



Maui Time Line

2,000,000 BC Maui's first volcano rises from the depths of the ocean and appears above the surface of the waves.

1,000,000 BC Haleakalā breaks the surface. Flows from the two volcanoes join to form the island of Maui. They also connect with other volcanoes that later form the separate islands of Lana`i, Moloka`i and Kaho`olawe. Scientists refer to the giant prehistoric landmass, before the break-up, as "Maui Nui" or Big Maui.

450 AD The first Polynesian explorers from the Marquesas Islands discover Hawai`i, though recent archaeological evidence suggests a much earlier date. Settlement of the islands begins.

700 Waves of colonists from Tahiti arrive.

The succession of Maui kings:

Pi`ilani (ruled during late 14th and early 15th centuries)

Kihaapi`ilani

Kamalāwalu

Kauhiakama

Kalanikaumakaowākea

Lonohonuakini

Ka`ulāhea

Kekaulike

Kamehameha Nui

Kahekili

1778 Captain James Cook of England discovers Hawai`i for the Western world but never sets foot on Maui.

1787 Captain Jean-Francois de Galaup, Comte de La Perouse, becomes the first foreigner to step ashore on Maui, at Keone`ō`io in Mākena. The bay was later named after him. (In defiance of his orders, Perouse decided not to claim the island for the King of France.)

1790 Kamehameha the Great defeats King Kahekili and his Maui forces in `Īao Valley, bringing Maui into the united Hawaiian kingdom. The site of the Battle of `Īao is called Kepaniwai, which literally means "blocked waters." It is called so because the bodies of slain warriors were so numerous, it temporarily dammed the stream.



- 1802** Kamehameha the Great names Lāhaina the capital of the Hawaiian kingdom.
- 1819** Kamehameha the Great dies. His widow, Queen Ka`ahumanu, together with the new king, Liholiho (Kamehameha II) and Liholiho's birth mother Keōpūolani, defy the power of the priests, and the people topple the Hawaiian religion. It is also the year the first whaling ship, the Balena from New Bedford, Massachusetts, arrives in Lāhaina.
- 1823** The first New England missionaries arrive on Maui.
- 1825** The first of the battles between the whalers and missionaries erupts in Lāhaina when the whalers blamed the missionaries for preventing women from visiting the ships.
- 1828** Maui's first sugar mill begins operations.
- 1831** The first high school west of the Rocky Mountains, Lāhainaluna, is established on Maui.
- 1831** The Baldwin Mission House, the oldest surviving house on Maui, is built.
- 1834** The first newspaper in the Hawaiian language, *Ka Lama Hawai'i*, is run off the Lāhainaluna Seminary press on February 13.
- 1846** Whaling ship visits to Hawai'i peak with 596 arrivals. Of these, 429 anchor off Lāhaina and the rest in Honolulu Harbor.
- 1850** The capital of the Hawaiian nation is moved from Lāhaina to Honolulu.
- 1852** The first sugar plantation laborers begin to arrive from Kwangtung, China.
- 1866** The first leprosy patients are taken to Kalawao on Moloka'i's Kalaupapa Peninsula on January 6.
- 1873** Father Damien is sent to Kalaupapa on Moloka'i to work with leprosy patients. He succumbed to the disease in 1889, and in 1995, was declared by Pope John Paul II as among the "Blessed" and given the title "Servant of Humanity."
- 1877** C.H. Dickey establishes the first commercial telegraph system in Hawai'i, connecting two of his stores on Maui, on September 1. Soon after, a charter



- is granted to C.H. Dickey and C.H. Wallace for the Hawaiian Telegraph Company.
- 1879** The Kahului-Wailuku Railroad, running from Kahului to Pā‘ia, opens on July 20. This is the first common rail carrier in Hawai‘i.
- 1885** Japanese immigration to Maui begins. These immigrants and others became the foundation of Hawai‘i’s multi-ethnic society, the “melting pot of the Pacific.”
- 1893** The constitutional Hawaiian monarchy is illegally overthrown by American settlers living in Hawai‘i.
- 1903** Dwight Baldwin plants the first pineapple on Maui in Ha‘ikū.
- 1912** David Thomas Fleming plants 20 acres of pineapple at Honolua Ranch, where Kapalua Resort is today. Fleming also plants coffee, aloe, mango, avocado, citrus, lychee and macadamia nuts, but it is pineapple that eventually becomes a commercial crop.
- 1916** Haleakalā joins the U.S. national park system. In 1961, it becomes a national park in its own right.
- 1941** Pearl Harbor on the island of O‘ahu is bombed by Japan and martial law is declared in Hawai‘i.
- 1946** The first resort on Maui, the Hotel Hāna-Maui, opens.
- 1959** Hawai‘i becomes the 50th state of the United States.
- 1961** Kā‘anapali opens as Hawai‘i’s first master-planned resort.
- 1974** The first 9 holes of the Wailea Blue Course open, the beginning of what is today the master-planned Wailea Resort community.
- 1976** The Hōkūle‘a, a replica of an ancient Polynesian voyaging canoe, sets sail from Maui for Tahiti, recreating the ancestral journeys.
- 1993** President Bill Clinton signs a Congressional Resolution acknowledging illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1893.