

## Eight Major Changes

The trade of 'iliah wood and the whaling industry, along with the missionaries, brought about many changes in Hawaii. Eight changes in particular greatly affected the Hawaiian people.

**First**, the health of many Hawaiians was weakened. As business activities increased more foreigners came to Hawaii. They brought the common cold, flu, measles, mumps, smallpox and venereal diseases. Hawaiians had never before been exposed to such diseases. They had not earlier developed natural immunities to them.

These diseases killed a great many Hawaiians. In time, over half the native population died.

**Second**, many of those who came to Hawaii as sailors chose to stay and settle. Some were deserters from their ships and others had been thrown off for poor performance or bad behavior. Sometimes ship captains fired their non-Hawaiian crew so they could replace them with Hawaiians they hired for lower wages.

Most of these sailors were not well-educated. Some were heavy drinkers who avoided work. Because they were different and new to Hawaiians, some Hawaiians chose to copy their ways. This led to a problem with drunkenness among these Hawaiians.

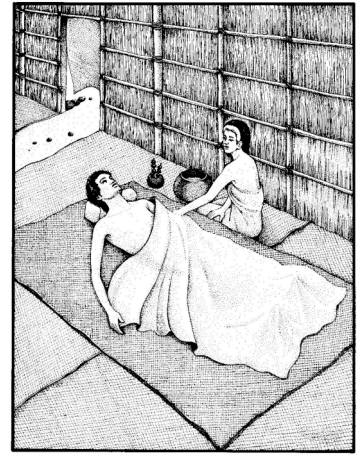
**Third**, Hawaii changed from a land of all Hawaiians to a nation of mixed cultures, languages and races. People, almost all men, were arriving from the United States, various European countries and elsewhere.

Hawaiian young men were also hired for jobs on foreign ships and left Hawaii. This along with the diseases that were killing Hawaiians quickly decreased the native population. At the time the foreign and part-Hawaiian population was rapidly increasing. Part-Hawaiians were those people who had both Hawaiians and foreigners among their ancestors.

**Fourth**, many animals and plants new to Hawaii were brought to the islands, both on purpose and by accident. Some were introduced to provide supplies for visiting sailing ships. Unfortunately all of these introductions altered, or changed, forever the native ecology.

Crops such as cabbages, corn, limes, mangoes, melons, onions, pineapples, potatoes and pumpkins were now grown. Livestock and fowl, including cattle, donkeys, ducks, goats, horses, mules, sheep and turkeys, began to be raised.

Along with these plants and animals and the sailors and the ships, came such undesirable creatures as mosquitoes and the large Norwegian rat. Hawaii already had a much smaller



*Many Hawaiians died from diseases brought by foreigners*

Polynesian rat which had been introduced, likely also by accident, by the early Polynesian settlers.

The **fifth** change for Hawaii was the introduction of new products by foreigners. In just one trade for a shipload of 'iliahi Kamehameha I received a variety of goods. These included beads, cotton stockings, crystal lamps, fishing rods, metal pipes, silk handkerchiefs and straw hats.

Hawaiians liked items such as these because many could be used to make their lives easier. Hawaiians also sometimes wanted these things just because they were new and different.

**Sixth**, foreign influence gradually changed the way Hawaiians obtained the things they needed or wanted. Hawaiians had lived a subsistence way of life. This way had provided just enough food and goods to meet the basic needs of the people.

With the arrival of foreign traders Hawaiians were quickly taught to barter. To barter means to trade by exchanging one commodity for another. A commodity is a useful or valuable article. Soon this system of barter changed to a money system. Hawaiians provided goods, services, and supplies in exchange for currency, or money, from the foreigners.

**The seventh** important change was the growth of business centers. The seafaring trade caused both foreigners and Hawaiians to live closer to one another. Both groups settled in the areas surrounding the best seaports for western ships. What started as small towns soon grew into larger cities.

First Lahaina, Maui, and later Honolulu, Oahu, became business centers. Today Honolulu is the most important business center in the mid-Pacific.

**Eighth**, the missionaries brought with them a new religion based on one god, replacing the many gods that the Hawaiians believed in. Since the Kapu system had been recently abolished (banned) by Liholiho (Kamehameha II), the missionaries came at a time of social uncertainty. First, they converted the Ali'i with the commoners soon following. They also banned cultural aspects of the Hawaiians, like Hula and the Lua martial arts, start the first schools in Hawaii, and create a Hawaiian alphabet so the natives could be taught to read and write in their own language.

**In summary**, the arrival of foreigners changed Hawaii forever. Their economic, political, and social impacts can be seen even today, in the way we do business, run our government, and interact with one another.