

### Unification of the Islands (Excerpts)

<p>Kamehameha did not <b>institute</b> an entirely new system of government when he came to power, but he did change the existing system. He controlled both the relations with foreigners and the <b>internal</b> system of government. Yet he followed the traditions of the past. He faithfully observed the religion of his ancestors, and, as was the custom, <b>consulted</b> a council of chiefs for advice.</p>	<p>Institute: to set up or establish something</p>
<p>Although Kamehameha <b>valued</b> tradition, he also departed from tradition. Like the ruling chiefs of old, he distributed the lands he conquered to chiefs who had supported him in the wars. But he split each chief's land among several islands, preventing any one chief from building up a large enough force of warriors in one <b>locality</b> to challenge his authority.</p>	<p>Internal: working at or carried out within an organization or institution</p> <p>Consulted: to ask somebody's opinion</p> <p>Valued: the importance of something to somebody</p>
<p>Kamehameha also saw to it that chiefs whose loyalty he questioned lived near him, where he could keep track of their movements and detect signs of disloyalty. This was a change from the days when the chiefs stayed with their lands. Now they had to depend more on <b>subordinate</b> chiefs to direct the labor of the people and <b>exact</b> the required taxes.</p>	<p>Locality: a particular place</p> <p>Subordinate: lower than somebody in rank or status</p>
<p>Kamehameha made a third change in system of government. He appointed a governor for each island, and these governors became his representatives.</p>	<p>Exact: to demand or obtain something, especially payment</p>
<p>In these ways Kamehameha brought an end to the wars that had raged in the past. His rule was one of public order and peace.</p>	
<p style="padding-left: 40px;">Kamehameha made laws to protect both chiefs and commoners, prohibiting murder, theft, <b>wanton</b> destruction of property, the</p>	<p>Wanton: done out of a desire to cause harm</p>

<p>taking of property without cause, robbing the weak, praying to death, and laws to observe the tabus of the gods. He thus made it possible for “old men and women and children to sleep in safety by the wayside...”</p> <p>Kamehameha always listened to the advice of orators, diviners, kahunas, and men of skill. If he thought the advice was for the good of the ruling chief and the people he would carry it into execution immediately, but if he thought it was not for their good he would not heed it. That Kamehameha listened to the advice of others is the reason he became ruling chief. He was patient chief and did not instantly avenge an injury.</p> <p>From 1795 to 1819 Kamehameha ruled as an absolute monarch. During this time many foreigners came to Hawaii. Most came and went as traders. Others stayed. Kamehameha picked a few foreigners to be his advisors—not only the Englishmen, Young and Davis, but also an American, Oliver Holmes, and a Spaniard, Francisco de Marin. These foreigners learned to speak Hawaiian and married Hawaiian women.</p>	
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