

R. BURNINGHAM

Kawaiaba'o Church, completed in 1842

“A Kingdom of Learning”

“**S**hiefs and people, give ear to my remarks! My kingdom shall be a kingdom of learning.” These words, spoken by Kauikeaouli, showed he believed that education was very important. He believed education would prepare his people for the changes taking place in Hawai‘i.

American Protestant missionaries also believed in education. Through education they spread their religious teachings among the people.

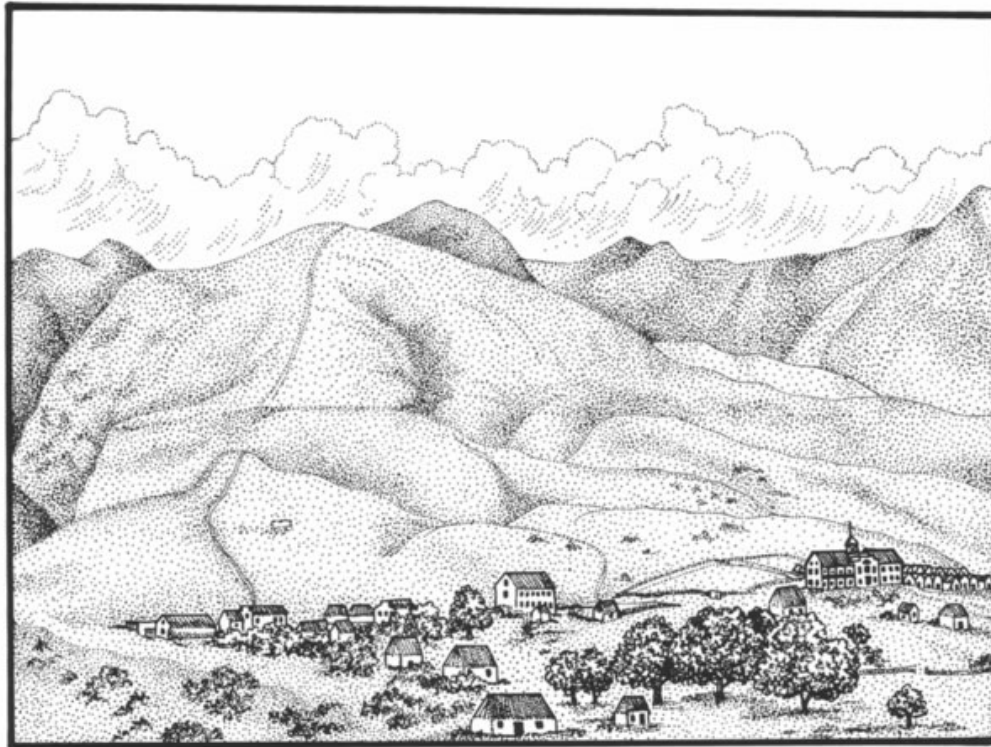
With the encouragement of Kauikeaouli, missionary teachers started many schools. They taught students, most of whom were adults, to read and write in Hawaiian.

Portions of the Bible were translated and printed in Hawaiian. These Bible translations were used as the primary textbooks. One result of this instruction was that thousands of Hawaiians became members of (predominantly Protestant) western churches.

The first schools were simple grass houses with mats on the floor. There were no chairs or tables. Later Kauikeaouli established permanent buildings built of coral blocks, lava rocks or adobe bricks.

Lahainaluna School

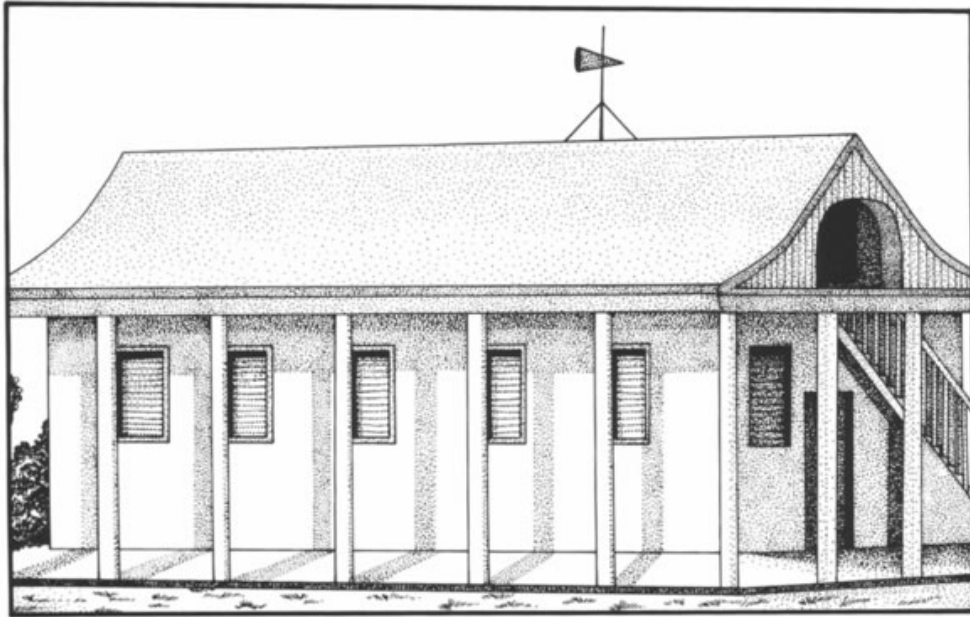
By 1830 schools were established on every island. However there were not enough missionaries to teach the growing number of Hawaiians wanting to become students. To meet the need for more teachers, Lahainaluna School opened on Maui in 1831 to train Hawaiian men for teaching. Lahainaluna became the most important school in Hawai'i during the reign of Kamehameha III. Many of its graduates became important citizens of the kingdom. It is still operating, now as a public boarding school, in Lahaina.



Labainaluna School opened in Labaina, Maui, in 1831

The Chiefs' Children's School

In 1839 Kamehameha III opened the Chiefs' Children's School in Honolulu. He felt that future rulers must be prepared to rule a kingdom which now included both Hawaiians and foreigners. The Chiefs' Children's School was a very special school. In 1846 its name was changed to the Royal School.

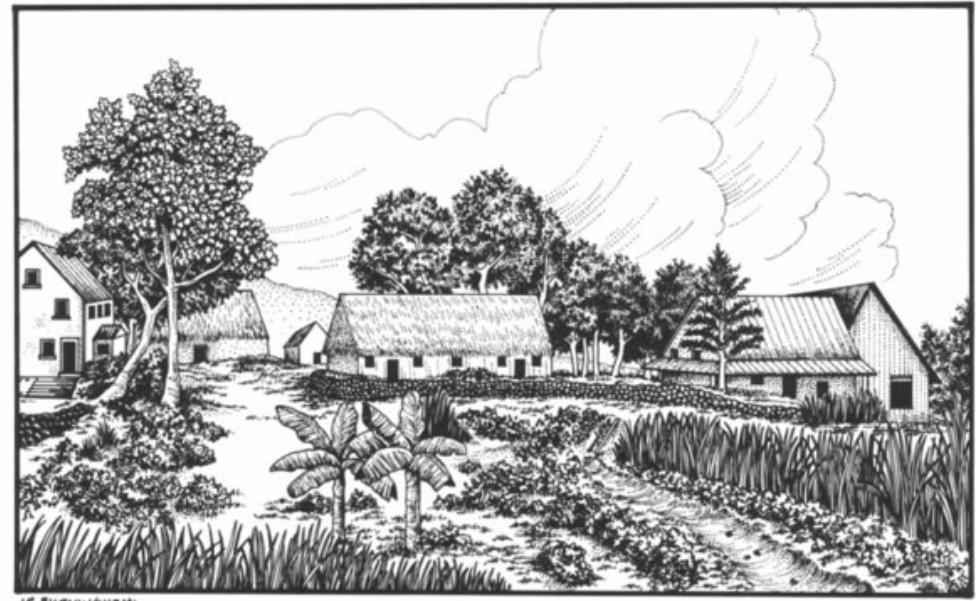


The Royal School

Only sixteen Hawaiian children of the highest chiefly rank attended the Royal School. Five of them later became rulers of the kingdom. They were Alexander Liholiho, who became Kamehameha IV; Lot Kapuāiwa, who became Kamehameha V; William Lunalilo; David Kalākaua and Lydia Lili'uokalani. Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop also attended the Royal School. When he was about to die, Lot Kapuāiwa asked Pauahi to succeed him as ruler. She declined the throne and later founded the Kamehameha Schools.

Public Education

Recognizing the growing importance of education, the government took over direction and support of the schools. The Constitution of 1840 provided for free public education and required all children to attend school. Gradually the training of teachers improved, more textbooks were provided, better schools were built and more money was spent to run the schools.



Hilo Boys' Boarding School in 1840