

Photos courtesy of:
Bishop Museum Archives
Michael Lum
Elvin Mattson
Paul Phillips
"Woody" Phillips

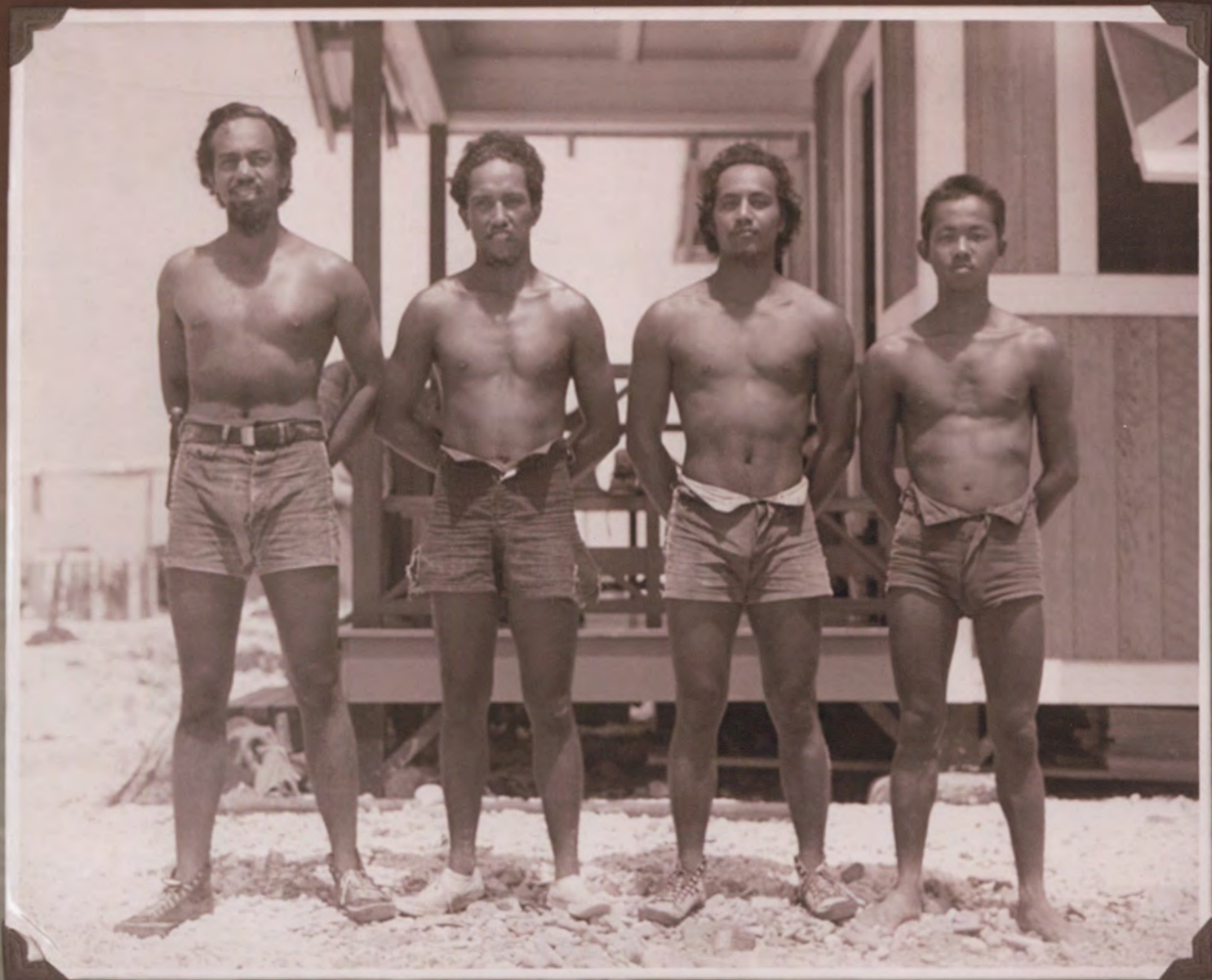
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BISHOP MUSEUM



Hui Panalaʻau

HAWAIIAN COLONISTS,
AMERICAN CITIZENS



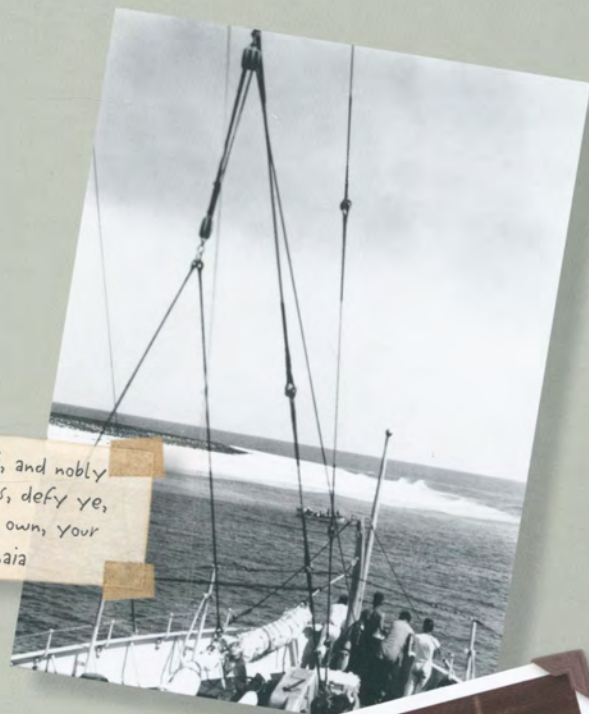
Hui Panala'au

HAWAIIAN COLONISTS,
AMERICAN CITIZENS



James Kakamakiwi, Joe Anakalea,
Folinga Faufata, and Killarney Opiopio
living the Kamehameha alma mater on
Howland, January 1936

"Be strong and ally ye, oh sons of Hawaii, and nobly
stand together hand in hand. All dangers, defy ye,
oh sons of Hawaii, and bravely serve your own, your
fatherland."
- Abe Piianaia



On March 20, 1935, the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Itasca* set sail from Honolulu on a top secret mission. Aboard were six young Hawaiians, all recent graduates of Kamehameha School. Carefully recruited by the U.S. Department of Air Commerce for their physical and mental fitness, they believed they would be collecting specimens for Bishop Museum. Instead, they found themselves on remote, desert islands in the middle of the Equatorial Pacific, living for months at a time in total isolation.

Their tasks included mapping the islands, taking weather readings, cultivating plants, fishing, keeping a daily log, and preparing landing fields. Ostensibly sent to protect federal interests in commercial aviation routes between Australia and California, the ability of these young Hawaiian men to survive as "Americans," eventually enabled President Roosevelt to claim jurisdiction over the islands of Jarvis, Baker, and Howland in May of 1936. Yet these claims would not come without cost as three young Hawaiians would ultimately lose their lives: Carl Kahalewai, Joe Keliihananui, and Dickey Whaley.



Front cover (from left): Solomon Kalama, Charles Ahia,
Jacob Haili and Harold Chin Lum, Jarvis Island, 1937.

During the seven year course of the project, more than 130 young men from Hawaii would colonize these islands, endured unrelenting sun, treacherous waves, voracious rats, sharks, and ultimately, enemy fire. Yet the vast majority of them did more than just survive - they excelled. These young men had a profound ability to thrive under adverse conditions with humor, grace, and humility. They fished, surfed, picked sea shells and sang. Their foundational cornerstones were the common values instilled in them through school, family, and community - values that remained with them no matter how far from home they happened to find themselves.



Bernice Pauahi Bishop, 1887. Oil on canvas by
Jennie Loop. (Bishop Museum Art Collection)

Bishop Museum's

Mission:

To study,
preserve,
and tell the stories
of the natural and
cultural history of Hawai'i
and the Pacific.



BISHOP MUSEUM

Bishop Museum is open Wednesday to Monday,
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Museum is closed on
Tuesdays and Christmas Day (December 25).

Admission: (effective Jan. 1, 2010)

Adults	\$17.95
Youth (4 - 12)	\$14.95
Seniors	\$14.95
Children (3 & Under)	Free
Bishop Museum Members	Free

Kama'aina rates and ample, free parking available.
Admission fees include guided tours, live
demonstrations, music and dance, and entrance
to all exhibits, including the newly restored
Hawaiian Hall and Richard T. Mamiya Science
Adventure Center.

Bishop Museum members enjoy unlimited free
admission to the Museum and provide vital
support for the Museum's exhibits, education
programs, and the best possible care of our
natural and cultural collections.

To become a member, call (808) 847-8296 or
visit www.bishopmuseum.org.

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Januafi

Ready for an adventure, young Kamehameha students and alumni head out for the Line Islands aboard the U.S.C.G. Cutter *Itasca*, January 1936. 25 expeditions ferried these young men to Howland, Baker, and Jarvis Islands, and later Canton and Enderbury. Back, from left: Luther Waiwaiiole, Henry Ohumukini, William Yomes, Solomon Kalama, James Carroll. Front, from left: Henry Mahikoa, Alexander Kahapea, George Kahanu, Joseph Kim.



"My folks had no idea where I was going. I myself didn't know where I was going ... They told us, We have a project which is of top security and if you would like to join us, we would be happy to have you. We can't tell you about it until you get there."

Abraham Piianaia, Honolulu Magazine, Vol. XXIII, 1988

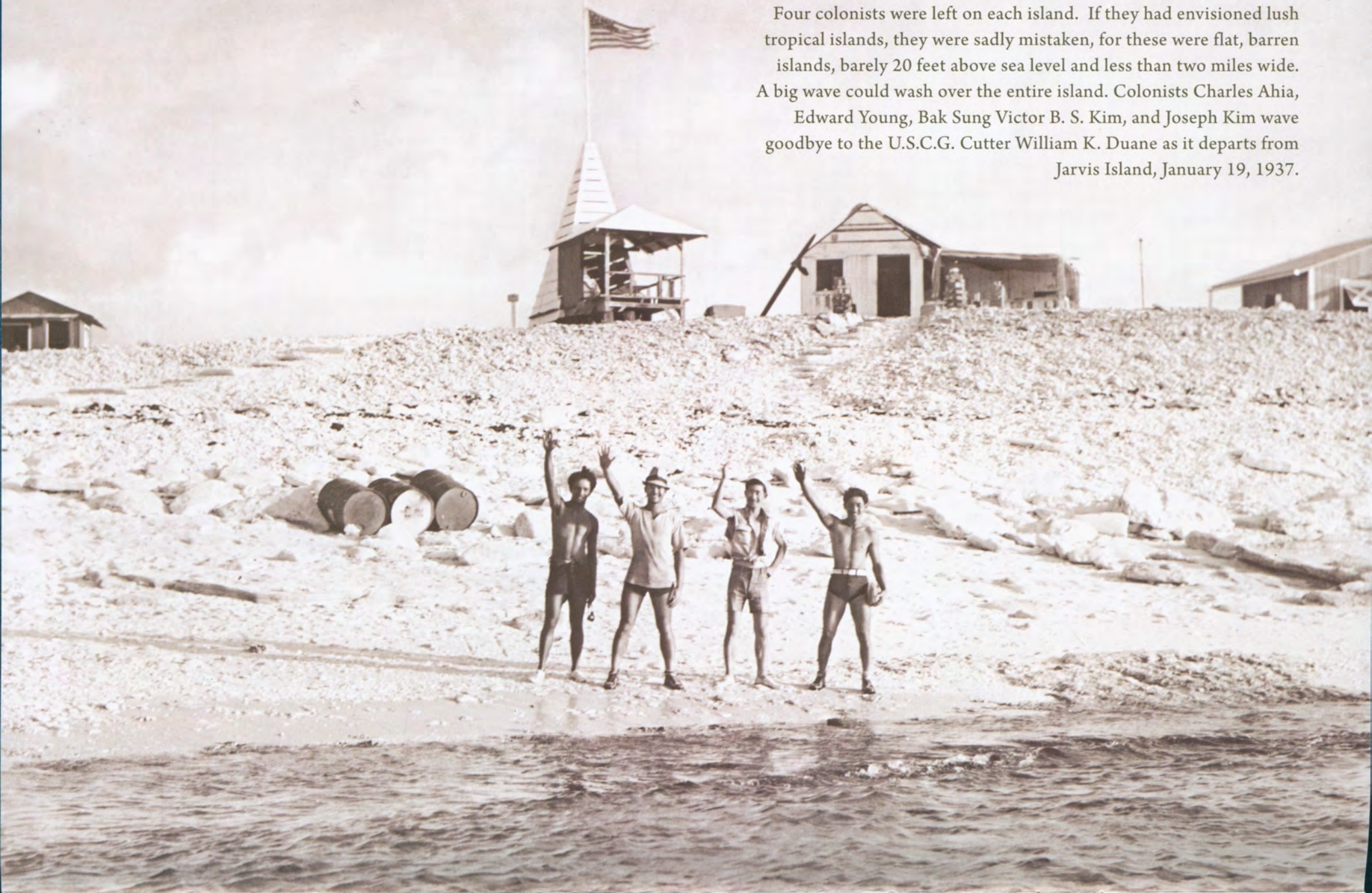
JANUARY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 New Year's Day
2 Queen Emma's Birthday	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25 Charles Reed Bishop's Birthday	26	27	28	29



Pepeluali

Four colonists were left on each island. If they had envisioned lush tropical islands, they were sadly mistaken, for these were flat, barren islands, barely 20 feet above sea level and less than two miles wide. A big wave could wash over the entire island. Colonists Charles Ahia, Edward Young, Bak Sung Victor B. S. Kim, and Joseph Kim wave goodbye to the U.S.C.G. Cutter William K. Duane as it departs from Jarvis Island, January 19, 1937.



"Once you get there, you wish you never got there. You're on this island just all by yourself. Nothing there at all, just birds, millions and millions of birds. But if you're the type to want company or you need a girlfriend with you, forget it!"

Elvin Mattson, Oral History Interview, April 2, 2002

FEBRUARY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Princess Ruth's Birthday	10	11	12
13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 President's Day	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					



Malaki

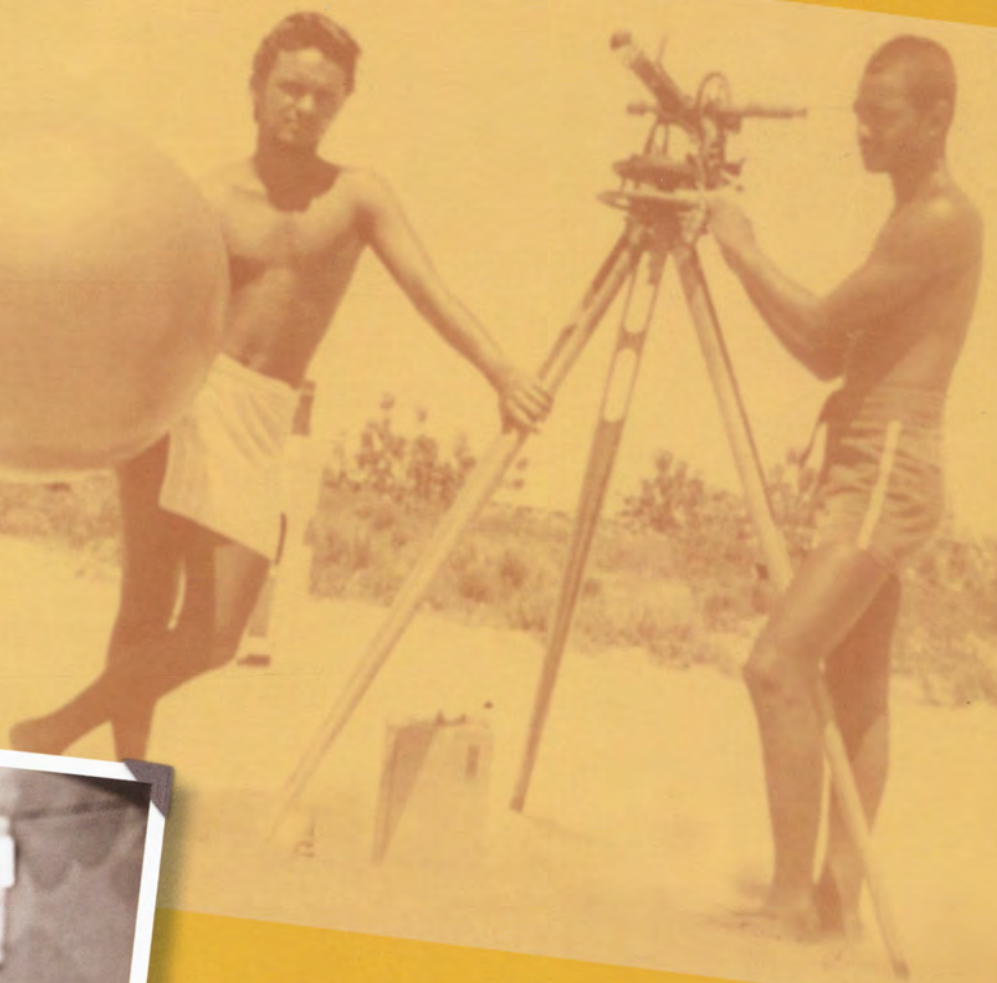
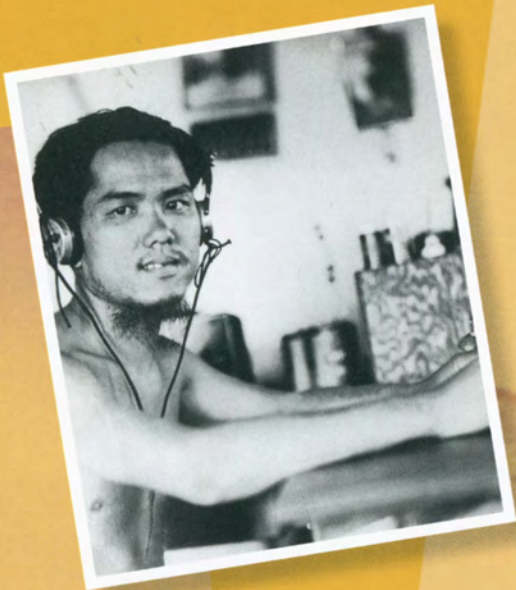
Baker Island colonists Theodore Akana, Gabriel Victor, Eugene Burke, and Ah Kin Leong, with supplies meant to last for three months, January 1937. The canned goods were supplementary, however, to the fresh fish, lobster, and squid they caught for nearly every meal. The young men became adept cooks, with everyone taking turns.

"At a quarter of five they returned with a great big Ulua, weighing about ten to twelve pounds. The boys caught two but a shark got the better half of a much larger one. We enjoyed the fish steak very much and after supper we retired to our tents. William Anahu, William Toomey and I sang a few songs. We plan to form a trio and sing a little on our way back home..."

James Kamakaiwi, June 24, 1935, Howland Island

MARCH 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Daylight Savings Time Begins				St. Patrick's Day		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
					Kūhio Day	
27	28	29	30	31		



'Apelila

Each colonist was assigned a task such as keeping the daily log, cooking, or taking the weather readings. They recorded the types of clouds, rainfall, wind velocity, and eventually they took helium balloon readings. In later years, colonists of Asian descent were recruited as "aerologists," specializing in meteorology and radio men. For their efforts, the colonists earned \$3.00 a day, which was considered a good wage at the time.

"At various periods during the day, you took surface winds, wet-and dry-bulb readings, surface temperatures, and that sort of thing. But the big ones were the balloon readings at ten o'clock in the morning and ten o'clock in the evening. These were consolidated and sent to the Coast Guard Station at Wailupe on O'ahu."

Paul Phillips, Oral History Interview, December 18, 2002

APRIL 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
					Good Friday	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
					Earth Day	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Easter Sunday					Arbor Day	

Mei

Between their official duties, the colonists had ample time to enjoy the islands, surfing, fishing, and picking sea shells – even making barbells out of cement blocks. Colonists Henry Ahia, Dan Toomey, Kenneth Bell, and Jacob Haili made surfboards from the shipwreck of the Amaranth on Jarvis Island, 1936. Said Kenneth Bell, “We had fun surfing in between the sharks.”



"So we went down (to the Amaranth), we had to salvage the planks, heavy planks now, about two inches thick and about sixteen inches wide. And that was a project. We didn't have the latest tools. It was like a hatchet, and hammer, trying to shape the board. Well, I tell you, on Jarvis, we finally got the surfboards completed because we all worked together in our accomplishments. And when we finally got it made, what happened? Here comes the Itasca! We never even got a chance to use the board."

George Kahanu, Sr., Oral History Interview, March 27, 2002

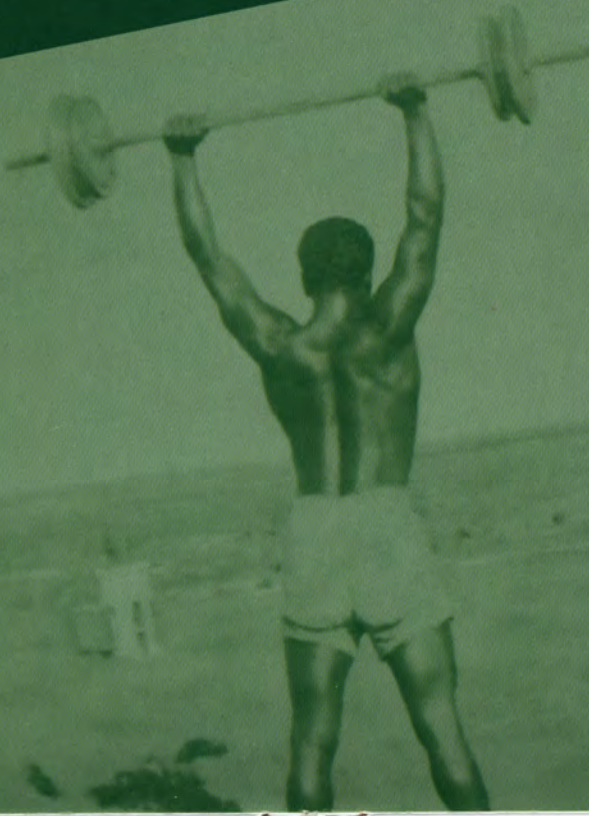
MAY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
May Day						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Mother's Day						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
						Armed Forces Day
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
	Memorial Day					



June

Deeming the colonization project a success, the colonists were removed after one year. Two months later, President Roosevelt officially claimed the islands, but fears of a British challenge meant a harried reoccupation. Hawaiian colonists were quickly dispatched for a reoccupation that would last for six long years. William Stewart Markham, Kini Pea, Killarney Opiopio, James Kamakaiwi, and two military personnel on Howland in June of 1936.



"They keep us out of [the] politics — we're just there to do that and that's it. We found out later, the following year, when the new maps came out, then we see "U.S." on the island... so it makes us proud, eh, so we were a part of it."

Victor Kim, Oral History Interview, March 16 2002

JUNE 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10
					Kamehameha Day (Observed)	Kamehameha Day
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Father's Day						
26	27	28	29	30		

Julai

The ocean was their icebox and their playground. They found lobster holes filled to the brim and chased schools of fish into gunny sacks. They gathered the tail feathers from the koa'e ula (red tailed tropic bird) and plucked their pearly neck feathers, making feathered lei for loved ones back home. (below) Paul Yat Lum (left) and the boys of Baker, 1937.

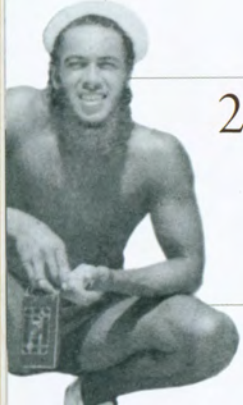


"Although we are the only four people on Jarvis, the raising of Old Glory this morning gave us a thrill which I am sure was not felt by very many people. We four Hawaiian lads were proud to observe Independence day."

July 4, 1936, Jarvis Island

JULY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Independence Day						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	24	26	27	28	29	30



'Aukake

As the project continued, the U.S. Department of Interior created more permanent "homes" for the colonists. Tents gave way to wooden rooms, and home-made ovens were replaced by kerosene stoves. In 1937, major construction of a runway took place on Howland Island in preparation for Amelia Earhart's fateful arrival, but she never showed. Here, Harry Stewart and three Howland colonists construct their Government House.



Joe (Anakalea) and Alex (Kahapea) have become my daily guitar pupils and have shown improvement. Not satisfied with being only a guitar pupil, Joe wanted to learn a little voice culture... after his third lesson, Joe thought he had improved very much so he intended to give us something like a concert. The audience had no rotten tomatoes or onions but Boobie eggs were plentiful.

Henry Dhurukini, Howland Island, January 27, 1936

AUGUST 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	Admissions Day	27
28	29	30	31			





Kepakemapa

The colonists caught lobster, squid, and fresh fish, such as 'aholehole, mullet, and ulua, for the vast majority of their meals. When the fish were especially plentiful, they dried the extras and packed them in Saloon Pilot tins for their families back home. Howland Island, 1941.

"During breakfast, Young told us that he wish[ed] he could stay down here for five or ten years. He would be content with all the fishing he wants. There has hardly been a day that he hasn't fished or caught squid ever since he came here. However, he contends that with all the fish we have here, this place is no comparison to Kawaihae on the Kona coast of Hawaii".

Monday, June 29, 1936 Abe Piianaia

SEPTEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 Labor Day	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
 25	26	27	28	29	30	

Okakopa

Of the more than 130 young men who lived on these islands, there were over a dozen sets of brothers. Says Paul Phillips, "Big brother has joined. Why can't I do it?" Sam Kahalewai was on Howland when he learned his older brother, Carl, had died of appendicitis en route to Honolulu from Jarvis. Many of the colonists were cousins, classmates, or friends, but in the end, all of the colonists became part of a larger family. In 1939, former colonists created an organization called "Hui Panala'au," which meant "group of colonists." Mannie "Woody" Phillips and brother Paul Phillips with Snoopy, on Jarvis Island, August 1941.





The DAILY PINION

VOLUME XXVIII HONOLULU, HAWAII, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1938 EDITION 27



Carl Kahalewai DIES ABOARD THE TANEY

Carl Kahalewai, Jarvis Island colonist, and former student of McKinley died peacefully at 8:40 p.m. Saturday evening, on the Coast Guard cutter Roger D. Tanager. He died of peritonitis, resulting from a ruptured appendix.

Football Stickers On Sale At Gov. Office

Some youngsters will "dash the Mules" football stickers are now on sale. Buy them at the Student Body Office. The stickers are three for "nickel" and a student who has been absent repeatedly from school. The stickers will urge the parents to consult with Mr. Houtley, assistant principal, about the student's absence. If the student is again absent, a second notice will be sent to the parents. If the teachers believe that the student is not capable of carrying on his school work, he or she will be from school. If the student continues to be absent, as by repeating a year, or repeating a grade, this depends on the teacher.

ABSENTEE POLICY WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED THIS YEAR

Following a policy adopted last year, a notice will be sent to the parents of a student who has been absent repeatedly from school. The stickers will urge the parents to consult with Mr. Houtley, assistant principal, about the student's absence. If the student is again absent, a second notice will be sent to the parents. If the teachers believe that the student is not capable of carrying on his school work, he or she will be from school. If the student continues to be absent, as by repeating a year, or repeating a grade, this depends on the teacher.

Dr. N. Larsen Delivers Social Hygiene Talk

"I want you all to be happy, but you must stop using a while and think of life," said Dr. N. Larsen in his speech on Social Hygiene. This annual health talk was delivered to sophomore boys on Monday and Tuesday while the girls heard it on Wednesday.



"My daughter, one of the song leaders of Punahele Football Game, said that they were so busy that they didn't have time to go to the beach. Larsen said that the boys should be more active and less lazy."



At 3:30 pm the ceremony of dedication was held at Jarvis Light, in memory of Carl Kahalewai... Sam Kahalewai, Jr., Carl's brother, cut the cords unveiling the tablet....Henry Medeiros placed a wreath of green ground-runner and yellow wild ilima flowers of Jarvis over the plaque and all the Hawaiian boys led by James Kinney sang a song of farewell "Mai Poina De Iau", blending into "Aloha De."

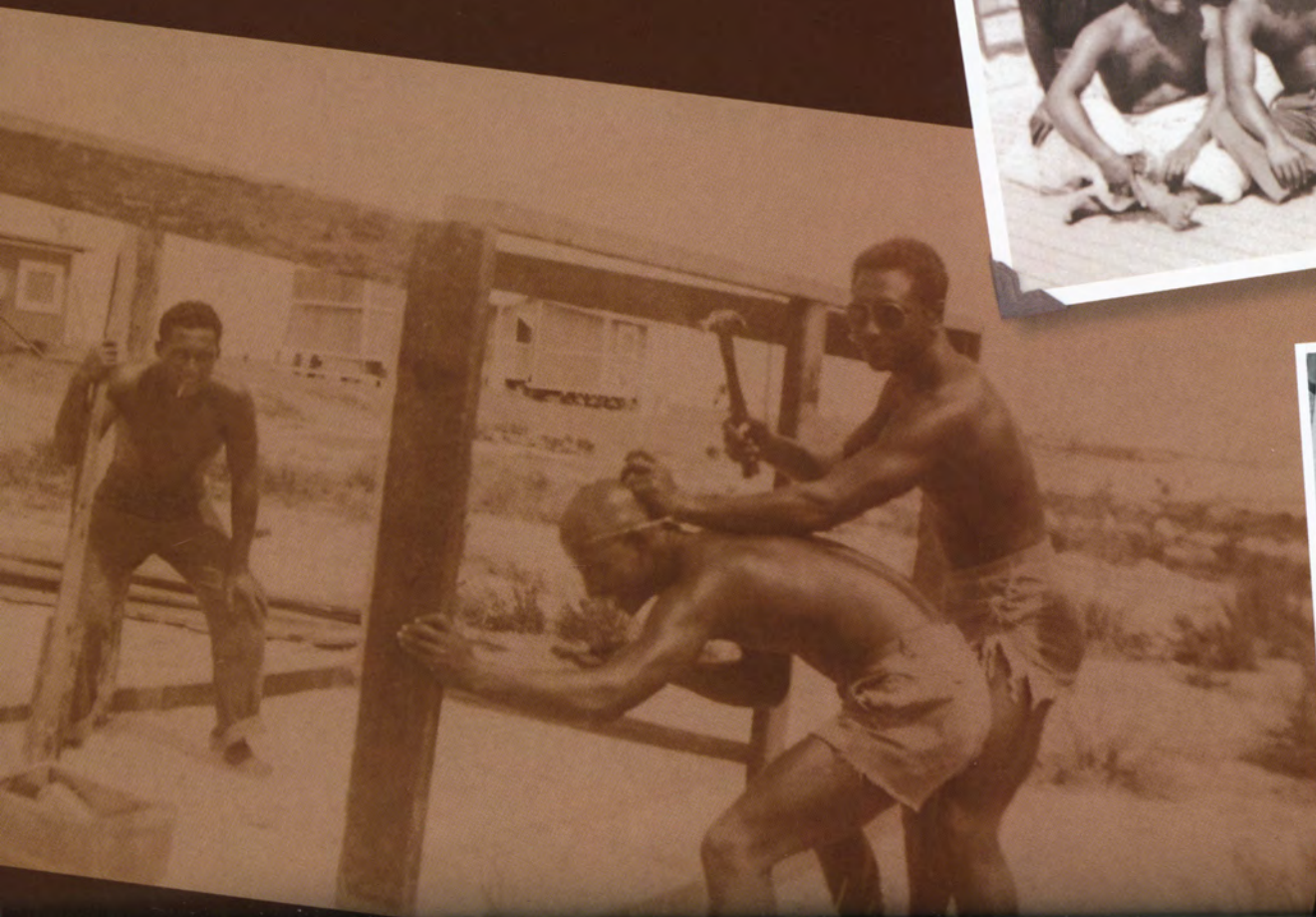
Richard Black, Jarvis Island, December 11, 1938

OCTOBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29
						
Columbus Day						
Halloween						

Nowemapa

Humor and laughter were critical to the success of each of these island "tours." The camaraderie among the colonists sustained them through the long months of isolation -- through injuries and storms, rats and shark infested waters. Says Victor B.S. Kim, a radio operator for Jarvis in 1937, "We all got together and we all got good feeling to each other. No hard feeling at all." Bearded and tanned colonists returning from a successful occupation, March 1936.



Charlie almost died from laughter this afternoon when he was given the pleasure of cutting the hair of a door knob, said door knob being Lum's head. After cutting a relay of nicks and various grotesque shapes, and not counting time outs to gain back strength lost from laughing, Charlie finally finished. Not having a barber's license, Charlie let the hairless one go free of charge.

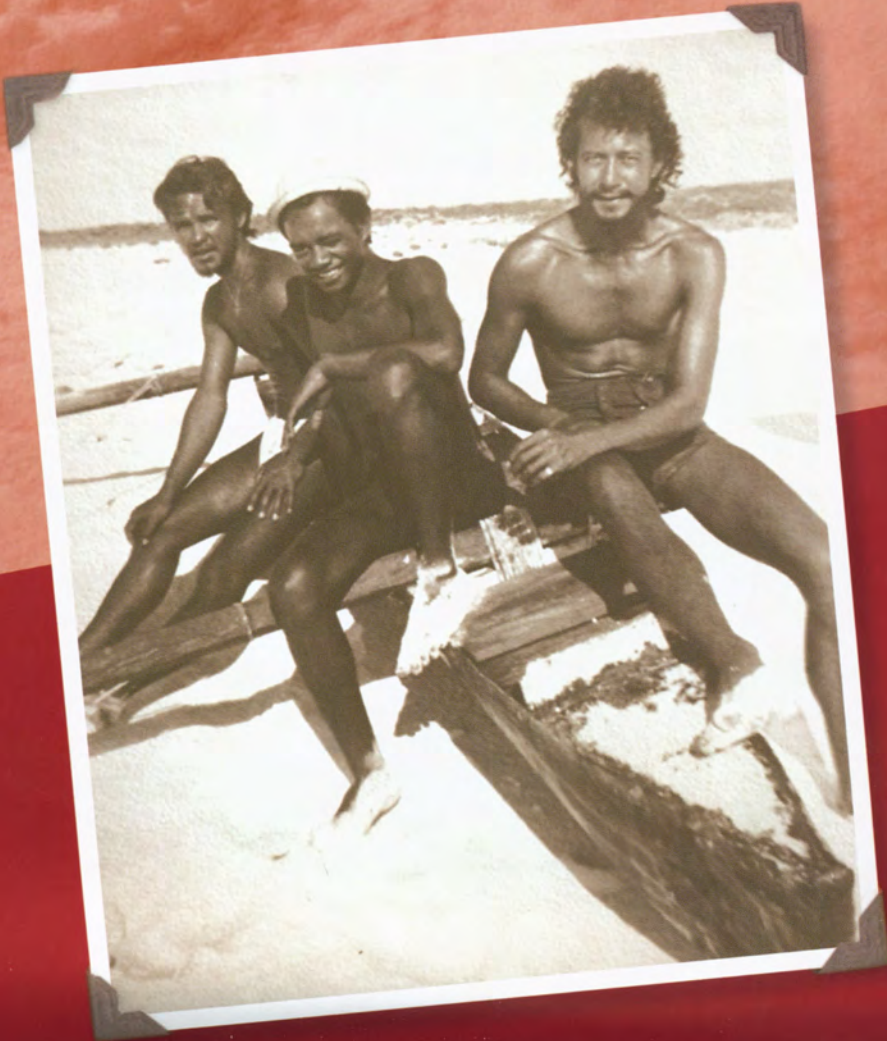
Sol Kalama, Nov. 22, 1936, Jarvis Island

NOVEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Daylight Savings Time Ends	7	8	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Kekemapa

On December 8, 1941, the day after Pearl Harbor was bombed, a fleet of Japanese airplanes attacked Howland Island, fatally wounding Dickey Whaley and Joe Keliihanui. The Panala'au Colonization project came to an official close when the last of the colonists, on Jarvis and Enderbury, were finally rescued in February of 1942. Nearly 70 years have passed since this dramatic chapter in Hawaii's history, but the contributions of the Hui Panala'au endure. Islands were claimed, airplanes crossed the Pacific, and the U.S. prevailed in wartime. Here, from left, Elvin Mattson, Dickey Whaley, and Joe Keliihanui enjoy the sun and surf of Howland, 1941.



"We made a contribution in what we did, I feel it in my own heart. I feel that what we did there had a bearing on how this war went in the Pacific for the U.S. forces... the military, I think, were able to plan on the basis of what we prepared in terms of weather reports. And then ultimately, I would think Pan Am used these weather reports in their routes to Australia [and] New Zealand."

George Kahanu, Sr., Oral History Interview, March 27, 2002

DECEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Bernice Pauahi Bishop's Birthday					
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas Day	Christmas Day (Observed)					