a delegation of their number to present their side of this conflict before you, I requested the favor of sending by the same vessel an envoy to you, to lay before you my statement, as the facts appear to myself and my loyal subjects.

This request has been refused and I now ask you that in justice to myself and to my people that no steps be taken by the Government of the United States until my cause can be heard by you.

I shall be able to dispatch an envoy about the 2d day of February as that will be the first available opportunity hence, and he will reach you with every possible haste that there may be no delay in the settlement of this matter.

I pray you, therefore, my good friend, that you will not allow any conclusions to be reached by you until my envoy arrives.

I beg to assure you of the continuance of my highest consideration.

LILIUOKALANI, R.

HONOLULU, January 18, 1893.

1893: Conquest of Paradise

1. What is the purpose of this letter from Queen Liliuokalani?



2. The letter mentions – but does not define – the American *minister plenipotentiary*. Using context clues, what do you think this term means?



3. What three reasons does Queen Liliuokalani give for her abdication of power?
4. Why do you think it's so important to the queen that President Harrison receives her envoy before taking further action?
5. Consider the tone of this letter in the context of the events that were unfolding. How you interpret the queen's response?

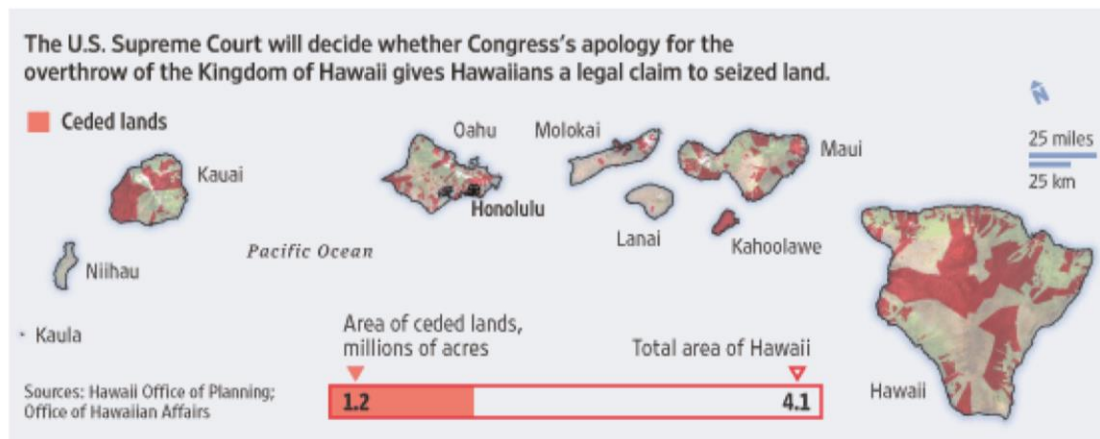
Regrets Only? Native Hawaiians Insist U.S. Apology Has a Price

By JESS BRAVIN and LOUISE RADNOFSKY

WASHINGTON -- Lawyers typically warn clients never to apologize for anything, since a plaintiff could seize upon the remorse as an admission of liability. But what happens when governments apologize?

A century after a cabal of American sugar planters, financiers and missionaries overthrew the Kingdom of Hawaii, Congress said it was sorry. The U.S. Supreme Court soon will decide whether that apology meant anything -- from a legal standpoint, at least.

The Hawaii Supreme Court thought it did. Last year, that court cited the 1993 Apology Resolution to block the state from transferring any of the 1.2 million acres of land -- some 29% of Hawaii's total -- received from the federal government upon statehood in 1959. Those lands once belonged to the Hawaiian crown or its subjects, and were confiscated by the Americans without compensation.



The resolution, which calls for "reconciliation between the United States and the Native Hawaiian people," acknowledges that native Hawaiians never relinquished

claims to the land. The court interpreted this to mean that Congress intended there to be an amicable settlement of the land claims, which would be impossible if the state disposed of the disputed land.

"Generally, when a joint resolution...has emerged from legislative deliberations and proceedings, it is treated as law," Hawaii Chief Justice Ronald Moon wrote for a unanimous court.

Hawaii's government appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which heard arguments last month. The state concedes that indigenous Hawaiians "have a clear *moral* basis" for asking the state's government for compensation, but argues that they have no legal claim to the land.

The Justice Department and 32 states filed briefs backing that position. Upholding the Hawaii Supreme Court's ruling could discourage Congress from making similar apologies for other historic wrongs, the Justice

Department warned, adding that the Apology Resolution was only symbolic.

But Hawaii's congressional delegation is at odds with the state government, and insists the resolution is supposed to have teeth. "Federal courts have interpreted [apologies] to shape national obligations under federal law," the four lawmakers, all Democrats, said in a friend of the court brief.

In recent years, government apologies for official wrongs have proliferated. In 1988, Congress apologized to Japanese-Americans for their internment during World War II, and in 1990 approved an expression of "deep regret to the Sioux people" for the 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre. Seven states have apologized for forced sterilization of disabled, poor and minority residents in the early 20th century. Five states have apologized for slavery.

But the Hawaii case might be the first where an apology resolution received legal weight, says Eric Miller, a law professor at Saint Louis University who has worked on campaigns seeking redress for African-Americans. Governments on rare occasion have paid restitution, but only through separate legislation.

Prof. Miller worries that if the Hawaii opinion stands, future apologies might be rarer still. The "process doesn't necessarily get off the ground if people are going to be punished for it," he says.

Rep. Steve Cohen (D., Tenn.) says the Bush administration raised fears of legal liability over the slavery apology he introduced into Congress. He is considering adding language stating that the apology isn't intended to affect the debate over possible slavery reparations, a step that might be "politically necessary to pass such a resolution," he says.

While its legal impact is unclear, the 1993 Apology Resolution minces few words in describing the U.S. acquisition of Hawaii.

In 1893, American diplomat John Stevens participated in a "conspiracy to overthrow the Government of Hawaii," it states. The coup d'état was "a violation of treaties between the two nations and of international law."

The Americans eventually forced Queen Liliuokalani to abdicate and declared themselves rulers of a new Republic of Hawaii.

The indigenous population soon was swamped by settlers from the mainland. In recent decades, Hawaii has grown more sensitive to aboriginal concerns. In 1978, it created the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, an autonomous agency run by and for aboriginals' descendants.

A year after the Apology Resolution, the agency filed suit over the claims, leading to the high-court case. "The Western concept of land ownership was very foreign to Hawaiians," says Hawaiian Affairs Administrator Clyde Namuo. In traditional culture, "property is not a commodity that is bought and sold but it is used to benefit people who live and reside on the land."

Write to Jess Bravin at jess.bravin@wsj.com and Louise Radnofsky at louise.radnofsky@dowjones.com

Printed in The Wall Street Journal, page A12

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1893: Conquest of Paradise

1. The federal government passed the 1993 Apology Resolution to formally apologize for what?



2. How much land was transferred from the state from the federal government in 1959? (acreage and percentage)
3. Explain this transfer of land. Why did it belong to the federal government? When did they take ownership? From whom did they take it?
4. The State Supreme Court of Hawaii said that the state has a clear moral basis for compensation, but no legal claim. Why do you think they ruled this way?
5. Who first brought the lawsuit?
6. If you could decide this case, how would you rule? Why would you make that decision?

AGAINST ANNEXING HAWAII.

Result of a Debate by Members of the
Goldey Society.

The proposed annexation of Hawaii to the United States was the subject of a debate last evening by the members of the Goldey Literary Society at their meeting at 8 West Fourteenth Street. Vice President Joseph Beitman presided.

The cause of annexation was espoused first by Mr. Matthew Ryan, who contended that Hawaii stands in the same position to-day as Alaska, Louisiana, and Texas once did. If the United States does not annex Hawaii, he declares, the white population will have to leave the islands, for they will be left open to anarchy. An independent Hawaiian Government would last just about one week.

Monopolists like Claus Spreckels, he said, are opposed to annexation because they would be deprived of contract labor. Pearl Harbor, he also argued, would also be such a desirable acquisition that the United States should not hesitate to annex Hawaii. Honolulu, he said, is as much an American city as San Francisco. The business of Hawaii is all in charge of Americans. Hawaii is of more importance to the United States, he declared, than Cuba.

A. J. Ernst spoke in opposition to annexation. "The only annexationists in Hawaii," he declared, "are the members of the Annexation Club, and they are not citizens of the islands. They took care to keep their American citizenship. The United States violated international law when it raised the American flag in Hawaii, and it will add insult to injury if it insists upon annexing the islands."

Mr. K. E. Doherty also spoke for annexation.

Lewis E. Bates opposed the taking of the islands. He said the United States would gain nothing but trouble by the experiment, and he cited the experience with Alaska as a sample of what might be expected of Hawaiian annexation. The laborers there, he said, are all Chinese, Japanese, and natives, and will never assimilate with Americans.

Vice President Beitman closed the debate, and decided against annexation.

The New York Times

Published: May 20, 1893

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Complete the chart below, listing people and their arguments for and against annexation of Hawaii.

FOR ANNEXATION

AGAINST ANNEXATION



Now put yourself in the discussion. How would you vote? Why?



**LOWERING OF THE HAWAIIAN FLAG
JANUARY 17, 1893**

On January 17, 1893, as a quiet night fell across the Hawaiian Islands, the monarchy of the Hawaiian Kingdom came to an end. In protest, Queen Lili'uokalani wrote: "I, Lili'uokalani, by the Grace of God and under the Constitution of the Kingdom, Queen do hereby solemnly protest against any and all acts done against myself and the constitutional government of the Hawaiian Kingdom, certain persons claiming to have established a provisional government of and for this Kingdom. That I yield to the superior of the United States of America ...". The Hawaiian monarchy came to an end with the Queen's surrender. Despite widespread tensions and the menace posed by the presence of U.S. troops in front of 'Iolani Palace, the overthrow occurred without bloodshed. A Provisional Government was established with Sanford Dole, an American missionary descendant, as its president.

The Queen and her supporters did not give up easily. It was she, who with great dignity, argued that the kingdom was lost to people "who insisted upon hiding their notices under the guise of friendship for the Hawaiian people... They point to the noble causes of liberty and freedom," she wrote. "Yet they [the Provisional Government] refuse to grant this liberty and freedom to the Hawaiian people."

Arrested in 1895 and accused of misprision of treason, Lili'uokalani was confined for eight months in a small room on the top floor of 'Iolani Palace. In *Hawai'i's Story by Hawai'i's Queen*, she wrote, "My own home became my prison." It was during her confinement that she composed many songs, among them "Ke Aloha O Ka Haku" or "The Queen's Prayer," a song she wrote for her niece Princess Ka'iulani, heir apparent to the throne. Lili'uokalani died in 1917 in Honolulu at the age of 79.

The Newlands Resolution and Annexation

On April 25, 1898, the United States declared war on Spain following the sinking of the battleship *Maine* in Havana, Cuba, on February 15, 1898. The Spanish-American War saw conflict in both the Caribbean and Pacific Ocean, where Spain controlled the Philippine Islands. On July 6, 1898, the U.S. Congress passed a joint resolution called the Newlands Resolution (named after its proponent Nevada representative Francis Newlands) to annex Hawai'i for use as a military base. The following day, July 7, 1898, President McKinley signed the Newlands Resolution into law.

Under the Newlands Resolution the self-declared Republic of Hawai'i ceded sovereignty over the Hawaiian Islands to the United States. As well, it ceded 1,800,000 acres of crown, government and public lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, without the consent of, or compensation to, the Native Hawaiian people or their sovereign government. These lands would come to be known as the 'ceded lands'. The revenue or proceeds from the lands were to be used – except for the civil, military, or naval purposes of the United States or the use of the local government – "solely for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Hawaiian Islands for educational and other public purposes."

Through the Newlands Resolution, Congress ratified the cession, annexed Hawai'i as part of the United States and vested title to the Kingdom's lands in the United States. The Newlands Resolution also specified that treaties existing between Hawai'i and foreign nations were to immediately cease and be replaced by United States treaties with such nations.

Reproduced below is a copy of the Newlands Resolution of July 7, 1898.

[NO. 55.] JOINT RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR ANNEXING THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS TO THE UNITED STATES.

Whereas the Government of the Republic of Hawai'i having, in due form, signified its consent, in the manner provided by its constitution, to cede absolutely and without reserve to the United States of America all rights of sovereignty of whatsoever kind in and over the Hawaiian Islands and their dependencies, and also to cede and transfer to the United States the absolute fee and ownership of all public, Government, or Crown lands, public buildings or edifices, ports, harbors, military equipment, and all other public property of every kind and description belonging to the Government of the Hawaiian Islands, together with every right and appurtenance thereunto appertaining; Therefore *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled*, That said cession is accepted, ratified, and confirmed, and that the said Hawaiian Islands and their dependencies be, and they are hereby, annexed as a part of the territory of the United States and are subject to the sovereign dominion thereof, and that all and singular the property and rights hereinbefore mentioned are vested in the United States of America.

The existing laws of the United States relative to public lands shall not apply to such lands in the Hawaiian Islands; but the Congress of the United States shall enact special laws for their management and disposition: *Provided*, That all revenue from or proceeds of the same, except as regards such part thereof as may be used or occupied for the civil, military, or naval purposes of the United States, or may be assigned for the use of the local government, shall be used solely for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Hawaiian Islands for educational and other public purposes.

Until Congress shall provide for the government of such islands all the civil, judicial, and military powers exercised by the officers of the existing government in said islands shall be vested in such person or persons and shall be exercised in such manner as the President of the United States shall direct; and the President shall have the power to remove said officers and fill the vacancies so occasioned.

The existing treaties of the Hawaiian Islands with foreign nations shall forthwith cease and determine, being replaced by such treaties as may exist, or as may be hereafter concluded, between the United States and such foreign nations. The municipal legislation of the Hawaiian Islands, not enacted for the fulfillment of the treaties so extinguished, and not inconsistent with this joint resolution nor contrary to the Constitution of the United States nor to any existing treaty of the United States, shall remain in force until the Congress of the United States shall otherwise determine.

Until legislation shall be enacted extending the United States customs laws and regulations to the Hawaiian Islands the existing customs relations of the Hawaiian Islands with the United States and other countries shall remain unchanged.

The public debt of the Republic of Hawai'i, lawfully existing at the date of the passage of this joint resolution, including the amounts due to depositors in the Hawaiian Postal Savings Bank, is hereby assumed by the Government of the United States; but the liability of the United States in this regard shall in no case exceed four million dollars. So long, however, as the existing Government and the present commercial relations of the Hawaiian Islands are continued as hereinbefore provided said Government shall continue to pay the interest on said debt. There shall be no further immigration of Chinese into the Hawaiian Islands, except upon such conditions as are now or may hereafter be allowed by the laws of the United States; no Chinese, by reason of anything herein contained, shall be allowed to enter the United States from the Hawaiian Islands.

The President shall appoint five commissioners, at least two of whom shall be residents of the Hawaiian Islands, who shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, recommend to Congress such legislation concerning the Hawaiian Islands as they shall deem necessary or proper.

SEC. 2. That the commissioners hereinbefore provided for shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

SEC. 3. That the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary; is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and to be immediately available, to be expended at the discretion of the President of the United States of America, for the purpose of carrying this joint resolution into effect.

SEREXO E. PAYNE, *Speaker of the House of Representatives Pro Tempore*.
GARRETT A. HOBART, *Vice-President of the United States and President of the Senate*.
Approved July 7th, 1898.
WILLIAM MCKINLEY.

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1. What did the Newlands Resolution do?



2. Each of the nine paragraphs of the resolution lays out a condition of Hawaiian annexation. Summarize each below.

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The King's Passing

On the advice of his physician King Kalakaua traveled to the United States for a change of climate to recuperate his health. He died at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco on January 20, 1891. His remains were conveyed back to Hawai'i aboard the USS Charleston. As the ship rounded Diamond Head, the flags were seen lowered to half-mast, and it was then that the King's subjects realized Kalakaua was dead.

King Kalakaua was laid in state in the Throne Room of 'Iolani Palace. Hawaiian subjects and foreign residents came from all parts of the Kingdom to pay their respects.

The Succession

Kalakaua was succeeded by his sister, Lili'uokalani, who was proclaimed queen on January 29, 1891. Her experience as Princess Regent during King Kalakaua's nine month journey around the world in 1881 and visit to the United States in 1890 had prepared her for her new role as Queen of Hawai'i.

The Children's Ball

During the reign of Queen Lili'uokalani, a very special event was held at 'Iolani Palace on the evening of February 22, 1892. It was a fancy dress ball, but one just for children. Shortly before eight o'clock, carriages entered the Palace grounds conveying the Queen's tiny guests and their mothers to the front entrance. After assembling in the Grand Hall, the children marched into the Throne Room two by two according to height.

They presented themselves to the Queen with a low bow or curtsy. The children appeared in a variety of costumes, including Bo Peep, Lord Fauntleroy, Red Riding Hood, George Washington, a Bavarian peasant girl, a Japanese nobleman, and a butterfly.



The Queen's Music

Queen Lili'uokalani was a talented musician and accomplished composer. She wrote approximately 165 songs, including "Ke Aloha O Ka Haku" (The Queen's Prayer), which was written during her imprisonment. Her best known composition was the immensely popular and lasting favorite "Aloha 'Oe".

The Overthrow

Queen Lili'uokalani was determined to strengthen the political power of the Hawaiian monarchy and to limit suffrage to subjects of the kingdom.

Her attempt to promulgate a new constitution galvanized opposition forces into the Committee of Safety, which was composed of Hawai'i-born citizens of American parents, naturalized citizens and foreign nationals, many of whom were businessmen and owners of sugar plantations. This group, with the support of the American Minister to Hawai'i, orchestrated the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy and the establishment of a provisional government.

On January 17, 1893, Queen Lili'uokalani yielded her authority:

... Now to avoid any collision of armed forces, and perhaps the loss of life, I do this under protest and impelled by said force yield my authority until such time as the Government of the United States shall, upon facts being presented to it, undo the action of its representatives and reinstate me in the authority which I claim as the Constitutional Sovereign of the Hawaiian Islands.

- Queen Lili'uokalani to Sanford B. Dole, Jan 17, 1893

The Imprisonment

In 1895, an abortive attempt by Hawaiian royalists to restore Queen Lili'uokalani to power resulted in the queen's arrest. She was forced to sign a document of abdication that relinquished all her future claims to the throne. Following this, she endured a humiliating public trial before a military tribunal in her former throne room.

Convicted of having knowledge of a royalist plot, Lili'uokalani was fined \$5000 and sentenced to five years in prison at hard labor. The sentence was commuted to imprisonment in an upstairs bedroom of 'Iolani Palace.

During her imprisonment, the queen was denied any visitors other than one lady in waiting. She began each day with her daily devotions followed by reading, quilting, crochet-work, or music composition.

After her release from 'Iolani Palace, the Queen remained under house arrest for five months at her private home, Washington Place. For another eight months she was forbidden to leave O'ahu before all restrictions were lifted.

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Below, create an **illustrated timeline** or **comic book panel** summarizing the information on your daily life handout.





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OFFICE of the HISTORIAN

A GUIDE TO THE UNITED STATES' HISTORY OF RECOGNITION, DIPLOMATIC, AND CONSULAR RELATIONS SINCE 1776: HAWAII

Summary

The Hawaiian Islands were first discovered by the West in 1778 by Captain James Cook. At the time, Cook named the island chain the Sandwich Islands after the British Earl of Sandwich. Hawaiian King Kamehameha I placed the not-yet-united Hawaiian Kingdom under British protection during the British naval expeditions led by George Vancouver from 1792 to 1794. However, the British government took no formal action to enforce its sovereignty over Hawaii. In 1810, Kamehameha I united the Hawaiian Islands under his rule when the island of Kauai came under his suzerainty.

In 1827, a council meeting to formulate a Hawaiian legal code decided to refrain from seeking British approval for the new code, after which point the Hawaiian government ceased to engage in formal actions which would place it under British suzerainty. Great Britain issued a formal joint declaration with France on November 28, 1843, guaranteeing Hawaiian independence.

The United States pursued an independent policy with regards to Hawaii. In a treaty signed December 23, 1826, the United States formally recognized Hawaiian independence. The U.S. established diplomatic relations with Hawaii in 1853; however, such relations and Hawaiian independence ended with the kingdom's annexation to the United States on August 12, 1898, following the Senate passage of a joint Congressional resolution on July 6, which was signed by U.S. President William McKinley the next day.

Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation Between the United States and the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii), 1826.

On December 23, 1826, the U.S. signed articles of arrangement in the typical form of a treaty of friendship, commerce, and navigation with the Kingdom of Hawaii in Honolulu, which confirmed the peace and friendship between the peoples of the two countries. The agreement was signed by the captain of the U.S. sloop of war Peacock Thomas ap Catesby Jones, who was appointed by the U.S., and Guardians of Kauikeaouli, King of the Sandwich Islands: Elisabeta Kaahumanu, the Queen Regent; Karaimoku, the Prime Minister; Boki, Governor of Oahu and personal guardian of the King; Howapili, guardian of Nahienaena, sister of the King; and Lidia Namahana, who was a dowager queen of Kamehameha I. This was the first treaty that the Kingdom of Hawaii signed with any foreign power. It was never ratified by Congress, although both countries acted in accordance with its articles.

Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation and Extradition, 1849.

On December 20, 1849, the U.S. and the Kingdom of Hawaii signed a Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation and Extradition. The treaty, negotiated by U.S. Secretary of State John M. Clayton and the Hawaiian special Commissioner

to the Government of the United States James Jackson Jarves, was signed in Washington, D.C.

Treaty of Reciprocity, 1875.

On January 30, 1875, United States Secretary of State Hamilton Fish and the Kingdom of Hawaii's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States Elisha H. Allen signed a Treaty of Reciprocity. This treaty provided for duty-free import of Hawaiian agricultural products into the United States. Conversely, the Kingdom of Hawaii allowed U.S. agricultural products and manufactured goods to enter Hawaiian ports duty-free. This treaty was originally intended to last for a duration of seven years.

Reciprocity Convention, 1884.

On December 6, 1884, the United States and the Kingdom of Hawaii signed a Reciprocity Convention, pertaining to commercial reciprocity, which was an extension of the 1875 Treaty of Reciprocity.

Issues Relevant to U.S. Foreign Diplomacy

Whaling Industry. By the 1820s, the U.S. whaling industry established itself in the Hawaiian Islands, as there were greater numbers of whales to be found in the Pacific than the Atlantic Ocean. By the 1860s, however, the whaling industry on the whole was in decline, which meant that there were fewer American vessels scouting the oceans for whales and less need for American whaling vessel depots in Hawaii. The decline of the U.S. whaling industry in the Hawaiian Islands coincided with the discovery of petroleum in Pennsylvania, and the start of the first age of oil. Also, by the latter half of the nineteenth century, whale bones were no longer used as widely in manufactured goods (such as corsets) thanks to the invention of steel during the Second Industrial Revolution (1870-1914).

Missionary Work. During the 1820s, American missionaries began to descend on the Hawaiian Islands. The earliest American missionaries to settle in the Hawaiian Islands were Protestants from New England. They were followed by Roman Catholic missionaries.

Sugar Trade. The climate and soil of the Hawaiian Islands were ideal for producing sugar cane; thus an entire industry was encouraged by American commercial trade in the Hawaiian Islands. This was especially so after the demise of the whaling industry in the 1860s; by the 1870s the sugar cane industry started to supplant it as one of the more profitable commercial trades between the U.S. and the Hawaiian Islands. Of note, from the late 1860s through the 1898 U.S. annexation of Hawaii, there was a significant inflow of Japanese workers into the Hawaiian Islands to work the sugar cane fields.

Name _____

1. Who is the author of your document?

2. What bias(es) would this suggest?

3. Below, create a timeline of Hawaiian history as described by this article.

