

Iolani Palace: Royal Residence on U.S. Soil

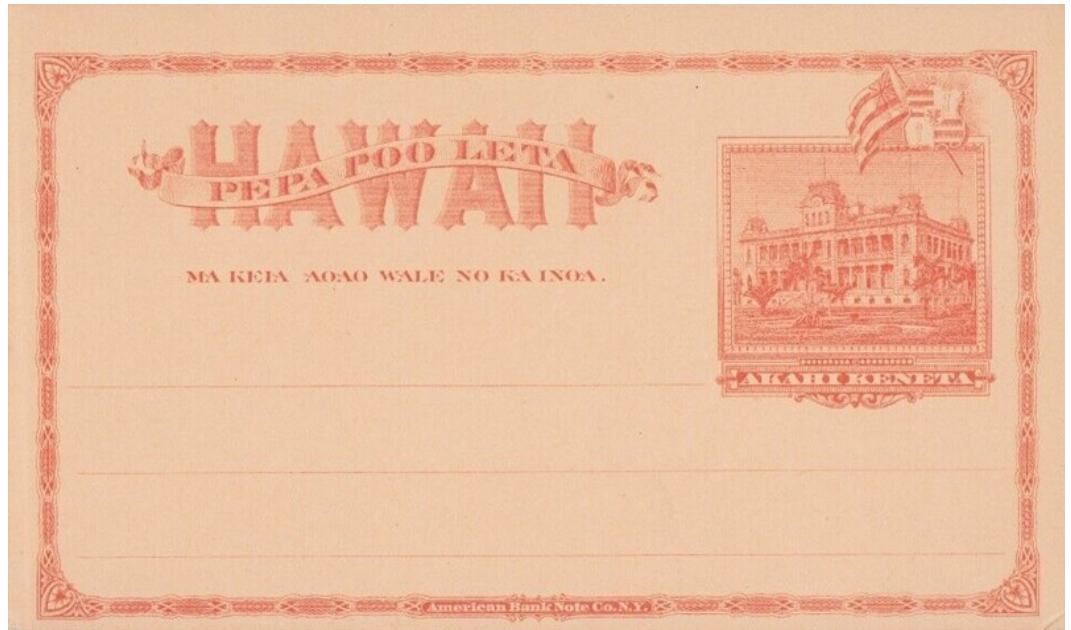


Before it was a state, Hawaii existed as an independent republic ruled by monarchs, with Iolani Palace as the royal residence. Builders laid the palace cornerstone on December 31, 1879 and completed construction in 1882.

The palace hosted official functions and graced its halls with dignitaries invited by King David Kalakaua and, later, his sister Queen Liliuokalani.

The palace architecture, known as American Florentine, is unique in the world. Another first: Iolani Palace bested the White House and Buckingham Palace by installing electric lights, indoor plumbing and a telephone.

In 1893, America helped overthrow the kingdom, establishing a provisional government, displacing the monarchy. Queen Liliuokalani saw Iolani Palace change from her royal residence to her prison cell.



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Top l-r: Scott 78, 1894, 12c, featuring the S.S. Arawa; Scott UX8, Iolani Palace indicium. The Hawaiian words translate: "paper or letter, on the other side only the name."

Center l-r: Scott UX81, Iolani Palace indicium. Fancy cancel: Kamehameha I; Scott 56, 1883, red overprint, 2c, King Kalakaua, builder of Iolani Palace; Scott 57, 1893, red overprint, 2c dull violet, Queen Liliuokalani, Hawaii's last monarch.

Right: FDC commemorating the State of Hawaii adding the 50th star to the U.S. flag. Cover features an Iolani Palace cachet. Hawaii is the only state in the U.S. with a non-English official language.

