



Aloha

As Governor of the State of Hawai'i, it is my honor and pleasure to welcome you to historic Washington Place.

This building was once home to Hawai'i's last reigning monarch, Queen Lili'uokalani, and has also been the official residence for Hawai'i's governors.

This historical landmark is extremely special to all of us who call Hawai'i home. For this reason, Washington Place has recently been transformed into a museum for residents and our visiting guests who desire to learn more about our state's rich history and culture.

As you look around, notice that this place is filled with antique treasures and magnificent pieces of furniture that are truly unique to our island state. Some people have said that stepping into Washington Place is like stepping into an important part of Hawai'i's past.

I hope you enjoy your visit to Washington Place and that you gain valuable knowledge about the Aloha State.

Sincerely,

Linda Lingle



Washington Place, 1853
Detail, lithograph by Paul Emmert, colored
Collection of Samuel A. Cooke

Best known as the former home of Hawai'i's beloved Queen Lili'uokalani, Washington Place has remained the center of Island social and political life throughout more than 150 years of remarkable change. When building of the home was begun in 1842 by the wealthy trader Captain John Dominis, Hawai'i was still an independent nation ruled from the Island of Maui by a son of King Kamehameha the Great, and the United States was a distant land that did not yet reach to the Pacific Ocean.

The grand new residence was one of only a few constructed in "foreign" style and towered over the grass-thatched houses of the ancient village. Its location at the edge of Honolulu also made it visible far across the empty plain towards the village of Waikiki.

Shortly before the home was completed in 1847, Captain Dominis was lost at sea during a voyage to China to purchase household furnishings. His widow supported herself and her teenaged son John Owen Dominis by renting rooms in the large home. One of the tenants, the United States Commissioner, inspired the naming of the home on George Washington's birthday in 1848, and King Kamehameha III commanded that the name, *Washington Place* be retained "in all time coming."



Captain John Dominis Chinese Settee
Diplomatic Reception Room

John Owen Dominis later married the Honorable Lydia Kamaka'eha Pākī of a neighboring family that had ruled parts of the Islands for more than 1,000 years. This new bride was one of Hawai'i's most gifted composers and she filled Washington Place with sweet music and aloha for more than half a century.

In 1877, Lydia was proclaimed heir to the throne by her brother King Kalākaua with the new name of Lili'uokalani.



H.R.H. Princess Lili'uokalani
Bishop Museum
Queen Lili'uokalani's calling card
Hawai'i State Archives



She became Queen in 1891 only to be overthrown by non-native businessmen in 1893, arrested at Washington Place and imprisoned in 'Iolani Palace. Upon her release, she devoted the remainder of her life to furthering the cause of Hawaiian rights in both Hawai'i and Washington, D.C. Not long before her death in 1917, the last Queen of Hawai'i nobly expressed support of the United States in World War I by ordering that the American flag be flown over Washington Place. In 1921, Washington Place took on new life as Hawai'i's Governor's Mansion.



Following the death of Queen Lili'uokalani, her nephew, Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole, expressed the desire that the Territory of Hawai'i acquire the home as an Executive Mansion for its Governor, preserving it for posterity as a memorial to Hawai'i's Queen.

Since 1921, Washington Place has served as the official residence of the Governor of Hawai'i. Twelve Hawai'i Governors and their families have lived here since then, making it the oldest continuously occupied residence in these Islands. First Ladies throughout the decades have taken special interest in preserving the home's historic past.

In 1999, the Washington Place Foundation was established by First Lady, Vicky Cayetano to preserve Washington Place into the future. Through private donations, a new residence for the Governor of Hawai'i was built adjacent to the historic property, allowing Washington Place to become a museum, while maintaining its use for official state functions.

Today, Washington Place remains a gracious gathering place where the memory of Queen Lili'uokalani is still honored.

Washington Place stands on the National Register for Historic Places. Preservation is supported by public and private funds.

Washington Place Foundation
320 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

For tour information or inquiries about renting the premises for a special event, call (808) 586-0240

All proceeds benefit the Washington Place Foundation.



Sheet music, *Aloha 'Oe*
Composed by Lili'uokalani
Hawai'i State Archives

top: Queen Lili'uokalani, c.1893
Bishop Museum