

## The Old Order Changes

After the battle of Nu'uuanu, Kamehameha's great task was to unite and improve his new kingdom. He based his government largely on the old Hawaiian land system. He rewarded his main chiefs with grants of land. They collected taxes in the traditional way, receiving food and other gifts from the commoners.

In 1796 Kamehameha gathered his canoes at Wai'anae and set forth to conquer Kauai. In mid-channel a great storm sank many of his canoes and forced him to give up the attempt. Several months later, he quickly smashed a revolt that broke out on the island of Hawaii.

This was Kamehameha's last important military action. Now he was free to take on his new role as an administrator. He kept some of the more restless chiefs near his court. He made others, whom he trusted completely, governors of the various islands. John Young became governor of the island of Hawaii. Ke'eaumoku became governor of Maui. At court, Kamehameha depended greatly on the powerful Kona chiefs and their sons and on Kalanimoku, "the iron cable of Hawaii." Kalanimoku's ability led admiring English sailors to name him after their own prime minister, William Pitt. They called Kalanimoku "Billy Pitt."

The king strictly enforced the kapu system, believing that it strengthened his control. One of his first projects was to rebuild his war-torn land. He set his people to work terracing hills, banking up taro patches, digging long irrigation ditches, and building fishponds. The king himself took an active part in these public works. Captain Archibald Campbell, in his description of Hawaii about 1810, mentions seeing Kamehameha deep in the mud of a taro patch:

This mode of culture is particularly laborious, and in all the operations those engaged are almost constantly up to the middle in mud... I have often seen the king working hard in a taro patch. I know not whether this was done with a view of setting an example of industry to his subjects. Such exertion could scarcely be thought necessary among those islanders who are certainly the most industrious people I ever saw.