



## THE KINGDOM OF HAWAI‘I

*From the desk of the King*

December 2, 2025

### PROCLAMATION

## The Duties of the Ka Mo‘i are Absolute

Prior to the unlawful overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, it was an absolute monarchical government established by King Kamehameha the Great. Following his death, European entities petitioned the throne for the establishment of a constitutional government.

I present an integrated narrative that references the pivotal legal cases and doctrines that have shaped the status of the Hawaiian Kingdom: *Johnson v. M’Intosh* (1823), the Doctrine of Discovery, and the Cleveland-Lili‘uokalani Executive Agreements. The most relevant legal sources and historical documents are cited to reinforce this position, ensuring the account is anchored in the rule of law and historical fact.

### **The Absolute Sovereignty of the Hawaiian Kingdom and the Doctrine of Discovery**

In the year 1810, under the visionary leadership of *Ka Mo‘i* Kamehameha I, the Hawaiian Kingdom exercised absolute sovereignty over its archipelago—a status recognized before the encroachment of European colonization. This sacred sovereignty was later challenged by the imposition of the Catholic Church’s Papal Bulls, collectively known as the Doctrine of

Spiritual Leader of the Hawaiian Archipelago Islands — The Kingdom of Hawai‘i —  
South Pacific Rim of Polynesians Islands, and Indigenous Nations Worldwide

*Nou Ke Akua Ke Aupuni O Hawai‘i*

Discovery. Chief Justice John Marshall, in the landmark Supreme Court case *Johnson v. M'Intosh* (1823), enshrined this doctrine into United States law, declaring that discovery by European powers conferred exclusive title to the discovering nation, thereby diminishing the sovereignty and land rights of indigenous peoples, including the Hawaiian Kingdom.

This doctrine, rooted in 15th-century papal decrees—*Dum Diversas* (1452), *Romanus Pontifex* (1455), and *Inter Caetera* (1493)—was used to justify the dispossession of indigenous lands and the denial of their full sovereignty. Marshall's ruling has been widely condemned for its disregard of indigenous rights and its reliance on a legal fiction that privileged colonial powers. In a historic act of contrition, the Vatican formally repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery in 2023, acknowledging its destructive legacy. **The Kingdom of Hawai'i overturned the application of this doctrine, reaffirming the Hawaiian Kingdom's full sovereignty and its reestablishment as an independent nation on November 22, 2002.**

### **Presidential Authority, Executive Agreements, and the Disregard for Lawful Restoration**

Before the Supreme Court's ruling in *Johnson v. M'Intosh*, President Grover Cleveland recognized the illegality of the Hawaiian Kingdom's overthrow and took decisive action to restore its sovereign government. In 1893, two executive agreements were entered into between President Cleveland and Queen Lili'uokalani: the Lili'uokalani Assignment and the Agreement of Restoration. These agreements, as recognized in *U.S. v. Belmont* (1937), *U.S. v. Pink* (1942), and *American Insurance Association v. Garamendi* (2003), are considered treaties and are the supreme law of the land under Article VI, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution.

President Cleveland's directive to restore the Hawaiian Kingdom was a lawful exercise of executive authority, grounded in both domestic and international law. Yet, the incoming administration, in concert with Congress, disregarded this lawful order, perpetuating a series of unlawful actions against the Kingdom. This disregard for executive agreements and the rule of law stands in stark contrast to the principles of justice and respect for lawful governance. The failure to honor these agreements continues to raise profound legal and moral questions regarding the sovereignty of the Hawaiian Kingdom and the legitimacy of subsequent actions taken by the United States.





## Key Legal Precedents Referenced

- Johnson v. M'Intosh, 21 U.S. 543 (1823)
- U.S. v. Belmont, 301 U.S. 324 (1937)
- U.S. v. Pink, 315 U.S. 203 (1942)
- American Insurance Association v. Garamendi, 539 U.S. 396 (2003)
- The Cleveland-Lili'uokalani Executive Agreements (1893)
- Article VI, Clause 2, U.S. Constitution (Supremacy Clause)
- Papal Bulls: Dum Diversas (1452), Romanus Pontifex (1455), Inter Caetera (1493)

On November 22, 2002, *Ali'i Mana'o Nui* Lanny Sinkin, by the direction of *Ka Mo'i* Edmund K. Silva, Jr., Hereditary Heir, hand-delivered the Constitution and Declaration of the reclaimed Kingdom under the sacred law spelled out in the Ten Commandments of Almighty God: "Thou shalt not covet and steal." The United States did both.

## The Duties of the King: Absolute and Sacred

The King holds the ultimate power over the entire Archipelago of the Hawaiian Kingdom, combining legislative, executive, and judicial functions. This leadership is broad, encompassing profound responsibilities in governance, law, and military command.

## The Archipelago of the Kingdom of Hawaii

The Archipelago comprises the eight main inhabited islands and 124 smaller islands, atolls, reefs, and shoals to the northwest. Unified in 1795 under Kamehameha I through conquest, and fully unified in 1810 when Kauai and Niihau voluntarily joined, the eight main islands are (from east to west): Hawaii, Maui, Kahoolawe, Lanai, Molokai, Oahu, Kauai, and Niihau.

## Main Hawaiian Islands

- **Hawaii:** The largest island, also known as the Big Island.
- **Maui:** Renowned for its diverse geography.
- **Kahoolawe:** An uninhabited island.



- **Lanai:** A smaller island.
- **Molokai:** Known for its cultural significance.
- **Oahu:** The third-largest island and home to Honolulu.
- **Kauai:** The “Garden Isle.”
- **Niihau:** Privately owned and the westernmost of the main islands.

### The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI)

- 124 smaller, mostly uninhabited islands, atolls, reefs, and banks stretching over 1,200 miles to the northwest.
- Includes Midway Atoll, a federally governed territory.
- Geologically older than the main islands, formed by the same volcanic hotspot.
- A marine sanctuary of ecological importance.

### The Kingdom of Hawaii

- An independent state that unified all inhabited Hawaiian Islands.
- Established in 1795 by Kamehameha I, fully unified in 1810.
- Ruled by the House of Kamehameha and the House of Kalakaua.
- The Kingdom ended in 1893 with its overthrow.

### The King's Duties: Sacred and Vast

- **Sovereign Power:** Making laws, administering justice, and controlling all aspects of the economy and foreign relations.
- **Military Command:** Commander-in-chief of the armed forces, leading troops to defend and expand the realm.
- **Judicial Authority:** Highest judge, ensuring justice and ruling on legal matters.
- **Maintaining Order:** Upholding the rule of law, preserving social order, and ensuring the kingdom's welfare.
- **Religious Role:** Often regarded as having divine authority, defending the faith and leading religious observance.



- **Head of State and Commander-in-Chief:** Supreme leader with the power to declare war.
- **Executive Authority:** Appoints and dismisses *Ali'i's*, officers, ministers, governors, judges, and directors of security agencies.
- **Legislative Authority:** Signs laws, vetoes legislation, dissolves parliament, and approves constitutional amendments.
- **Diplomatic Role:** Promotes peace and dialogue, advocates for justice in international relations.

### Custodian of Holy Sites

The King is the custodian of Hawaiian sacred sites, known as *wahi pana*, located across all islands. These include *heiau* (temples), birthstones, and volcanic peaks. Prominent sites are *Puukohola Heiau* and *Pu'uloa Petroglyphs* on the Big Island, *Kūkaniloko Birthstones* on *O'ahu*, *Haleakalā* and *Maunakea* on Maui and the Big Island, and *Kaho'olawe*, dedicated to *Kanaloa*, the ocean deity.

### The Most Sacred Site

*Ahu'ena Heiau*, a revered Hawaiian temple, stands in Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i, on land known as Kamakahonu ("eye of the turtle"). Once the royal compound of King Kamehameha I, it holds profound historical significance for spiritual and political ceremonies and was his final residence.

### Other Sacred Sites

#### Big Island (Hawai'i)

- **Puukohola Heiau:** Built by Kamehameha the Great for spiritual consolidation.
- **Maunakea:** Sacred dormant volcano, the *piko* (navel) of Hawai'i.
- **Hawaii Volcanoes National Park:** *Halema'uma'u Crater* (home of goddess *Pele*), *Pu'u Loa Petroglyphs*.
- **Mo'okini Heiau:** Ancient temple complex with ties to historical sacrifices.





## O‘ahu

- **Kūkaniloko Birthstones:** Sacred birthing site for royalty.
- **Waimea Valley:** Numerous ancient sites, including *heiau*.

## Maui

- **Haleakalā:** “House of the sun,” sacred mountain.
- **Iao Valley:** Site of historical and spiritual importance.

## Other Islands

- **Kaho‘olawe:** Deep spiritual significance, dedicated to Kanaloa.
- **Lāna‘i:** Sacred sites throughout the island.
- **Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument:** Honors the origins of the Hawaiian Islands, named after the primordial parents of the Hawaiian people.

## Conclusion

The Hawaiian Kingdom’s history is marked by its assertion of absolute sovereignty, the impact of foreign doctrines such as the Doctrine of Discovery, and the enduring significance of legal agreements and precedents. Despite the imposition of colonial legal frameworks and the undermining of indigenous rights, the Hawaiian Kingdom’s sovereignty was recognized both historically and in international law. Key legal cases—including *Johnson v. M’Intosh* and the Cleveland-Lili‘uokalani Executive Agreements—highlight the ongoing legal and moral debates surrounding the Kingdom’s status.

The King’s duties are vast and absolute, encompassing legislative, executive, judicial, military, and religious authority over the entire archipelago. The King is responsible for maintaining order, upholding justice, and safeguarding the sacred sites and cultural heritage of the Hawaiian people.



Ultimately, the legacy of the Hawaiian Kingdom endures through its legal foundations, cultural traditions, and the continued recognition of its sovereignty by its people and advocates. The historical and legal record underscores the importance of honoring lawful agreements and respecting the rights and dignity of the Hawaiian nation.

**Given under my hand and seal,  
His Royal Majesty Edmund Keli'i Paki-Silva  
King of the Kingdom of Hawai'i**

*Edmund K. Paki-Silva II*

*Ali'i Nui Mo'i Edmund K. Paki-Silva, II, PhD, JD, EdD, LLD, CPE.*

*Nalikolauokalani Pākī Ka`Ī `Ōmaka-olahou-Kaluaokalani-Ka`Ī-  
mano-`ānu`unu`u-ka-lamakea-i-ho`okū-ke-aupuni-o-Hawai`i*

His Majesty, Beatitude, Dignity of Archbishop  
Head of the Polynesian Apostolic See  
Patriarchate of the West Indies  
Byzantine Orthodox Christine Apostolic Church of the Americas  
By Royal Melchizedek Priesthood  
Temple High Priest and Steward, *Kahu Ahu'ena heiau Kamakahonu*, Hawai'i



cc: The King's Privy Council of the Kingdom—*'Ka Mō'ī 'Aha Kūkākūkā Malu o ke Aupuni*  
Privy Council—*Lei Ali'i*—Crown Prince & Royal Chancellor—Keli'i Silva  
Privy Council—*Ali'i Mana 'o Nui*—Chief Steward & Chief Justice of the Supreme Court—Joshua Kotter  
Privy Council—*Nui o nā Ha 'i 'ōlelo*—Speaker of the Kingdom and Celestial Council—Emmaline Hoffmeister  
Attorney General—*Loio Kuhina*—Dr. Jabbar Nayaz Ulla Shariff  
Surgeon General—*Kauā Nui*—Dr. Gordon Grado  
Grand Knight Commander  
Crown Authorities of the Kingdom of Hawai'i  
Ministries of the Kingdom of Hawai'i  
Offices of Island Governance of the Kingdom of Hawai'i

