

**Cremation in Hawaii
(Puhi Ahi and Puhi Lehu)
(Mauliola, Kahakaaulana, Koholaloa, and Quarantine Island)**

The Polynesian. 9 October 1841. P. 1. *Laws of the Hawaiian Islands. Quarantine Laws.*

[Quarantine laws established by Kamehameha III, translated, and published in *The Polynesian*.]

The Polynesian. 30 July 1853. P. 2. *Public Meeting* [regarding smallpox]

The passengers [from the Charles Mallory] were quarantined at a place beyond Dimond Head, and the small pox did not break out in that vicinity. The person with the small pox was placed on a small island called Kahakaaulana, and remained there for five weeks. He was then cleansed, his things and the house in which he stopped were burned, and after being in the place two days, he left the islands.

Ka Elele Hawaii. 12 August 1853. P. 53. *No Ka Elele.*

... I ko'u manao, aole na kela moku i lawe mai i keia mai, no ka mea; o ke kanaka mai puupuu liilii [smallpox] i waihoia ma Kahakaaulana, ua noho oia malaila elima pule a puka mai, a elua ona la i noho oia malaila elima pule a puka mai, a elua ona la i noho ai me kakou a holo koke aku i ka aina e.

... A o ka hala a ua kanaka puupuu la i noho ai ma Kahakaaulana, ua puhiia i ke ahi, aole no i loa i ka mai malaila, akahi no i keia wa, a o ke kumu o ka puka ana mai o ka mai puupuuliilii malaila no Moanalua mai na keiki i loa i ka puupuu, a ke noho nei malaila.

The Polynesian. 30 July 1856. P. 191. *Legal Advertisements.*

[Supreme Court notice regarding the "administration upon the Estate of Naehuelua, of Koholaloa, late deceased". Earliest mention of Koholaloa in *The Polynesian*, but no mention of its location or its use as a quarantine station.]

Ka Hoku O Ka Pakipika. 10 October 1861. P. 3.

[First mention of Hale Hoomalu, Quarantine Station.]

Ke Au Okoa. 1 August 1872. P. 2. *Na Mea Hou Kuloko.*

Ma ka Poalua iho nei, ua ike hou ia kekahi mea ua loa i ka mai hepela [smallpox] ma Kapuukolo, a ua lawe ia aku ia i ka Hale Hoomalu Hepela ma kai o Koholaloa. Ma keia puka hou ana ae o keia mai e maopopo ai aole i kaohia na anoano o keia mai, eia no ke hoopu nei i waena o kekahi poe o ke kulanakauhale.

Ke Au Okoa. 12 September 1872. P. 2. [Untitled]

He mea hiki no paha ke kanalua ole ian a ka mokumahu Nebraska i lawe mai i ka mai puupuu liilii [smallpox] ia nei, me ka ike a ike ole paha o ke Kapena a me ke Kauka o ka moku. Ma ka la 23 o Mei, ua hoea ae ka mai mua, a ua hoonoho koke ia ma ka hale hoomalu ma Kaholaloa [Koholaloa].

[*Place Names of Hawaii*: “Koholaloa is an old name for Sand Island. Lit., long reef.” Note: PNH also translated Kaholaloa, referring to Sand Island. Koholaloa is correct.]

Ka Nupepa Kuokoa. 18 March 1876. P. 2. *Mai Ulalii*. [Measles]

Ua puka aenei ka mai ulalii a ka "Mikado" i lawe mai nei maluna o kekahi ohua wahine i holo mai nei mai Kaleponi, a ua hoihoiia aku nei ia i ka Hale Hoomalu mai i Kahakaaulana. I ka Poaha iho nei ka ikeia ana mauka iho o Kaukeano, a maloko o ka pa o Maraea Kanamu. E malama loa oukou e na kanaka i keia; a mai noho a hele e auau iloko o ka wai, i ka wa e hookau iho ai ka li a me ke anu.

Honolulu Advertiser. 19 December 1883. P. 3. *Auction Sale*.

Pound Notice. There will be sold at Public Auction, on Monday December 24th, at 12 o'clock, noon, at the Government Pound, Koholaloa, Honolulu, the following estrayed animals: [two horses].

Honolulu Advertiser. 5 September 1884. P. 3. *Local And General*.

“Captain Tell has purchased a fine new boat as a means of communication with his family and residence on Quarantine Island. He finds it preferable to going round in a wagon.” [Earliest mention of Quarantine Island in the *Advertiser*]

Honolulu Advertiser. 20 February 1889. P. 2. *Sealed Tenders*.

“[Tenders] for the addition to and repairs on a building on the Quarantine Ground at Mauiola Honolulu [should be sent to the Board of Health].” [Earliest mention of Mauiola in the *Advertiser*]

Ka Makaainana. 16 July 1894. P. 8. *Kela A Me Keia*.

Auwina la Poaha iho la i ku mai ai ka Rio de Janeiro, aole nae i komo mai iloko nei. Oiai aole oia i ku i Honokona, eia nae, ua hoomaluia no. O ua eke leta keia, na hooileia i ke kahua hoomalu ma Kahakaaulana, a ilaila kahi i hoomaemae ahi ia ai. Ua hooileia na ohua he eouo ohua helu ekahi a me 50 Iapana ma ka papa elua, i Kahakaaulana e hoomalu ai a pau pu no me na ukana, a i keia la paha e

hemo nui mai ai. I ka wanaao Poaono nei oia i holo aku ai o Kapalakiko me eha ohua mai nei aku.

Ka Nupepa Kuokoa. 1 September 1894. P. 3. *Nu Hou Hawaii*.

O na ohua kapena, ua ae ia lakou e lele mai iuka nei, a o na ohua oneki lapana, ua hoomalu ia ma Kahakaaaulana a i keia la e hookuu ia mai ai. Ma ka hora 3 auina la Poalua mai, ua haalele mai ka Belgic a hoi loa aku la Kapakiko [Kapolakiko].

Ka Makaainana. 26 August 1895. P. 1. *He Kolera Io Anei? Ae, Oia no, Wahi a na Kauka o ka Papa Ola*.

Mahope iho o ka puka ai a aku o Ka Makaainana i ka Poakahi i hala, ua oi loa ae ka wawaia no ka puka io ae o ka ma'i ahulau kolera, eia nae hoi, ua huhewa loa makou ma ka olelo ana no ka Moku Akulikuli, o ka pololei ka hoi, no kai aenei no o Iwilei. Elua nae make iwaena o na ohua Pake e hoomaluia nei makai o ke Kahua Hoomalu o Mauiola, Kahakaaaulana, a he mau mea ma'i e ae kekahi, ua pohala ae nae.

Honolulu Advertiser. 4 October 1895. P. 3. *"Kauai Kickers" Tell About It. Graphic Description of Life at the Quarantine Station*. [also referred to as Mauiola Quarantine Station, Mauiola Quarantine Island]

Ka Makaainana. 13 April 1896. P. 1. *Oili Kupuino Hou. Nui ko Kakou Pilikia Ka Laha ae keia Mai Ahulau* [Mai Hebera- smallpox].
Halemai Mauiola on Kahakaaaulana.

Ka Nupepa Kuokoa. 17 July 1896. P. 11. *Nu Hou Hawaii*.

Ma ka Poakahi nei i hoopaeia aku ai no ke kahua hoomalu paahana [busy quarantine station], ma Kahakaaaulana, mai luna aku o ka mokuahi Kina. He 233 Pake a he 79 Iapana.

Evening Bulletin. 24 July 1896. P. 1. *Health Officials Back. Dr. Wood Tells Of Their Trip To China and Japan*.

[Dr. C. B. Wood of the Board of Health and Attorney General Smith visited Tokyo where they were escorted to five crematories by the head of the National Medical and Police Bureau.] "Cremation has been in vogue for ages in Japan and the people are accustomed to it as those in India, but up to twenty years ago it merely consisted in burning the bodies in open air. The five crematories of Tokio are owned by an incorporated company, established less than eight years ago. [p. 1] Cremation is optional except in deaths from contagious or infectious diseases when the government makes it compulsory.

Ke Aloha Aina. 14 January 1899. P. 2. *Loaa He Mau Leta Malu Iloko O Na Lilia Pake.*

“ka pa hoomalu ma’i o Mauiola”

Ke Aloha Aina. 20 May 1899. P. 7. *E Kiai Makaala Ana.*

“ka pa hoomalu o ke aupuni ma Mauiola”

Honolulu Advertiser. 11 July 1899. P. 8. *Wharf And Wave.*

“The America Maru is anchored off port in quarantine from Yokohama. She will remain some days coaling and sail for San Francisco probably about Thursday. Her passengers were landed on Mauiola quarantine station.”

Honolulu Advertiser. 13 December 1899. P. 1. *Bubonic Plaque. It Makes Its Appearance In Honolulu. Five Deaths Reported.*

“The bubonic plaque has come to Honolulu. How it came no one knows.” [p. 1]

“It was stated by President Cooper [Attorney General Henry E. Cooper, who has charge of the Health Department and of the work fighting the plaque] that plans for a crematory were being prepared hurriedly as possible; while the cases now already reported would be disposed of by the Honolulu Iron Works. Dr. Emerson: ‘I move that the President (Dole) be authorized to have the appropriation for the crematory made.’ This motion carried without reserve.” [p. 3]

“...the Attorney General said that he had early in the morning called for plans for a crematory and he wished to compliment the Minister of the Interior who had furnished them and begun work early in the afternoon. The crematory would be erected within the space of two or three days and would be a work at once. The work would be carried out on quarantine island and there the cremation of bodies would be done.” [p. 3]

“The new crematory to be erected on quarantine island will cost about \$1,000.” [p.13]

“Work was commenced on the crematory at the Quarantine Station yesterday [December 12], and the brick work will be commenced this morning. Minister Young states that the crematory will be completed in three days.” [p.13]

Evening Bulletin. 13 December 1899. P. 1. *Situation Well In Hand. Only Three Cases of Plague Up To Noon Today...*

There have so far been five cremations. Three of the bodies were those of known plague victims. [The other two were as a precaution by the Board of Health.]

Some of the cremations have been at Quarantine Island and other in the furnaces at the Honolulu Iron Works. On the island a regular funeral pile was made of wood and some kerosene oil was used. In the cremations at the Iron Works coke had been used [in their furnace].

[A furnace is being built on Quarantine Island by the Iron Works.] It is suggested by many citizens that the burning of bodies made necessary at this time will serve splendidly to show to a number of the prejudiced nationalities that this is an excellent manner in which to dispose of the dead.

[At the Council of State meeting] there was a complete presentation of the matter of a crematory being under construction at the Honolulu Iron Works for immediate use at the Quarantine Island.

Ke Aloha Aina. 16 December 1899. P. 5. *Na Poe I Make.*

He elua mau kino make i maopopo loa ua loa i keia ma'i a he ekolu e huli pono ia aku ana ke kumu i make ai.

A o ka pake i make ma ke alanui Maunakea, na puhi lehu ia oia ma Kahakaaulana.

Ka Loea Kalaiaina. 16 December 1899. P. 3. *Puhi Ahi Ia Na Kino Make.*

The Hawaiian Star. 18 December 1899. P. 1. *On Quarantine Island. A Place For Breeding Disease. A New Crematory Just Built Near The Grave-Yard [In] Unhealthful Conditions There.*

[Graphic descriptions of the stench and swamp of refuse. Description of the building constructed by contractor Fred Harrison.] "It [the crematory] is close by the little graveyard on quarantine island, where lie the victims of previous epidemics that have visited Honolulu. The graves are wholly uncared for, a collection of weedy mounds and dirty tombstones."

Ke Aloha Aina. 23 December 1899. P. 4. [no title] "e puhi ahi ia na kino make..."

Ke Aloha Aina. 30 December 1899. P. 3. *Poha Hou Ka Mai Bubonic He Ekolu Mau Kino Make I Puhi Lehu Ia.*

Ethel Johnson, 14, makahiki no Iwilei, make i ka ma'i bubonika, ma ka hora 1 p.m. Dekemaba 23, puhi lehuia ma ka po Poaono.

Ka Loea Kalaiaina. 30 December 1899. P. 4. *Bubonic. Puhi Ahi Ia Na Kino Make.* "ka ma'i Buboponika"; "Puhi ahi hou ia he mau kino make ma ka Po La Pule nei ma Kahakaaulana ae nei."

Honolulu Advertiser. 1 January 1900. P. 11. *Three Dead Yesterday. Board Takes Vigorous Action. Burns Three Buildings. The Health Authorities Decide To Condemn Infected Portions Of Chinatown.*

“The body [of the second death] was sent to the crematory.”

Ke Aloha Aina. 6 January 1900. P. 2. *Ke Pahola Nei No He 4 Make I Hoomaopopo Ia No Ka Bubonika.*

Aole i noii pono ia kona kumu i make ai, aka, ua hoouna koke ia aku no ke puhi lehu ia ana ma kai o Kahakaaulana. O na kino a pau na puhi lehu ia.

Evening Bulletin. 8 January 1900. P. 1. *Views Of Medical Men.*

[During the monthly meeting of the Hawaiian Medical Association] cremation was recognized as the most sanitary mode of disposal of the dead, and the burning of bodies of victims of the plague illustrated the necessity of having a regular crematory.

Ke Aloha Aina. 20 January 1900. P. 1. *Aohe Mau Keena I Koe No Lakou.*
“maluna o kahi mokupuni o Mauiola”

Ke Aloha Aina. 20 January 1900. P. 4. *Ke Pii Mau Nei Na Make. Eha I Lilo Hou Aku La Na Ola Makamae.*

Puhi ia o Aala i ke ahi ma o ke Poha ana ae ia o ka Ma'i ma ia Wahi.

Ma ka Poaono nei ua loa aku he hapa pake nona ka inoa a o Ahi, ua make ma Kamanuwai, ma ka nana ana a na kauka aupuni ua ike ia he bubonika.

Ma ke Sabati ua make he bebe pake no Aala ae nei, ua ike ia na helehelena o ka ma'i weliweli maluna ona.

O Kekawano he Iapana, no kahi hoomalu o Kalihi ua make oia ia pono i ka ma'i bubonika.

O ka eha o na poe i make he Iapana no ke alanui Kukui nona ka inoa o Mizuno Sakuichi. Ua make oia ma ia pono, a na lawe ia aku oia no ke puhi ia ana i ke ahi ma Mauiola.

O ka nui o na ma'i bubonika a hiki iho la i ke Sabati nei he 46, a maloko oia he 38 i make.

E puhiia ana na halekuai o Aala e ku nei ma ke alanui Moi ma keia Poaono.

Ke Aloha Aina. 27 January 1900. P. 4. *Ke Pii Mau Nei Na Make Eha I Lilo Hou Aku La Na Ola Makamae.*

O ka eha o na poe i make he Iapana no ke alanui Kukui nona ka inoa o Mizuno Sakuichi. Ua make oia ma ia pono, a na lawe ia aku oia no ke puhi ia ana i ke ahi ma Mauiola.

Ke Aloha Aina. 27 January 1900. P. 7. *Eia Hou No Ua Make.*

Ua hoouna ia aku kona kino no kahi puhi ahi [cremation place] o Kahakaaulana, mahope o ka ike ana o na kauka ua kiai makaala ia nei ka loli ae o kona kulana.

Ka Nupepa Kuokoa. 9 February 1900. P. 2. *Na Leo Mahalo I Ko Papa Ola Malama I Na Kanaka Hawaii Ma Na Wahi Hoomalu.*

Iloko no nae oia wa hookahi, e hoomanao ana no makou i kela kau ma'i hebera (small pox) i poha ai ma Honolulu i ka makahiki 1881, a i hoomaluia ai hoi na kanaka i loohia kekahi o ko lakou mau ohana i ua ma'i la, ma ke Kahua hoomalu mai ma Kahakaaulana, kahi mokupuni hoi i kapaia, "Ka Moku Akulikuli."

Honolulu Advertiser. 13 February 1900. P. 3. *Scenes At The Mauiola Crematory*

The crematory was built within four days after the order was given on December 12th, all the ironwork being made from special castings. Honolulu is indebted to Attorney General Cooper and Minister of Interior Young for the construction of the crematory. President Wood states that the Mauiola crematory is more effective in general results than the one at Tokyo, Japan.
[Drawings of the crematory with a long caption.]

The Hawaiian Gazette. 16 February 1900. P. 3. *Scenes At The Mauiola Crematory.*

The crematory was built within four days after the order was given on December 12th [1899], all the ironwork being made from special castings. Honolulu is indebted to Attorney General Cooper and Minister of [the] Interior Young for the construction of the crematory.

President Wood states that the Mauiola crematory is more effective in general results than the one in Tokyo, Japan.
[Clifford B. Wood, President of the Board of Health]

Ke Aloha Aina. 24 February 1900. P. 5. *Eia Hou No Ka Bubonika. Ekolu Mau Ola I Lilo Aku La.*

Ma ka nana ia ana o na mea paahana oloko o kona kino ua ike ia iho la, ua piha oia me na anoano o ka bubonika, a lawe koke ia aku la oia e puhi ma Mauiola.

The Hawaiian Gazette. 24 April 1900. P. 4. *No Cremation For Catholics. So Says Bishop Of Panopolis Who Issues A Circular Letter To His Flock.*

“The Bishop of Panopolis, vicar apostolic to the Hawaiian Islands, and head of the Catholic Church here, has issued a circular letter against cremation. [A copy of the letter is included. According to a decree in 1886 by Pope Leo XIII, no Catholic shall ask cremation for himself nor for anybody else.]

Honolulu Advertiser. 26 May 1900. P. 13. *Chisholm Cremated. So Ordered By Board of Health.*

“The friends protested and threatened to secure an attorney to fight the dictum of the president of the Health Board. Nevertheless, Dr. Wood persisted in carrying out his order, and had the remains removed to the crematory on Quarantine Island where they were quickly cremated.”

Ka Nupepa Kuokoa. 26 April 1901. P. 6. *Na Koa O Ka Moku Mai Manaoia.*

Ua olelo ao kekahi haole i ike pono i ke ano o ka hoouna ana ia o ka poe koa ma'i puupuu liilii (measles) i Kahakaaulana ua hookuu ia iluna o na waapa a waiho ia peia i ka wela o ka la a hiki i ke kii ana mai o ka waapa mahu e lawe ia lakou. Aohe he peia, a mau mea oluolu e ae hoi, a aohe no hoi he mau mea e palulu ae ai i ka wela o ka la. O ke ola ana paha o keia poe?

Mai oi loa ka maikai i na i ka manawa i ike ia ai ua loa ka moku i ka ma'i hepera i na i lawe ia na koa a pau loa i Kahakaaulana koe na poe hana o ka moku, puhipuhi i ka moku me namea hoomake ma'i a ae e komo mai e kii i wai inu a me ka nanahu a pau hoi aku i waho hookau keia poe koa a holo aku no Manila. Ina me keia e hana mai ai keia poe e poino ana na oia makamae o Hawaii nei i ka lakou ma'i.

He 35 poe ma'i e hoomalu ia nei ma ka Hakaaulana. He ekolu poe i loa i ka ma'i hepera (small pox.) a he ma'i puupuu liilii ka hapanui.

Ke Aloha Aina. 24 February 1902. P. 5. *Moku Lawekoa Sheridan Me Ka Ma'i Samola Poki* [smallpox]

Ua hoolele ia aku ke koa ma'i ma ke kahua hoomalu o ke aupuni ma Mauiola, me na koa a me na ohua o keia awa, a e hoomalu ia ana lakou malaila no 15 la mamua o ka hookuu ia ana mai.

Ka Nupepa Kuokoa. 9 May 1902. P. 6. *Ua Piholo O Welau.*

He lono walohia ka i hiki mai i o makou nei, no ke piholo ana o Weiau iloko o ke kai. ua hele aku ia me kekahi mau kanaka elua ma ka waapa no ka lawaia mawaho o kuanalu o Kahakaaulana a loohia ia oia e keia pilikia.

Evening Bulletin. 3 June 1903. P. 1. *Horst Family Over At Mauiola Island.*

“The Horst child which, being a smallpox patient, caused the Pacific Mail steamship Korea to be quarantined for a while last Monday, is at present at the quarantine hospital of Mauiola Island.”

The Hawaiian Gazette. 5 February 1904. P. 1. *Catholic Church Opposes Cremation.* [Reasons given by a local priest.]

The Hawaiian Star. 1 May 1905. P. 1. *Plans For A Crematory. The one at Quarantine Island is no longer available for the public, hence there is not in the islands a place where a wish to have one's body incinerated can be carried out.*

The federal authorities and the local authorities have in the past accommodated the public in this matter [requests for cremation] until the opinion quite generally prevails that cremation is to be had by any one who would apply for it and hence the Federal crematory has come to be regarded as a public institution. [Local government is looking into constructing a public crematory.] [Private cemeteries and Buddhist temples then step in and build their own crematories.]

The Hawaiian Gazette. 12 May 1905. P. 7. *The Question of Burial Versus Modern Cremation.*

The crematory on Quarantine Island is the property of the Federal government, and is definitely closed for private use. Its purposes are for incineration of those who die of uncertain, possibly contagious, diseases, and, therefore, the necessity of there being established a crematory which would be available for all who wish.

Ka Nupepa Kuokoa. 12 May 1905. P. 8. [Untitled]
“Mokupuni o Kahakaaulana”

Ka Na'i Aupuni. 15 August 1906. P. 2. *Kuahaua Koho Balota Nui.*
“ka mokupuni hoomalu eemoku (Kahakaaulana)” [immigrant quarantine island]

Ka Nupepa Kuokoa. 15 October 1920. P. 3. *Hoolaha.*
O ke Ki Manu, Ka Hahai Holoholona, Ka Lawai'a a Komohewa paha maluhia o na aina o Mokauea, na aina kai kohola ame na Loko I'a e waiho ana mawaena o Puuhale ame Kahakaaulana ame ka Mokupuni Hoomalu, ua papa loa ia, malalo o ke hoopa'i a ke kanawai.
(Kakauinoia) Fred A. Luning. Honolulu. Oct. 12, 1920.

[Mokupuni Hoomalu: Quarantine Island- earliest mention in the Hawaiian-language newspapers]

Honolulu Advertiser. 15 March 1923. P. 1. *Sand Island Control Under Secretary of War, Opinion Of U. S. Attorney General.*

[Long legal opinion that continues on page 6 regarding ownership of Sand Island, including Quarantine Island, and the history of both back to 1840.]

All these tend strongly to show that the jurisdiction of the Marine Hospital Service thus acquired was confined strictly to the small island of Kamolouakulikuli [Kamokuakulikuli] otherwise known as Quarantine Island which was “above high water mark on the reef of Kaholaloa.”

...the small tract then “known as Quarantine Island,” which was “above high water mark on the reef of Kaholaloa, [is] now occupied by the government as a quarantine station.”

The Marine Hospital service took control of Quarantine Island in 1898, following the adoption of the resolution of annexation [and nothing changed] between annexation and the Organic Act [of 1900, which established the Territory of Hawaii].