

*Friends of Italy Society of Hawai'i  
a Celebration*

**30 YEARS AS AN ORGANIZATION  
200 YEARS OF HAWAIIAN-ITALIAN CONNECTIONS**





# Table of Contents

<b>PART I: A SHORT HISTORY OF THE FRIENDS OF ITALY SOCIETY OF Hawai'i</b> . . . . .	10
<b>PART II: GAZZETTINO ARTICLES WITH ITALIAN-HAWAIIAN CONNECTIONS</b>	
<b>Chapter 1:</b> Sugar Cane Workers in Hawai'i . . . . .	24
<b>Chapter 2:</b> Book Presentation: Storie Straordinarie di Italiani nel Pacifico . . . . .	30
<b>Chapter 3:</b> Robert Wilcox: the Hawaiian Garibaldi . . . . .	32
<b>Chapter 4:</b> Gina Sobrero: An Italian Baroness in Hawai'i . . . . .	38
<b>Chapter 5:</b> Hawaiian Students in Italy under King Kalakaua's Hawaiian Youths Abroad Program: Robert Napu'Uako Boyd and James Kaneholo Booth . . . . .	46
<b>Chapter 6:</b> Hawaiian Students in Italy under King Kalakaua's Hawaiian Youths Abroad Program (Part 2): August Hering and Maile Nowlein . . . . .	54
<b>Chapter 7:</b> Henry Ginaca: The Inventor Who Helped Make James D. Dole the "Pineapple King" . . . . .	60
<b>Chapter 8:</b> Guglielmo Marconi "Annihilates Time and Distance" and Establishes Hawai'i as a Leader in Early Wireless Communication . . . . .	64
<b>Chapter 9:</b> Prisoners In Paradise: Italian Prisoners of War in Hawai'i . . . . .	72
<b>Chapter 10:</b> Return to Paradise: Eight Former Italian Prisoners of War Return to Oahu . . . . .	80
<b>Chapter 11:</b> From Honolulu to Monte Cassino and San Terenzo— the 100th Infantry Battalion (and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team) in Italy . . . . .	86
<b>Chapter 12:</b> Hawai'i's Toscanini - Domenico Moro, The Sicilian Bandmaster of The Royal Hawaiian Band . . . . .	94
<b>Chapter 13:</b> The 21st Century Rebirth of Kalakaua's Hawaiian Youths Abroad Program. at the University of Hawai'i Manoa . . . . .	98
<b>Chapter 14:</b> Joe Saturnia, a long-time Member of FOISOH Decided to Honor His Italian Ancestry with a Hawaiian Touch... . . . .	102





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I would also like to thank Chiara Logli, the past president of FOISOH, and Maya Syper, vice president of FOISOH, for their editorial comments and support in making this document possible. And special thanks to Dario Failla for his excellent design work.

The information gathered, paraphrased, and quoted in this collection comes from many sources who have been acknowledged in the various articles. I have arranged that information in a way that emphasizes and highlights the connections between Italy and Hawai'i.



## Foreword

When I first started writing articles for the Gazzettino, the newsletter of the Friends of Italy Society of Hawai'i (FOISOH), I never imagined that two places such as Italy and Hawai'i so far from each other could have much in common. Was I ever wrong!

The two cultures share important values such as the importance of family, friends, and a strong sense of place, a long tradition of warmth and hospitality, and a love of music, food and life itself.

In addition, there are numerous instances where Italians and Hawaiians have interacted in some rather amazing and profound ways as you shall discover in the following articles extracted from past issues of the Gazzettino.

*Buona lettura!*

Mark Ethridge



# Welcome

Cari lettori (dear readers),


As the Italian association for the state of Hawai'i, the Friends of Italy Society of Hawai'i (FOISOH) is dedicated to fostering friendship and aloha between Italy and Hawai'i. In 1990, the nonprofit organization was funded in partnership with the Italian General Consul in San Francisco, Marcello Griccioli; the Italian Honorary Consul in Honolulu, Louis Finamore; and the Mayor of Honolulu, Frank Fasi.

For over thirty years, the society continues to uphold the Italian General Consul's proclamation: FOISOH will play an important role in promoting a better knowledge of Italy, bring Hawai'i residents of Italian descent and lovers of Italy together, and enhance the cultural and social life of Hawai'i's community with Italian activities.

We offer Italian language courses for children and adults, food and wine events, film screenings, seminar series, arts programs, and social gatherings. Our social club also supports Hawai'i's community from fundraising food drives to cleaning our beaches and land.

The following document contains a "Short History of the Friends of Italy Society of Hawai'i," as well as a series of articles that have appeared in FOISOH's newsletter *The Gazzettino* from 2015 to 2022.





These articles highlight 200 years of Hawaiian-Italian connections, ranging from the first processing of sugar cane by an Italian in the 1820's, to the education of Hawaiian youth in Italy under King Kalakaua's Youths Abroad Program, to the sacrifices of Hawaiian Nisei soldiers who died or were injured in combat to end fascism in World War II.

We look forward to helping expand the love for Italy and its culture in Hawai'i in the years to come.

Buona lettura (happy reading),

Chiara Logli and Maya Sypert  
President and Vice-President

2019-2022 Board of Directors | Friends of Italy Society of Hawai'i

# Part I

## A Short History of The Friends of Italy Society of Hawai'i

By Mark Ethridge and Felicity James

The Friends of Italy Society of Hawai'i (FOISOH) is Hawai'i's oldest and only organization promoting an understanding of Italy, its language, and culture as well as friendship among those in Hawai'i who have an Italian background or a love of Italy and things Italian.

FOISOH was founded in 1990 at the urging of the Italian Consulate in San Francisco and the Honorary Consul in Hawai'i. The letters of Incorporation were signed on January 1, 1991, by the first President of FOISOH, Armando Beccaria, and the Italian Vice-Consul in Honolulu, Louis Finamore.

The first meeting in 1991 was attended by three honorary members: His Excellency Bishop Joseph Ferrario, Italian Vice-Consul in Hawai'i Louis Finamore, and Honolulu Mayor Frank Fasi.

The Italian General Consul in San Francisco, Marcello Griccioli, also an honorary member, sent a message which was read to the members. He saluted and congratulated all the FOISOH members with a special word of appreciation offered to the Vice-Consul for "his enthusiasm, his dedication and experience towards the worthy goal of bringing into existence the Friends of Italy Society of Hawai'i.

*"The General Consul continued: I am confident that your society will play an important role in promoting a better knowledge of Italy and of the Americans of Italian descent in Hawai'i, and that the cultural and social life of the entire community will be enhanced by your activities. Please be*

**HAWAII**  
Friday, May 14, 1993 ■ Star-Bulletin ■

■ Kaihi man charged in doctor's knifing A-4  
■ New Mōai, Oahu ombulance debated A-4  
■ Hawaiians set up for old-style village A-6

**Isle woman's face on Blessed Mother statue**  
By Gregg K. Kalesko

It happened more than half a century ago and involved two women who never met.

Yet Neatrice Lam Hsu, now 70, remembers it as if it were yesterday.

And what binds Hsu to two persons of war from Italy is a white 18-inch plaster statue of the Lady of Fatima with three children at her feet.

The face of the Virgin Mother, Hsu believes, is the face of a Japanese. Chances fall her face. "I feel so humble and unworthy."

In 1945 Hsu worked for Hawaii's military governor, assigned by the Army as a clerk in the transportation office on Ala Moana Boulevard.

"I was half a dozen Italian prisoners — we never referred to them as prisoners of war — would report each morning to work. I was located on the ground floor of the King

Neatrice Lam Hsu: "I want to feel that statue since it has such great significance for me."


**Return to the isles proves bittersweet for Italy POW**

At least 1,000 Italian prisoners of war were held in Hawaii during World War II. One of them, Gianni Pizzigoni, was held in the King Hotel in Honolulu. He was released in 1945 and returned to Italy. He later moved to Hawaii and is now living in Honolulu. He is the man in the photo being greeted by his wife, Paola Sarina.

*assured that the Consulate General, as well as the Italian Cultural Institute in San Francisco, will always be willing to cooperate with Mr. Finamore in order to assist you. I miei sinceri auguri a tutti per un successo duraturo del vostro lavoro. (My sincerest best wishes to you all for a long-lasting success)."*

This brief history was compiled from Gazzettino newsletters dating back to 1992, newspaper articles, and several speeches by Armando Beccaria, FOISOH's first president. Here are some major FOISOH milestones:

- **December 1, 1991:** The club has 390 members.
- **February 1992:** The first edition of Il Gazzettino is published and named after Il Gazzettino of Venice. The newsletter has been published continuously several times per year since 1992 except for one year.
- **October 2, 1992:** Key founding members of FOISOH help the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra raise \$125,000 as a way to promote Italian culture and friendship within our local community. The event, Ballo Cinquecento, is a celebration of the inauguration of the Renaissance. On hand to remind guests of this important period are many participants costumed as mariners, priests, patrons, troubadours, and elegant ladies of the Renaissance. Also on hand to remind the guests of the Italian penchant for creativity and craftsmanship are a Lamborghini automobile and a Moto Guzzi motorcycle. Up to today, the Symphony still offers discounted ticket prices to FOISOH members.
- **May and December 1992:** The club holds the first annual board meeting dinner and Festa di Natale.
- **May 1993:** FOISOH, with the American military, sponsors a daylong tour for former Italian POWs returning to Hawai'i to visit their sites of incarceration and the works of art they created. The eight visitors are able to visit the remaining examples of Italian POW craftsmanship: two fountains at Fort Shafter, a fountain near the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service building and two sculptures at Sand Island of "hula girls" apparently meant to honor the women in Italy who were waiting for these prisoners' return. They also participate in a small



military ceremony in honor of four of their comrades buried at Schofield Barracks. The group meets with Mayor Fasi and is interviewed by local reporters.

The meeting is bittersweet for some returnees because the Cabrini Chapel, which they built as POWs, was razed in 1950. Mario Benelli, the group's leader, later sent a thank you letter to the FOISOH members:

*“A few days ago, we had a meeting with some POWs who could not make the trip to Hawai'i, and we told them how we were welcomed...last May. I must say we were all surprised by the warmth and affection with which we were received. I wish to express my gratitude to you, other representatives of the Friends of Italy Society, the Honorary Consul Louis Finamore, the Mayor of Honolulu, and the Immigration administrators. I do not know*



Italian POW-built fountain at Schofield Barracks



*whether our hope to return again will come true, given our age: it is certain, however, that we will remember May 14, 1993, as one of the most beautiful days of our lives..."*

- **June-July 1995:** In a collaboration with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and the Kapi'olani Community College Humanities Department, FOISOH helps organizing Festival Italiano which includes *"Italian Journeys: From North America and Hawai'i,"* a public program held at UH Mānoa Summer session and funded by the Hawai'i Committee for the Humanities and the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. The program includes films, music, art and discussions on Italian and Italian American history, literature, film, art history, music, and folklore.
- **December 1995:** At the urging of FOISOH members, the Coast Guard refurbishes two statues made by Italian sculptor Alfredo Giusti when he was a World War II prisoner of war at the facility, then an internment camp. Participating in the unveiling are the Honorary Italian Consul, Carmen Di Amore-Siah and FOISOH President, Joe Magaldi.
- **February 20, 2000, March 4, 2001, and August 3, 2003:** The Great Italian Pasta Sauce-off is a competition to see who can produce the best pasta sauce. The food is not limited to sauce and includes fruit salads, meatballs, fish salad, vegetables, pasta, pastries, and cakes and gelato. A plaque is given to those who finish first, second, and third.



- **April 2002:** Bocce and Potluck Members of Honolulu's Friends of Italy Society got together for food and fun at Paki Hale in Waikiki, featuring a pasta potluck and contest and bocce, a sport closely related to lawn bowling. Joyce and Gene Guardian are among those sampling some of the pasta contest dishes during the potluck. This was an annual event for many years.

- **August 2002:** The Amerigo Vespucci, a three-square sail masted Italian Naval Academy training vessel is greeted by FOISOH members. The crew members are given orchid leis and entertained by the Royal Hawaiian Band and graceful hula dances. A week-long series of visits and events include the celebration of Mass on Sunday morning aboard the vessel and visits to the Italian World War II POW art works at Sand Island. Since the ship is considered Italian territory, a little piece of Italy has literally come to Hawai'i, a truly moving experience for FOISOH members.



*"We really want to create a cultural bridge between Italy and Hawai'i by bringing the best of authentic Italian film, fashion, and cuisine."*

- **2004-2011:** FOISOH is the inspiration for Cinema Italiano, a Honolulu film festival showcasing new Italian cinema in collaboration with the Istituto Italiano di Cultura di San Francisco, the Honolulu Academy of the Arts Doris Duke Theater (later the Kahala Mall/Kahala Consolidated Theaters), the Movie Museum and Ferrari/Maserati of Hawai'i. FOISOH President Margherita Balbo Parrent says the following in the Fall 2009 edition of HiLuxury Magazine: *"Once a year we get to showcase the best of Hawai'i and the best of Italy. We really want to create a cultural bridge between Italy and Hawai'i by bringing the best of authentic Italian film, fashion, and cuisine."* The event hosts stars such as Daniel Dae Kim, Barbara Carrera, Richard Chamberlain and Jason Scott Lee, and notable Italian film directors Franco Amurri and Marco Ponti, who created Santa Maradona.

The film festival invites film directors to visit public schools on O'ahu and offers a scholarship for University of Hawai'i's Academy of Creative Media. Over the years, the festival has provided more than \$15,000 in scholarships to aspiring filmmakers in the community.



- **August 15, 2004:** The Italian national polo team comes to Mokuleia Polo field to play the Hawaiian team and 30 FOISOH members attend. Daniel Garcia, the team veteran states *"for the Italian Team Hawai'i is a dream destination, a beautiful island in the Pacific Ocean."* The game ends in a tie and there is humorous speculation that this is because the Italians want to return for a rematch.



- **Winter 2005:** The Kapi'olani Community College Culinary Arts program and FOISOH present culinary classes specializing in Italian food. Italian Master Chefs from Oahu graciously donate their time and expertise in preparing Italian entrees, including gnocchi con salsa di pomodoro, stinco di agnello con polenta, zuppa di pesce, and cozze al guazzetto.
- **January 29, 2008:** FOISOH helps organize a concert by Interpreti Veneziani at the University of Hawai'i Mānoa campus. Interpreti Veneziani is a group of master musicians based in Venice, Italy. Its fifteen-member ensemble performs worldwide, with some 350 concerts annually. Typically, the traveling ensemble includes nine members, which is the case for this concert in Hawai'i. They perform works by Corelli, Vivaldi, Handel, Sarasate, Marais, and other Baroque composers.





- **April 2011:** Friends of Italy 20th Anniversary Festa. On April 17, over 150 members gather at La Pietra School to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of FOISOH. The goal of the Festa is to not only celebrate Italian culture through great food and live entertainment, but to also recognize past and present members who have made significant contributions to the organization in the last 20 years as well as members of the community who have made distinguished contributions.
- **February 2012:** Members enjoy Carnevale with the Alliance Française complete with costumes and French and Italian music. Following welcoming remarks, a dinner was served and then guests paraded in their costumes followed by dancing. The event was repeated the following year.



- **2012-2017:** FOISOH organizes a variety of events -- bocce games; picnics; pizza parties; lectures; wine tastings; classes on how to make sausage, pasta, limoncello, and gnocchi; wine-bottling; olive- oil tasting; and a risotto demonstration. Risotto-making, pasta-making, and wine tasting dinners are also held at Baci Bistro and Brick Fire Tavern.

- **May-September 2017:** The club restarts conversational Italian classes, *Parliamo Italiano*, and initiates formal classes of Italian for beginners with Dr. Carlo Andrea Malanima.



- **October 2017-2018:** FOISOH launches “Festa Italiana Hawai’i” on Cooke Street in Kaka’ako, with crowds of people, delicious food and wine, stirring music, fancy Italian sports cars and other entertainment.
- **December 10, 2017:** Festa di Natale, held at Café Julia features good food, beautiful music, dancing, gifts, and of course, Babbo Natale!



- **April 17, 2018:** Italian courses expand to beginner, intermediate, advanced, and conversational levels with instructor Chiara Logli, Ph.D.
- **June 15, 2018:** The main event of the evening was the premiere of the fascinating documentary “Arrangiarsi... pizza and the art of living” by filmmaker Matteo Troncone, followed by an informative Q&A. The event took place at the Honolulu Museum of Art’s Doris Duke Theater. The reception at the Doris Duke Courtyard featured music of Pierre Grill and delicious mini pizzas courtesy of the Brick Fire Tavern



- November 2018 – February 2020:** FOISOH organizes a variety of lectures at da Shop in Kaimuki, painting, dancing (Tarantella) and cooking classes (risotto, limoncello and tiramisu and pasta making with Chef Ivo Rossi), as well as the traditional Cena di Natale and the annual Board Meeting and dinner. Language classes also continue.



FRIENDS OF ITALY SOCIETY OF HAWAII  
PRESENTS



**RISOTTO**

COOKING CLASS

SATURDAY OCTOBER 5 • 5:30-9PM  
PRIVATE RESIDENCE (KAHALA)



friendsofitalyhawaii.org




FRIENDS OF ITALY SOCIETY OF HAWAII  
PRESENTS

**PAINTING  
IN ITALIAN**

Saturday November 9, 16, 23  
9:30-11:30am  
Garden in Honolulu

friendsofitalyhawaii.org



**LIMONCELLO**

DEMONSTRATION

*If life gives you lemons,  
make limoncello!*

Saturday September 7  
5:30-8:00pm  
Hawaii Loa Ridge Clubhouse

www.friendsofitalyhawaii.org

## Spring 2020:

The COVID-19 pandemic begins in Hawai'i and throughout the world. FOISOH in person gatherings are canceled for much of the year. Lectures and cooking and Italian language classes move to an online, virtual format.



FOISOH presents a brand-new logo for the organization. The hibiscus is the state flower of Hawai'i, and the composition comes in Italian colors. Although the look is new, our heart, our culture, and our sense of community remains.

**Spring 2022:** Hawai'i reopens from the pandemic, and FOISOH celebrates its 30th anniversary in style at La Pietra!

## *Finalmente!*

After a two-year wait, our beloved society celebrated its 30th (2+) Anniversary!

Held on the majestic grounds of La Pietra, over 150 were treated to an array of music and dance performances, an incredible buffet of Italian food and wine and a lei-giving ceremony with speeches by special guests and our beloved Board Members!

A big *grazie mille* to Bottleheads in Kailua for generously donating the wine, and to Ristorante Taormina for the *cibo delizioso!*



## Part II

### Gazzettino Articles with Italian-Hawaiian Connections

#### Chapter 1: Italian Sugar Cane Workers in Hawai'i

By Mark Ethridge and Sandra Perez

Polynesian explorers from islands to the south had brought sugarcane to the Hawaiian Islands along with other food crops. The first written record of sugar cane in Hawai'i is by Captain James Cook as he sailed by the south side of Kauai in 1778. Cook wrote that "We saw no wood, but what was up in the interior part of the island, except a few trees about the villages; near which, also, we could observe several plantations of plantains and sugar-canes. . . . " There was no evidence that the Hawaiians processed the cane, but rather they used it in cooking or ate it raw by simply chewing the juicy stalks.

After exploring the Pacific Northwest, Cook returned to the islands and sailed down the island chain to Maui and then Hawai'i, trading with the natives for pigs, fruits, and root crops. Cook experimented with beer made from sugar as an antidote for scurvy. On December 19, 1778, writes: "Having procured a quantity of sugar-cane; and having, upon a trial, made but a few days before, found that a strong decoction

of it produced a very palatable beer, I ordered some more to be brewed, for our general use. But when the cask was broached, not one of my crew would even taste it." He later made the beer a little more "palatable" with the addition of some hops. It is not clear how he got the sugar in the boiling water, but it appears the cane was pounded and mashed prior to boiling.

One of the earliest reports of sugar production in Hawai'i is by an Italian named simply as "Lavinia." "Sugar was made in Honolulu about 1823, by Lavinia, an Italian, who had the cane pounded or mashed on huge wooden trays (poi boards) by natives with stone beaters, collecting the juice and boiling it in a small copper kettle."

The first commercial operation would be by Ladd & Co. at Koloa on the island of Kauai. Production would spread throughout the islands in the years to come, and by 1850, finding sufficient labor was becoming a serious problem. The sugar cane industry would first turn to the Chinese, importing them in large numbers. Be-



tween 1850 and 1898, about 50,000 Chinese came to work in the fields, although about half would return home. However, the planters did not want the Chinese population to grow too large, and they began seeking other nationalities to work in the cane fields.

In 1878, the Japanese started to arrive in large numbers, followed by smaller numbers of Portuguese workers. With the Japanese starting to organize and demand better working conditions, and the Portuguese proving too costly to bring in (many came with families), the plantation owners looked to other sources of labor around 1900. After Puerto Rico became a U.S. territory, the island's inhabitants were viewed as another potential source of labor as well

as Filipinos. It is at this time that the Hawaiian planters experimented with the idea of employing Italians, who were arriving on the U.S. East Coast in massive numbers. About 1900, the Dept. of Commerce suggested that a Board of Immigration agent be hired to recruit Italian immigrants in New York City to work in Hawai'i's cane fields.

The system was made difficult by the padrone system under which a labor contractor made all necessary arrangements for the immigrants. The high cost of travel was also a problem. Many of these agricultural workers were sent to Louisiana and it was hard for the recruiters to divert the flow to Hawai'i.



However, approximately 1,200 Italians were hired to work in Hawai'i by this method before the effort was abandoned due to the recruiting obstacles and the high cost of transportation. Some of them came under the padrone system and one such group was reported on Maui under the leadership of Eugenio del Guindice, who was fluent in English. The workers spoke no English. Guindice was reported to have come from Louisiana and understood sugar cane work. When twenty of his workers left the Kahului Railroad, plantation managers were told not to offer them work.

Another specific reference to Italians coming to Hawai'i to work in the cane fields is from the pages of the Times Picayune of New Orleans during August and September 1901.

The articles discuss the transport of sugar cane workers from Puerto Rico to the Hawaiian Islands and attempts by Hawaiian planters to recruit Italian sugar cane workers living in Louisiana.

The article mentions that a "Dr. Fulton was back in New Orleans on behalf of the HSPA (Hawai'i Sugar Planters Association), not to escort Puerto Ricans, but to escort sixty Italians who had been recruited in the parishes of Franklin, Houma, and Schriever. He would take them to San Francisco and be back on August 13 to pick up another 150. The Italians who had gone with the first two groups of Puerto Ricans were working on the Spreckels Plantation [Maui]. That one plantation wanted 2,000 more italians."

Howell from La Fourche Parish states that he wants the Italians to remain in Louisiana:

*“Ah, the Italians – they have become part of the bone and sinew of our plantation life in this state. They are valuable and have endeared themselves to the planter.*

*I believe the general feeling in the sugar belt of this state is averse to seeing the [Italian] removed from our midst. He has worked his way into a valued position. Therefore, the call from Hawai'i for 20,000 Italians is not looked upon with favor by our cane growers...*

*I would dread to see anything like a scarcity of the Italians arise... They work faithfully; work hard and are peaceable. You can depend on them. At the tap of the plantation's bell every mother's son of them is on deck, ready for work...*

*The Italian wants to work. He never wants to lose a single day.”*

# L'ITALO-AMERICANO LABOR BUREAU!

For the past ten years there has been a large immigration into the State of Louisiana. In this decade there disembarked at the port of New Orleans 4500 ITALIANS. These immigrants are mostly STRONG, HEALTHY, ABLE BODIED INDUSTRIOUS MEN. AS LABORERS THEY HAVE NO SUPERIORS. Attracted by our temperate climate and the fertile resource of our State, they have come here in search of homes. CAPITALISTS, PLANTATION OWNERS, RAILROAD CONTRACTORS, AND, IN FACT, ALL PERSONS WHO WORE LABORERS IN GREAT NUMBERS, FIND THE ITALIAN IMMIGRANT A VALUABLE ACQUISITION, BECAUSE OF HIS WILLINGNESS AND HIS PECULIAR ADAPTABILITY TO HARD WORK. A WELL EQUIPPED AND RELIABLE LABOR BUREAU IS WANTED

This want L'ITALO AMERICANO PURPOSES TO SUPPLY.

We will furnish Laborers, Proprietors, and employment to Laborers. One position is one which eminently qualifies us for the office we have elected to fill. Our circulation is not confined within narrow limits. It embraces nearly the entire United States, and our acquaintances with the Rail Road Authorities, Plantation Owners and Contractors gives us special facilities for serving satisfactorily and justly both employer and laborer.

## L'ITALO AMERICANO LABOR BUREAU

Will be in charge of a thoroughly competent person, who will devote to it his constant and undivided attention. Our charges will be moderate whilst our services will be found to be of great value.

**CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED.**

**ADDRESS:**

**L'ITALO AMERICANO,**

**23 POYDRAS STREET,**

**NEW ORLEANS, LA.**

Advertisement for the Italo-American Labor Bureau in  
New Orleans, Louisiana

The article reports that on August 21, 1901, 185 Puerto Ricans arrived in Honolulu. Albert Minvielle had come in from the Olaa plantation on the island of Hawai'i to meet them and take them back with him. The Colon also delivered 32 Italian laborers (September 2, 1901).

We are unable to find any further reference to these Italian sugar cane workers in Maui. If you know of any long-time residents with Italian ancestry living on that island, please let us know. We would like to hear some of your ancestors' life stories...

In addition to the Times Picayune articles, the article "The Beginnings of Sugar Production in Hawai'i," by Robert L. Cushing, in *The Hawai'i Journal of History*, Vol. 19, 1985, was paraphrased in our article.



*Japanese workers on Spreckels Plantation, Maui, oil on canvas painting by  
Joseph Dwight Strong, 1885*

## Chapter 2:

### Book Presentation: *Storie Straordinarie di Italiani nel Pacifico*

By Mark Ethridge

On October 28, 2016, the editor and some of the authors of the recently published *Storie Straordinarie di Italiani nel Pacifico* (Remarkable Stories of Italians in the Pacific) presented a lecture and roundtable discussion at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Guido Pigliasco, co-editor of the book, teaches anthropology and Italian language and culture at the University. He was joined by University of Hawai'i colleagues and authors Inconronata (Nadia) Inserra, Lorenz Gonschor, and Louis Bousquet.

The book is a collection of memoirs and narratives of little-known Italian adventurers, explorers, and travelers in late 19th century Oceania. Three of the stories take place in whole or in part in Hawai'i, which was at the time a constitutional monarchy. These three tales follow the lives of John Dominis, Celso Cesare Moreno, and Gina Sobrero.

John Dominis, a resident of Trieste, now part of Italy, but formerly part of the Austrian Empire, originally fled service in the Austrian army and settled in California and then the Pacific Northwest and eventually, moved with his family to Honolulu where he would build an imposing residence called Washington Place. His son, John Owen, studied in the best schools and then became the prince consort of Queen Lili'uokalani.



Celso Cesare Moreno lived an adventure-filled and tumultuous life throughout the Pacific and managed to get himself appointed for five days as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of King Kalakaua. Later, he became a U.S. Congressman where he sponsored legislation, “*The Moreno Bill*”, which banned the exploitation of Italian immigrant children.

The collection also includes the Hawai'i experiences of an Italian woman of noble birth, Gina Sobrero, wife of the Hawaiian politician Robert William Wilcox. Her stay in Hawai'i and her longing for return to Italy pushed her to write a diary titled the “Expatriate” and published under the pseudonym of Mantea.

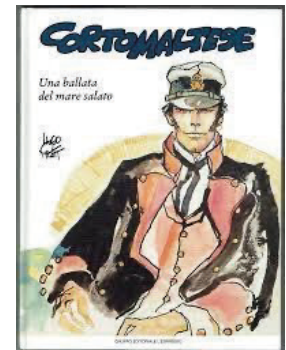


Gina Sobrero  
and her daughter

In his presentation and in his book, Dr. Pigliasco pays homage to the Italian comic book creator, Hugo Pratt, and to the fictional sea captain/adventurer he created, “*Corto Maltese*.” Next year, 2017 will be the 50th anniversary of the debut of the character in the story titled “*Una ballata del mare salato*” (Ballad of the Salt Sea).

In fact, according to Dr. Pigliasco, Pratt's stories inspired a narrative for the book similar to that presented in *Corto Maltese* where the sea captain encounters numerous historical and fictional figures. The biographies of the Italians in this collection seem to announce and, in some sense, anticipate those remarkable individuals we see in Hugo Pratt's fictional creation.

*Dr. Pigliasco's book can be ordered on Amazon (currently in Italian only).*





### Chapter 3:

#### Robert W. Wilcox: The Hawaiian Garibaldi

By Mark Ethridge

In the Fort Street Mall facing King Street in downtown Honolulu stands a statue of a dashing young man dressed in a late 19th century Italian military uniform. The man is Robert W.

Wilcox, the charismatic leader of two failed uprisings during the tumultuous period of the last days of Hawaiian monarchy and the early days of the Republic of Hawai'i.

His biography is briefly summarized on the front panel of the statue which was erected in 1993: "Robert William Kalanihiapo Wilcox February 15, 1855, --October 23, 1903, Robert Wilcox was born at Honua'ula, Maui in 1855 the son of Captain William Slocum Wilcox and Kalua Makoleokalani who descended from Maui royalty. He was known to the Hawaiian people as "Ka Liona Hae O Ka Pakipika" (The Roaring Lion of the Pacific)

He was extremely popular among the Hawaiian people as an educator and legislator. He served as Hawai'i's first delegate to Congress from 1900 to 1902. Wilcox led two counter--insurgency movements in 1889 and 1895 against the foreign interests which had seized control of the Hawaiian Government. Tried for treason, he was found not guilty by a jury of Hawaiians and part--Hawaiians under the ethnic jury system then in effect. In 1895, he again organized an army to overthrow the Republic of Hawai'i. The Republican forces suppressed the counter--revolutionaries and Wilcox revolutionaries and Wilcox was court--martialed and



sentenced to death. Sanford B. Dole, President of the Republic of Hawai'i gave him a full pardon in 1898 after the U.S. Congress intervened.

First married to Gina Sobrero of Italy, Wilcox took as his second wife Princess Theresa Owana Kaohelalani Laanui.

After serving as Hawai'i's congressional delegate, Wilcox died in 1903 while campaigning for Sheriff of Honolulu. The Home Rule Party, composed largely of Hawaiians, had petitioned President Theodore Roosevelt to appoint Wilcox as Governor. He might have received the appointment had he lived."

In addition to his deep love of his Hawaiian homeland, Wilcox had a unique and deep connection with Italy and that aspect of his life is the focus of this article.

The Italian connection begins in 1879, when Robert Wilcox was selected by King Kalakaua as one of three Hawaiian youth (although Wilcox was already 25) to participate in a new European study abroad program. Wilcox's selection may have been influenced by an Italian--born adventurer, Celso Cesare Moreno, who had gained the favor of Kalakaua and had been appointed as Foreign Minister until being forced by public pressure to remove him (Moreno's story is mentioned in the December 2016 Gazzettino).

Wilcox insisted that the King had the right to appoint whomever he chose, and he put up signs around town proclaiming "*Way up Moreno!*", defending Moreno as a champion of the native Hawaiian people. Therefore, Wilcox's selection may have to some extent been "payback" for his support of Moreno and Kalakaua. The king continued to favor Moreno and appointed him as guardian and escort for the three young Hawaiians during their schooling abroad.



Niccolò di Bernardo di Machiavelli

Wilcox was enrolled in the Royal Academy of Civil and Military Engineers in Turin, Italy. In Turin, Wilcox was first exposed to European history and literature.

He learned of the Italian patriots Count Camillo Benso di Cavour and Giuseppe Garibaldi and would later try to apply their stories to Hawai'i. He also studied *The Prince* of Machiavelli and thought its lessons applicable to the Hawaiian political system, in particular, the need for a strong political leader in times of political turmoil.

Wilcox was so excited with Machiavelli that he sent a copy of *The Prince* to King Kalakaua. The King however, replied less than enthusiastically, stating that while he knew the work he found “*half of the instructions antiquated and inconsequential in these times of Higher Learning.*”

Before commencing his studies in the spring of 1881, Moreno introduced Wilcox and the other students to Giuseppe Garibaldi. He gave them the following advice:

*“The most important thing I wish to tell you is this: Each of you hold fast in your heart from this hour on. Know and love your fellow man. Love your King and your country and acquire wisdom to return to governmental work of your wise King.”*

Wilcox graduated from the Turin Military Academy, and then enrolled in the Royal Training School of Artillery and Engineering (Scuola d'Applicazione d'Artiglieria e Genio). The school was located in a large, imposing stone structure that during the Renaissance was Turin's Armory. It still functions today as a military school now called Scuola d'Applicazione d'Arma.

Wilcox excelled in his studies, ranking in the top half of his class, all the more remarkable for a

Hawaiian expatriate with no previous European academic experience. Wilcox was very happy in this Italian aristocratic environment, and he was excessively proud on the day he earned the right to wear the elaborate uniform of an Italian army officer.

Although his uniform was very expensive, Wilcox rationalized its purchase when he wrote to his guardian that he would probably make use of the uniform at home in Hawai'i. Wilcox did in fact wear the uniform during two revolutions, and the uniform entered into the legends of Hawai'i's revolutionary era. A biography of Wilcox by Thomas Nakanaela, his biographer, includes a Hawaiian chant, noting the admiring popular response to the sight of Wilcox so splendidly clad. "*Behold Wilcox,*" goes the chant, "*in the glittering apparel of Italy, he resembles a yellow--striped bird!*" Thus, Wilcox became "*Italianized*" as his Honolulu critics would complain.

During his stay in Italy, Wilcox became enamored of and eventually married Gina Sobrero, a woman of Italian noble descent. Wilcox called her his "*little lehua blossom,*" and promised her she would be a "queen" in Hawai'i.



On June 15, 1887, they were married. At the wedding, the Italian press commented on Wilcox and the two other Hawaiian students expressing a hearty liking for *“these pleasant and amiable gentlemen, whose manners are polished and whose conversation is highly intelligent.”* They were pleased that Wilcox “should have chosen one of the most beautiful flowers of the garden of Italy to transplant to those far away regions, where reigns an eternal spring.” *His marriage to Italian nobility also enhanced his own claim to a royal heritage as his mother also came from a royal Hawaiian family and was even referred to by some as “Prince Wilcox — —half Hawaiian royalty, half Italian.”*

Unfortunately, their marriage was not to last —Gina gradually became disenchanted when the reality that confronted her in Hawai‘i did not match the wonderful picture that her husband had painted. *“My God! A country where there is no telegraph —and where it takes a letter a month to arrive? ... these island anthills in the Pacific.”* (Cuzzi and Pigiiasco 2016). Also, her husband’s revolutionary ambitions were probably not conducive to a stable family life.

Her stay in Hawai‘i and her longing for return to Italy pushed her to write a diary titled the “Expatriate” and published under the pseudonym of Mantea. Her story is discussed in detail in one of the chapters of the 2016 book titled “Storie straordinarie dei italiani nel Pacifico” by Marco Cuzzi and Guido Carlo Pigiiasco.

As mentioned previously Wilcox would proudly wear his Italian uniform into battle on several occasions. It was certainly his most prized possession. During the 1889 insurrection he mobilized about 300 armed followers clad in red shirts following the tradition of the Garibaldi “red shirts.” During the 1895 unsuccessful counter--revolution, he lost the Italian cape to his uniform in a hasty retreat from Diamond Head to the Palolo where it was seized by his pursuers as a war trophy.



A century later, on September 11, 1993, about 350 people gathered in downtown Honolulu for a ceremony and the unveiling of a statue honoring Robert Wilcox. The ceremony was steeped in Hawaiian cultural tradition. Tributes were made to Wilcox through nab mele ku'auhau (chants), no mele hula (dances), and the blowing of the sacred pu (conch shell).

Various speakers honored Wilcox with speeches. City Council Chairperson Gary Gill, who originally proposed the idea for the statue, declared:

*“. . . today for me is a triumph. For after a hundred years, a great figure in Hawaiian history is finally receiving the recognition that he's due. Robert Wilcox was a patriot.*

*Robert Wilcox stood for truth, independence, nationhood, and sovereignty in a day when American imperialism was conquering the Pacific.”*

Mayor Frank F. Fasi (coincidentally an Italian American) proclaimed September 11, 1993 as Robert Wilcox Day. After his speech, Fasi unveiled the Wilcox statue. When revealed, one could see a bronze-like figure of Wilcox in his uniform of an Italian cavalry officer standing boldly, or defiantly, while holding his sword. Fasi then made a ho'okupu (offering) to the statue.

On the left panel is written the following inscription:

### **Hawaiian Freedom Fighter Returns from Italy**

In 1880 King Kalakaua selected Wilcox among others to study abroad. He was admitted to the Royal Military Academy at Turin Italy, where he graduated as an Officer of Artillery. Promoted to Sub-Lieutenant of Artillery he was completing his studies when recalled by the Hawaiian Government in 1887. Inspired by the Italian patriot, Guiseppe Garibaldi, Lieutenant Wilcox is depicted here in his Garibaldi uniform which he frequently and proudly wore. He was regarded by many of his countrymen as a national hero due to his commitment to defend the independence of the Hawaiian monarchy.

Much of this article was paraphrased from the Translator's Introduction of Nancy J. Morris to the Biography of the Hon. Robert William Wilcox by Thomas K. Nakanaela, Honolulu 1993.



## Chapter 4

### Gina Sobrero, An Italian Baroness in Hawai'i

By Mark Ethridge

In 1908, Gina Sobrero, under the nom de plume "Mantea," published an account of her marriage, honeymoon, long voyage to Hawai'i and her brief stay in Honolulu from October 1887 to February 1888. This travel diary provides a rare, firsthand account of the abrupt transition from her quiet, privileged, and protected life in Turin to the tumultuous events occurring late in Hawaiian King David Kalakaua's reign in which her husband, Robert William Wilcox played a leading role (Robert Wilcox's story is featured in the August 2017 Gazzettino).

Gina Sobrero was born in 1863 in a noble family. Her father, Baron Lorenzo Sobrero, was a colonel in the Piemontese army. The mother, Vittoria Colonna di Stigliano, was a Neapolitan noblewoman. Ascanio Sobrero, a relative, was a chemist who discovered nitroglycerine. Giovanni Giolitti, five times the prime minister of Italy from 1892 to 1921, entered the family

by marriage to Rosa Sobrero.

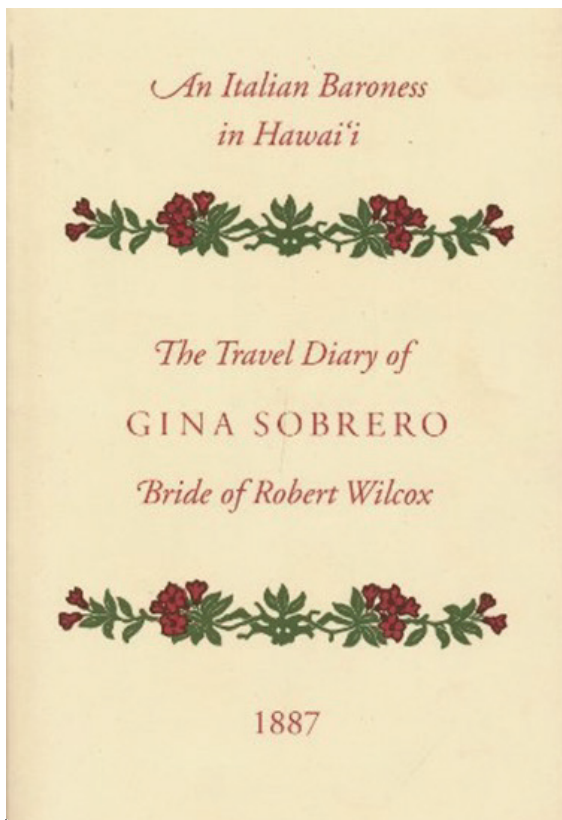
The book which is titled "*L'Expatriata: Da Torino a Honolulu*," (the expatriate: from Turin to Honolulu) is titled "*An Italian Baroness in Hawai'i*" in the English translation which was published by Edgar C. Knowlton of the Hawaiian Historical Society in 1991. The book is divided into three parts: the first, discusses Gina's courtship, marriage, and honeymoon; the second describes the first part of her voyage from Turin to San Francisco; the last recounts her time spent in Honolulu.

This article focuses on Gina's stay in Honolulu and her observations on Hawai'i's monarchy, the people, food and culture, and her husband's political intrigues.

Her husband, Robert Kalana-hiapo William Wilcox, was the son of William Slocum Wilcox, a sea captain from Rhode Island and Kalua Makole-o-kalani Hiapo, a Hawaiian woman of noble origin belonging to the royal family of Maui. Wilcox, along with other Hawaiian youth, was chosen by King Kalakaua to participate in a study abroad program which we have discussed in other Gazzettino articles. Robert Wilcox studied in the *Scuola d'Applicazione d'Artiglieria e Genio* in Turin. It was there that he frequented the upper social circles of Turin society where he met Gina Sobrero, who was charmed by the handsome young man in military uniform. Robert and Gina were soon married in an impressive ceremony in June of 1887 in Turin, Italy.

The local Honolulu newspaper, the Daily Bulletin of Honolulu reported on the day's events with an ironic twist: Louisa [sic] Sobrero, daughter of the Baron Lorenzo Sobrero, a Colonel of the Italian military, was married in Turin on the 15th inst., to Robert Wilcox of the Sandwich Islands, a pupil of the Italian military academy. Young Wilcox's mother was a native Hawaiian.

E. Andrade Jr., the American author of "*Unconquerable Rebel: Robert W. Wilcox and Hawaiian Politics, 1890-1903*," maintains that Wilcox intended to make Italy his home. This was not to happen, however, as Wilcox was called back to Hawai'i on August 29 after King Kalakaua was forced to sign the Bayonet Constitution on July 6, 1887, which deprived the monarchy of much of its power and transferred it to native white Hawaiian (plantation owners and descendants of missionary families) and American elites.



In her travel diary, Gina accepts the news rather stoically, but still is not excited about leaving the only home she had known and settling in a strange new land. Nonetheless the thought of a voyage does not evoke much enthusiasm and she envies those who live in Paris while she instead is going to the Sandwich Islands. *“Oh the ugly name which for now arouses only the image of ham, liver hash, and buttered bread,”* she laments.

In September, the couple began the long journey to Hawai‘i. Traveling through Paris, London, Dublin and then crossing the Atlantic to continue the journey through New York, Chicago, Omaha, and San Francisco before sailing to Hawai‘i. In San Francisco, Gina sends home a final telegram home, realizing that she will be isolated once she arrives in Honolulu.



Robert Wilcox

Gina writes: *“Here is the idea that sent me into bitter sadness: being separated from everyone without even the comfort of a recent letter, or of a laconic telegram with the thoughts of the last hour.”*

Gina and her husband arrive in Honolulu on October 8, 1887. She observes with pleasure *“the noble grace with which Honolulu extends over the all-green island,”* and notes that Diamond Head reminds her of the profile of Vesuvius in the Bay of Naples. Gina and Robert initially find lodging with Lucy and Sam Nowlein. Mr. Nowlein’s daughter attended the Wilcox wedding and was one of the last students sent abroad by Kalakaua to study.

Gina is not overly impressed with Hawaiian food and complains of being hungry for Italian cuisine:

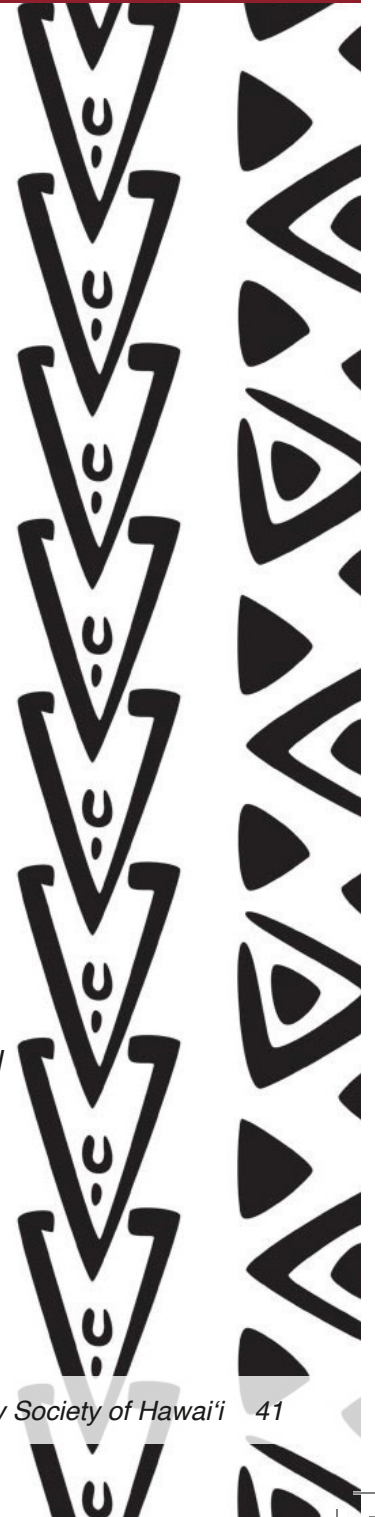
*“Imagine! They eat raw fish prepared with seaweed and spices that stink; little pieces of pork cooked I know not how, but rather badly, rice boiled in water, no bread and instead poi which is a type of polenta made with taro, a root similar to a potato, that the Chinese grind in large mortars, and that they let ferment in calabashes, sort of a bowl carved from coconuts which some engrave with fine etchings... the Hawaiians eat with their hands, they don’t drink wine, they don’t know soup, and the very fruit that abounds throughout the island doesn’t have a place on the family table. I ask, can a European stomach ever get used to such a diet?”*



To Gina it seems that the inhabitants are dedicated to the principle of *“dolce far niente,”* and *“take great pleasure in music-making, and play the mandolin, the guitar and the banjo with real talent; they sing chants with a moving sweetness and have such pleasant and clear voices that if one couldn’t see them you would think they were choirs of angels.”*

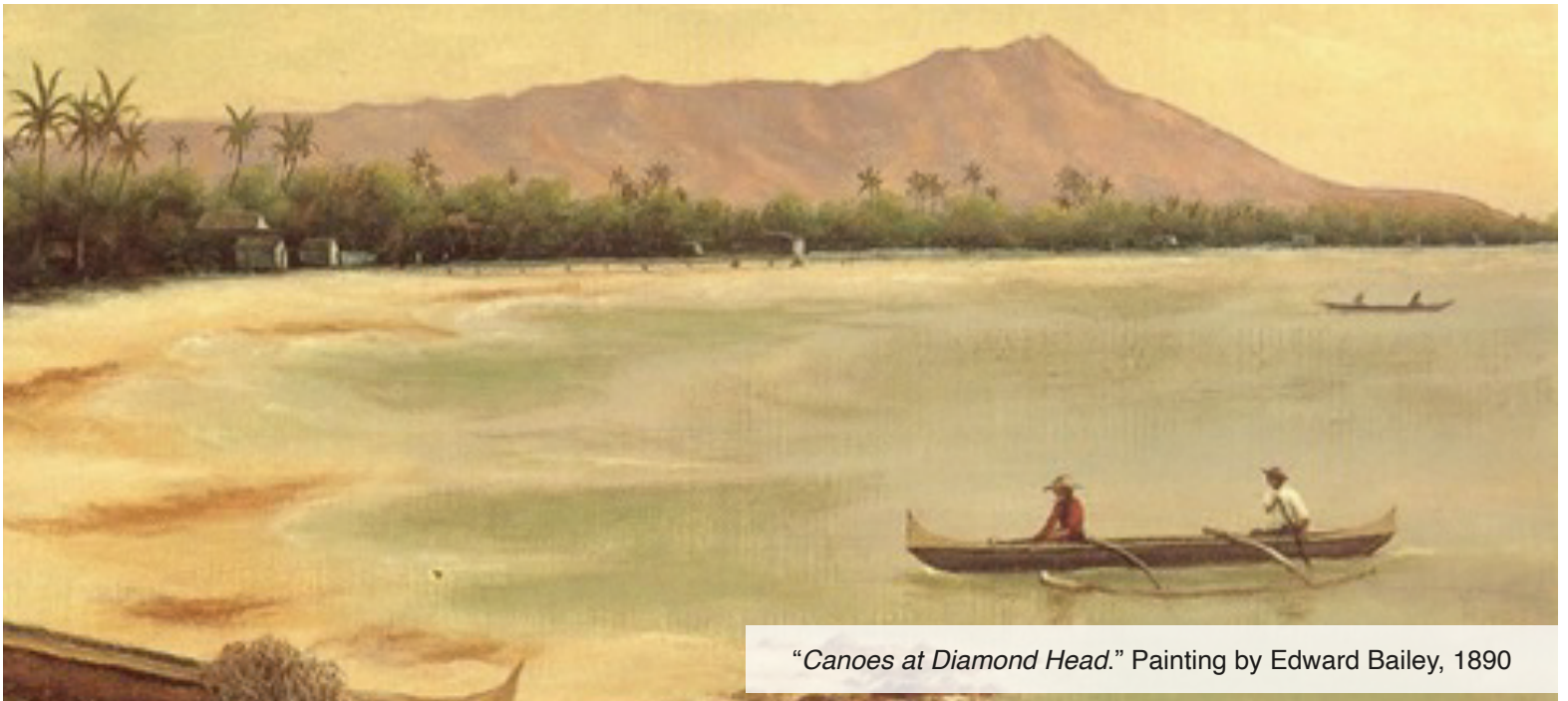
But then there are the mosquitos! *“But try to enjoy these harmonies among the clouds of mosquitoes that envelope you, assault you, bite you, suck you, and eat you without pity, without pausing. Bugs! This is another cross that we must bear: roaches as big as your hand, spiders whose extended legs cover half a meter, with hairy bodies, eyes that watch you, millipedes as big and long as you would see in a museum, enormous caterpillars and many others...not only do you find them in fields, meadows, and in the shade of the woods, but they invaded the houses, climb the walls, insert themselves under the mosquito netting, and bother the sleep, take away my peace, and make me a nervous wreck.”*

After 20 days, the King offers the Robert a pension and the couple leaves the Nowlien family and takes up residence in a fine boarding house located in the middle of a large garden, with huge trees, including tamarinds, palms, Chinese oranges, pomegranates, limes, cedars, tree ferns, and with climbing rose bushes, vanilla, jasmine, and mimosa. *“During the night of the full moon no one sleeps, on the island, one would say that the muse of music enters all the inhabitants and makes the instruments resonate, and places songs on the lips of everyone. The band plays in Queen Emma’s Park beneath rows of colossal palms, which sways in the breeze with a rustling noise that is in itself a melody.”*



Even the Americans, the British, and the European community participate in these festivities in their carriages or in parks and cafes, enjoying “*the famous gelati for which the island is renowned, which are prepared with the flavoring of bananas, strawberries, guavas, mangoes, and other delicious fruits...*”

After the music, she recounts that the natives go on boat rides, organize dinners up and down Waikiki Beach. She notes that the native Hawaiians are excellent swimmers, and that they bathe in the waters only during moonlit nights, and do not fear the sharks that often come right up to the beach.



“Canoes at Diamond Head.” Painting by Edward Bailey, 1890

She describes how she, as a European noblewoman married to a local, is viewed as something exotic and fascinating to the inhabitants: “*In this moment I spent my quarter hour of fame, I am a little like a rare animal, a new object in the museum, a circus curiosity; everyone wants to see me,*

*meet me close up; I receive many visits, my writing desk is filled with invitations to garden-parties, ice cream-parties, balls, lunches, and if I took advantage of all of them, I wouldn't have one day of rest."*

One invitation she could not refuse was that of King Kalakaua who invited her and Robert to his palace. She intends to do her best to impress the King favorably, for she feels she is not just representing herself, but all Italians and her native country. Her heart skips a beat when she enters Iolani Palace and sees the palace guards in white uniforms present their arms as they pass.

The King greets the couple warmly and she is impressed: *"The king showed himself to be extremely courteous, and a perfect man of the world; he spoke to me of Europe, and especially of Italy which he had visited, and which he was enthusiastic, of our history which he knew rather well, and of our sovereign, to which he offered a fervent toast with his overflowing glass of champagne, which profoundly moved me, for it was more than mere politeness, and at this moment the palace band played the first notes of our royal march."*

During her stay she meets a Dr. De Lungo with whom she develops a platonic relationship. He goes to Kauai to help a leper colony there (the colony was on Moloka'i—perhaps an error on Gina's part) and, according to Gina he is nominated by the king to be the court doctor, and for this work with the lepers he is awarded the Order of Kamehameha V and has given a residence to carry on his work.

It should be noted that there is no record of the honors awarded to De Longo by Kalakaua as described by Gina, and in fact, no record at all of a Mario De Longo in ship passenger lists or in other island sources, leading some to believe this may have been a fictitious person.



She also describes an Italian coachman named Michele who takes her on a ride to the Nu'uana Pali which she finds refreshing and delightful. "Good man! Out of pure respect I didn't embrace him, and he too was moved; he didn't want to accept our money... and we couldn't refuse visiting his clean and gracious home which he would maybe never have in Italy." This is also an interaction between classes that never would have occurred in Italy—but when you're an expatriate, meeting a compatriot can momentarily erase those class divisions...



Princess Liliuokalani at Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee 1887

During this time, Gina also visits Saint Louis College which makes a pleasant impression on her *"of the order, the cleanliness which reigns supreme, the sense of individual liberty that pervades every room...the students attend this model school where they learn not only science and languages, but the art of drawing and music, and give really amazing recitals."*

In December, Gina and William move into the palace of Princess Liliuokalani and Robert Wilcox becomes involved in a plot to remove Kalakaua from power and replace him with Liliuokalani who the conspirators believe will stand up to the white, wealthy landowners who had forced Kalakaua to relinquish much of his power.

(There is no proof Liliuokalani participated in this plot, and she condemned it as *"foolish and ill-organized."*)

The plot is discovered, and Wilcox is charged with treason. Gina pleads with the authorities to spare her husband imprisonment

and they agree to let him go into exile in San Francisco. Gina pawns her jewels to raise money for the ticket to San Francisco.

Gina concludes her diary: *“I want to forget the surges of emotion, the humiliations of these days... the money collected from friends and acquaintances, which should return my liberty; I want to forget how much I have suffered, I want even to forgive in order to return to my country, among the people that I never should have left...”*

Wilcox would return the next year to continue his plotting. Henceforth his life would be forever part of the history of Hawaiian resistance. In every resistance effort from 1887 to 1903, when he died, Wilcox played a significant role. He was Hawai‘i’s first representative to the U.S. Congress from 1900 to 1903.

Gina would not follow, but instead went back to Italy where she published her travel diary in 1908 and died in 1912.

Sources: This article is based on the original Italian version of “L’Expatriata,” reprinted by Salerno Editrice, Roma, 2007, accompanying footnotes, and an introduction written by Ombretta Frau in 2007.

## Chapter 5

### Hawaiian Students in Italy under King Kalakaua's Hawaiian Youths Abroad Program: Robert Napu'uako Boyd and James Kaneholo Booth

By Mark Ethridge

Between 1880 and 1891, during the reign of King David Kalakaua, a total of 18 young Hawaiians were sent overseas to study as part of the "*Hawaiian Youths Abroad Program*." The goal of the program was to train the young Hawaiians so that they could be of service to their King and country.

The locations selected were Italy, England, Scotland, China, Japan, and the United States. The participants were personally chosen by King Kalakaua and included 17 men and one woman studying diverse subjects such as engineering, medicine, art, music, military science, and foreign languages. Of these 18, five were sent to Italy.

The first group of students left Honolulu on August 30, 1880. The group included Robert Napu'uako Boyd, Robert William Wilcox, and James Kaneholo Booth, under the guardianship of Celso Caesar Moreno.

Kalākaua had wanted the three to attend a Prussian military academy, but Moreno later found the idea to be impractical because of the rigor of the Prussian program and the fact that none of the students had any knowledge of the German language. Moreno, who was born in Italy, managed to locate through his connections three different academies in Livorno, Turin, and Naples.



We have already written a separate feature article about one of these three, Robert Wilcox in Chapter 3 of this work, so this article will concentrate on the other two students in this first group studying in Italy, Robert Napu‘uako Boyd, and James Kaneholo Booth.



### **Robert Napu‘uako Boyd**

Robert Napu‘uako Boyd was born on April 2, 1864, in Honolulu to Edwin Harbottle Boyd (of British ancestry) and Maria Punapanaewa Adams Boyd (Native Hawaiian).

His mother was an adopted granddaughter of King Kamehameha I and his great grandfather was a British naval officer who served Kamehameha I. Robert Boyd attended Punahou (then called the Oahu School) with James Kaneholo Booth, who would also later study in Italy.

Initially Boyd performed well in his studies at the Royal Naval Academy in Livorno, Italy. However, in 1884, Boyd failed to pass his final exam at the Naval Academy. In his desperation, he penned an anguished letter to the King, apologizing and offering to return home.

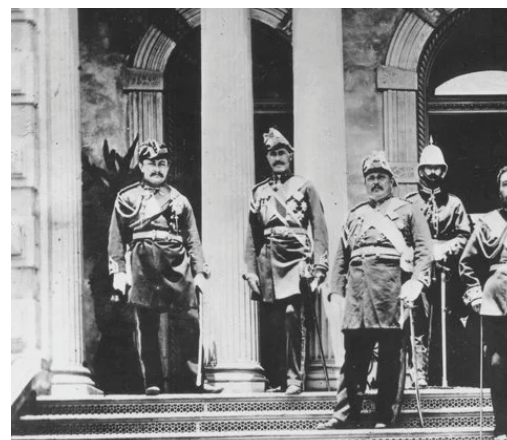
*“Dear-Sire:*

*Excuse my short note but have the patience to read it to the end. I have studied immensely this year, and had many fine reports; but yesterday I failed in my final examination; what does it mean?*

*Now Your Majesty must know the truth, and nothing else but the truth, I am five years abroad, and during this short period I have suffered more than a man of forty... There has been times in which I wished to run away and beg for my living, but when I think of your kindness towards me, my passion calms quickly, and I dream of the happy future: But at last I have come to the conclusion not to suffer anymore, my studies to the present are not at all little; and perhaps sufficient to earn my living as a gentleman; Therefore I am ready to come home and serve thee Sire... The schooling ends on the 3rd of June, and I should wait for your answer in August, if at the end of this month I receive no answer, Your Majesty may calculate that I have no Country, I have no parents, and I have no king... Your Majesty may be sure that these words are as true as If I had my hands on the bible while writtin it, therefore give me hope, and let me die in peace: I will repeat again, that my education is quite sufficient. I can come home alone, not as a child, but as a young man of 21 years old. I have the honor to wish his Majesty a prosperous reign and a long life.” [edited for brevity]*



Robert N. Boyd and family



Kalakaua, King of Hawai'i, with his  
Honolulu, Hav





In a letter of dated July 26, 1884, Robert Wilcox responded to the King's questions about Boyd's situation:]

*“Regarding Boyd, he has not written to me up to this writing. I have already written to you about him from what I could gather from his schoolmates. . . . In Cerulli's [the students' new guardian] letter I see the following ‘Boyd will have to continue in the second class as he failed in his examinations in the following subjects: Special Trigonometry, Geography, and Gunnery of the Artillery, and has utterly refused to continue his examinations although he had a sufficient percentage which entitled him to take a second examination.’ . . . I am going to write to the Admiral myself tomorrow. . . . I cannot understand how Boyd has gone backwards after hearing of his great progress.”*

Despite this setback, Boyd would complete his studies in June of 1887. Robert Wilcox was helpful in this respect, and the two became close friends.

Boyd would return to Hawai'i in October of 1887 after attending the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria as part of the entourage of Queen Kapi'olani. Later he would be an active participant with Wilcox in the unsuccessful Wilcox Rebellion of 1895 aimed at restoring political power to the Hawaiian monarchy.

He would remain active in politics until his death in 1914 and would work as the surveyor for Oahu (now Honolulu) County.



with his staff on steps of Iolani Palace  
Hawai'i, 1882



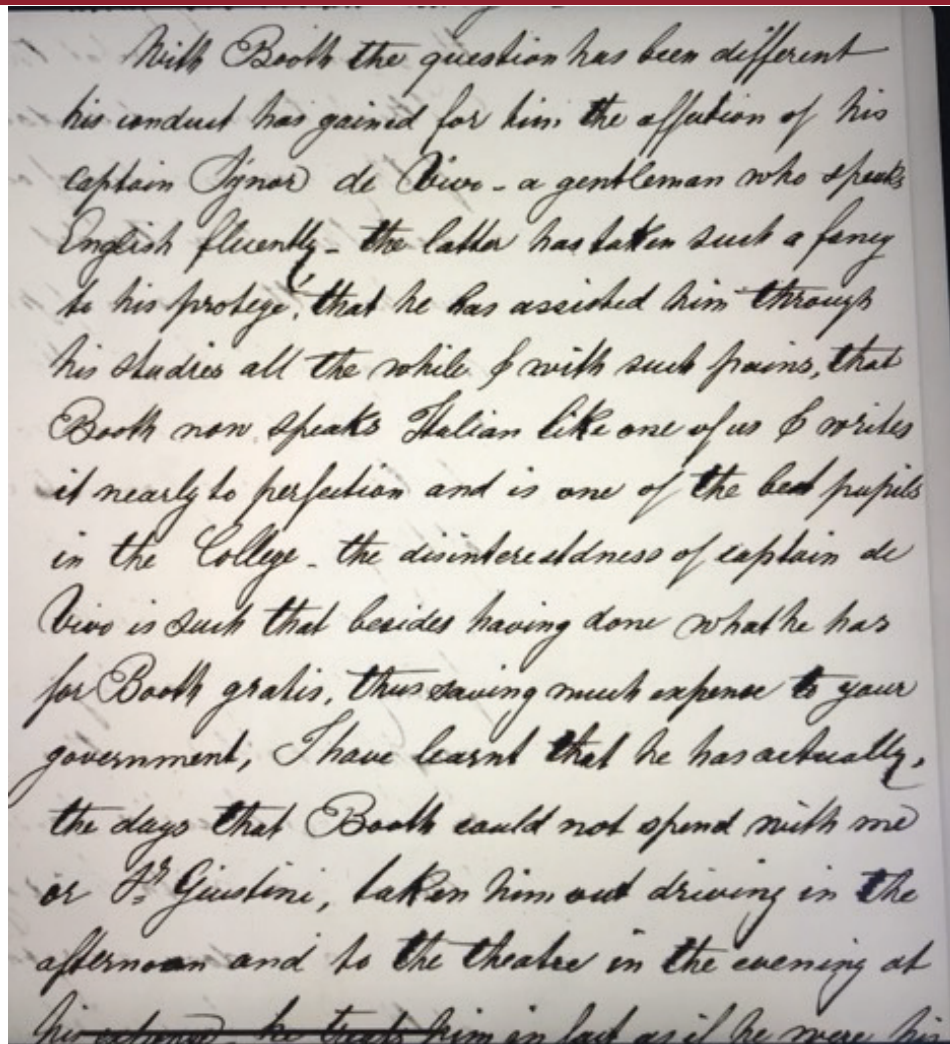
## James Kaneholo Booth

Unlike Robert Boyd, James Kaneholo Booth consistently excelled in his studies. He was a brilliant student at Punahou where he studied with Boyd, and so was a logical choice to study abroad. He first studied at the Royal Military Academy in Naples, and after completing his studies there, he pursued additional education at the Royal Academy of Civil and Military Engineers in Turin with Robert Wilcox.

Booth arrived alone in Naples at the Royal Military Academy but excelled in his studies and soon had many friends and was popular with his professors as well.

He rapidly became fluent in Italian (due largely to his relationship with his Captain) and made great progress. By July 14, 1882, Mr. Cerulli, the consulate general of Naples, wrote to Kalākaua informing him that in less than a year's time that

*“this young man’s superiors are enchanted with him- he has already received three promotions... and was promoted to the rank of picked Pupils of whom there are only two or three to each company.”*



With Booth the question has been different  
his conduct has gained for him the affection of his  
captain Signor de Piero - a gentleman who speaks  
English fluently - the latter has taken such a fancy  
to his protegee, that he has assisted him through  
his studies all the while & with such pains, that  
Booth now speaks Italian like one of us & writes  
it nearly to perfection and is one of the best pupils  
in the College - the disinterestedness of captain de  
Piero is such that besides having done what he has  
for Booth gratis, thus saving much expense to your  
government, I have learnt that he has actually,  
the days that Booth could not spend with me  
or Sr Giustini, taken him out driving in the  
afternoon and to the theatre in the evening at  
his expense - he treats him in fact as if he were his

Letter above from the Consulate General of Naples Mr. Cerulli to King Kalākaua dated July 14, 1882: "With Booth the question has been different his conduct has gained for him the affection of his Captain Signor de Pierre - a gentleman who speaks English fluently- the latter has taken such a fancy to his protegee, that he has assisted him through his studies all the while and with such promise, that Booth now speaks Italian like one of us and writes it nearly to perfection and is one of the best pupils in the College..."(courtesy of Kawaipuna Kalipi, University of Hawai'i at Manoa)

In 1884 Booth made a fateful decision to revisit Naples. The reason is not known for sure. Booth could have been told to flee Turin because of a cholera outbreak there, or to settle debts from his period of residency in Naples, or he could have just had a desire to revisit the place where he studied for several years. In any case, Booth visited and found lodging in a small resort hotel.

Unfortunately, Booth contracted cholera while staying at the hotel. Booth was visited repeatedly by the King's personal doctor, but the young man's health continued to deteriorate, and he died in the arms of one of his friends from the Military College, Mr. de Emilio. Booth's remains were interred in the British Military Cemetery in Naples and later transferred to an unknown location.

Mr. Cerulli gave Booth's impressive personal library and guitar to Wilcox. Booth's library included a selection of the great classics of world literature and demonstrated the quality of education the Hawaiians were receiving in Italy.

James Kaneholo Booth was one of the most talented and successful of the Hawaiian students who were sent abroad. Who knows what he could have achieved if his life had not been cut short and he had been able to return and serve his country?

Sources: Most of the information concerning James Kaneholo Booth has been excerpted from a blog by University of Hawai'i at Manoa graduate student Kawaiipuna Kalipi titled "Rediscovering wahi pana and mo'olelo of James Kanehole Booth." July 30, 2019. The modern Hawaiian youths abroad program site includes blogs and research conducted by University of Hawai'i students following in the footsteps of their 1880's counterparts. The site can be found at: <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/nhss/programs/Hawaiian-youths-abroad-program/>.

Another important source of information for this article is: Agnes Quigg, "Kalakaua's Hawaiian Studies Abroad Program." *The Hawaiian Journal of History*, vol. 22 (1988).



Royal Standard of King Kalakaua Hawai'i Kanaka Crown Flag

## Chapter 6

### Hawaiian Students in Italy under King Kalakaua's Hawaiian Youths Abroad Program (Part 2): August Ering and Maile Nowlein

By Mark Ethridge

Our last newsletter (Fall 2021) discussed the experiences of two of the students sent to Italy to study under King Kalakaua's "Youths Abroad Program." Another August 2017 article focused on the adventures of Robert Wilcox, a student in that first group sent to Italy in August of 1880, who later became a leader in an attempt to restore the Hawaiian monarchy in 1895. This article will focus on the last two students sent to Italy, August Hering and Maile Nowlein.

August Hering and Maile Nowlein arrived in Italy in early 1887. Maile Nowlein was the only female participant in Kalakaua's Youths Abroad Program. Herring came to study sculpture and Maile Nowlein planned to study art and music.

They were accompanied by Colonel Sam Nowlein, Maile's father, and an officer in King Kalakaua's Royal Guards (Colonel Nowlein would later plot and fight alongside Robert Wilcox in that same unsuccessful attempt to restore the Hawaiian monarchy in 1895).



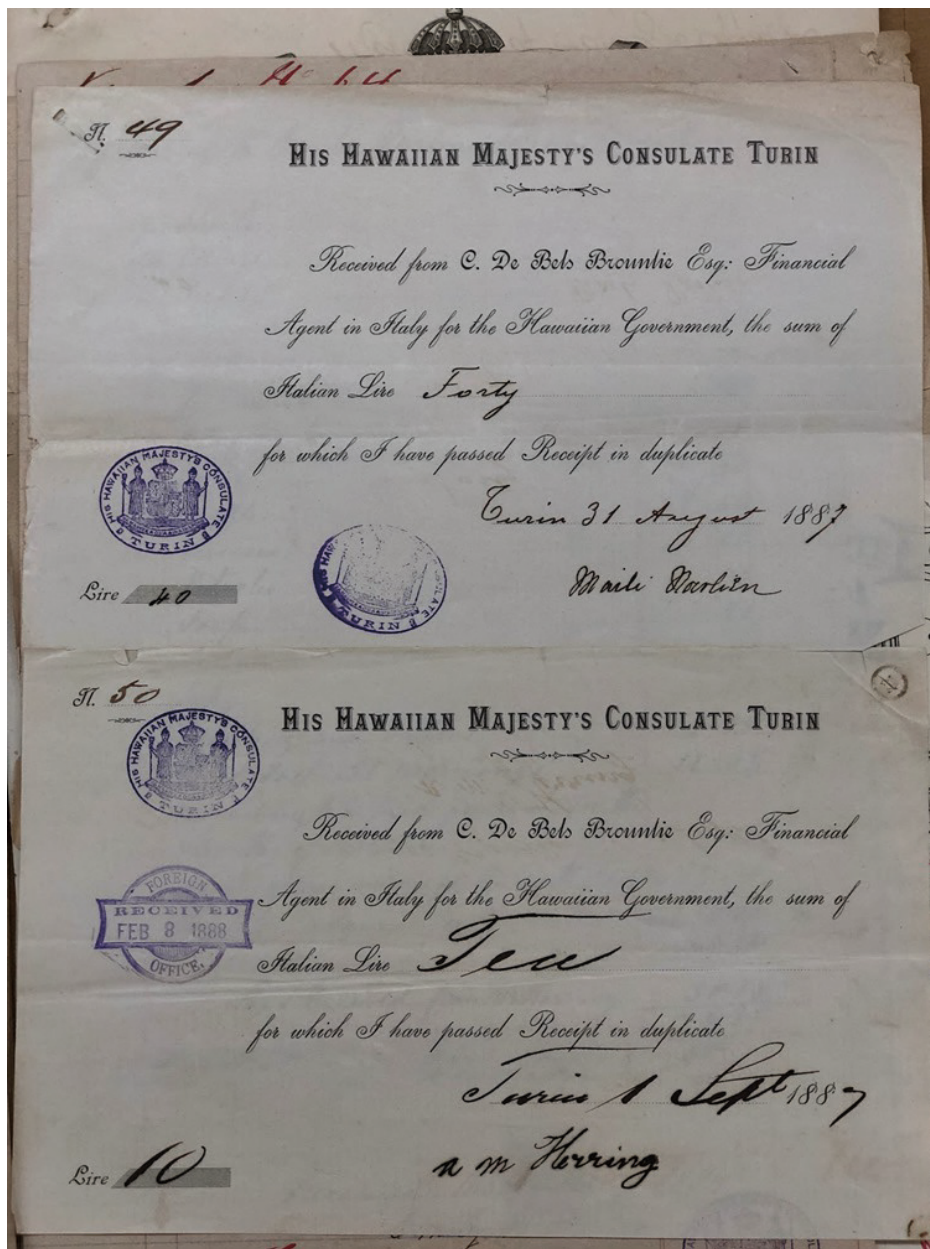
After Colonel Nowlein enrolled his daughter in classes and returned to Honolulu, he submitted the following report to Godfrey Brown, the newly appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs:

*I have the honor to report that I have returned to Honolulu having accomplished the objects for which His Majesty's Government were pleased to depute me to visit Europe. I have placed Mr. August Hering with Professor Tabucchi at Turin.*

*This gentleman has the repute of being a very successful instructor in the art of sculpture. Mr. Hering will receive at his studio instruction in drawing as well as in sculpture and from what I have seen of the young man I feel no doubt that he will do justice to his instructor and to the Hawaiian Government which has so handsomely provided for him for his future career.*

*Miss Nowlein is also at Turin and is receiving instruction in the Italian language in preparation for a course at an Art school in Florence, to be selected for her by His Majesty's Consul C. de Bels Brounlie, Esqr. I have left both these young people under the charge of Mr. Brounlie in whose discretion, and zeal for their benefit I have the highest confidence.*

*He will communicate to Your Excellency from time to time the arrangements he may make for their welfare and the progress they may make in their studies.*



Notification of receipt of funds by the Hawaiian Consulate in Turin for the education of Maile Nowlein and August Hering (courtesy of Kamali'i McShane Padilla, student at University of Hawai'i Manoa)



After King Kalakaua's powers were restricted because of his forced signing of the Bayonet Constitution on July 6, 1887, the Youths Abroad Program was terminated, and students were called back from their studies. In the spring of 1888, after being in Italy less than a year, Maile Nowlein and August Hering were asked to return to Hawai'i by the new government. Fortunately, Maile was able to remain in Italy when her father agreed to finance her educational expenses. August Hering, however, did not have such a wealthy benefactor. Hering reluctantly left for home but disappeared on the way in San Francisco and did not show up for his scheduled sailing to Honolulu aboard the Mariposa.

While still in Italy, Colonel Nowlein and Maile had attended the marriage of Robert W. Wilcox to Lady Maria Carolina Isabella Luigia Sobrero, a young Italian woman of noble birth. Kamali'i McShane Padilla, a University of Hawai'i at Manoa student, found another interesting connection between Maile and Wilcox's bride, Gina Sobrero. Kamali'i discovered among receipts dating from July 1887 to mid-1888, that there were payments made by a 'Widow Sobrero' for Maile's drawing lessons. The "Widow Sobrero" may have been Maile's host in Turin.

According to a conversation between Kamali'i and Dr. Emanuela Borgono, the latter suggested the "Widow Sobrero" could be Gina Sobrero's mother, who was a widow at the time. During this time, Gina Sobrero & Robert Wilcox had just left for Hawai'i. and would be staying with the Nowlein ohana on O'ahu.



Miss Nowlein was able to make arrangements with her father, Sam Nowlein, to extend her studies until she returned to Honolulu sometime in 1890. Sam Nowlein later joined Wilcox in the 1895 rebellion and attempted to restore the Hawaiian monarchy.

In 1890, August Hering returned to Honolulu, was married, and fathered a child, but all did not end well. On May 26, 1893, *“Hering was convicted of the murder of his wife’s lover, a man by the name of D. L. Huntsman, and sentenced to ten years in prison. After serving five years of his sentence, Hering wrote to the Parole Board asking to be pardoned. The files contain no information that Hering’s request was granted”* (Agnes Quigg).

The Hawaiian youths abroad program site includes blogs and research conducted by University of Hawai‘i students following in the footsteps of their 1880’s counterparts. This article owes much to the research of Kamali‘i McShane Padilla, who wrote a blog presenting her research on Hering and Maile Knowlein. The site can be found at: *“No matter how far I go, I will always return,”* Last day in Turin, Italy with Maile Nowlein & August Hering: Lā 11 & 12 – Native Hawaiian Student Services. Another important source of information for this article is: Agnes Quigg, *“Kalakaua’s Hawaiian Studies Abroad Program.”* The Hawaiian Journal of History, vol. 22 (1988).

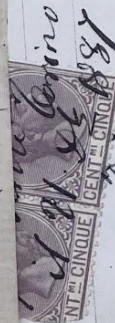
Receipt of funds for Signorina Maile Nowlein from “Signora Baronessa Sobrero.”

Voucher N. 72

Il sottoscritto dichiara di  
avere ricevuto dalla Signora  
Baronessa Sobrero, la somma  
di lire 25 come corrispettivo  
di lezioni di disegno date  
nel mese di Novembre alla  
Signorina Maili Nowlien  
Torino, 2 Dicembre 1887.

Pier Celestino Gilardi

Lire 25  
ad M. Nowlien



ad M. Nowlien



James D. Dole

## Chapter 7

### Henry Ginaca: The Inventor Who Helped Make James D. Dole the “Pineapple King”

By Mark Ethridge

On November 16, 1899, the 22-year-old James D. Dole arrived in Honolulu with about \$1,500, his life savings. He found a place to stay with his cousin, Sandford. Dole wrote shortly after his arrival: *“Within two weeks I found the town quarantined for six months by an outbreak of bubonic plague. During the winter I saw the fire department, with the timely aid of a stiff wind, burn down all of Chinatown (the intention being to disinfect in this thorough manner only one or two blocks).”*

Shortly after, Dole learned that the Territorial Government was making lands available in Wahiawa, Oahu to people interested in farming them. These lands were too high in elevation to permit the extensive irrigation required for the cultivation of sugarcane, the island’s premiere cash crop.



Dole initially had the idea of growing coffee. *“On August 1, 1900 [I] took up residence thereon as a farmer – unquestionably of the dirt variety. After some experimentation, I concluded that it was better adapted to pineapples than to [coffee,] peas, pigs, or potatoes, and accordingly concentrated on that fruit.”* Ironically, today the lands just to the north of Dole’s pineapple fields are now the site of a major coffee plantation.

Dole established his fields and a small cannery in central Honolulu. The public was not excited. The Honolulu Advertiser ridiculed Dole’s *“foolhardy venture which had been tried unsuccessfully before and was sure to fail again.”* A few days later, the paper said: *“If pineapple paid, the vacant lands near the town would be covered with them.... Export on any great or profitable scale is out of the question.”*

Such talk did not discourage Dole, and he set out with other pineapple growers to establish a market on the mainland for his product. Dole said in 1901 that his ambitious objective was to *“Expand the market of Hawaiian Pineapple to every grocery store in the United States.”* At this time, pineapples were still a largely unknown fruit to the American public.

The campaign was successful, but Dole now faced a serious production problem. Pineapples were cored by hand, at a rate of only 15 per minute with large amounts of labor involved. At this rate, large-scale commercial production was not feasible, and Dole’s dream could not be realized.



It is at this moment in time that the Italian connection to our story, Henry Ginaca, appears. Ginaca was the son of an Italian father and a French mother. The father was a civil engineer, and Ginaca became a machinist's apprentice in San Francisco. In 1911, he became a machinist at the Honolulu Iron Works, where James Dole found and hired him to design a machine to process pineapple.

Within a year, Ginaca produced a machine that increased pineapple production from 15 to 50 per minute, with much less labor. By 1914, his machines had increased production to 100 pineapples per minute, ensuring commercial production and rapid expansion of the market.

Ginaca's invention drops the fruit into the machine, where a cylinder cuts it to the proper diameter, then the machine trims the top and bottom, and cores the fruit. Although faster machines operate today, they are still the same basic design. They are called Ginaca machines, named after their inventor.

Ginaca's machines greatly increased production, and Dole even sold them to his competitors.



1928 Dole pineapple ad showing the Ginaca machines in operation

The Ginaca machine won a gold medal at the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco in 1915. By 1930, Hawai'i was producing 90% of the world's canned pineapples, and most of it in a huge operation on the island of Lana'i. Dole had truly become the "Pineapple King."

The Great Depression would seriously cut sales, and the Board of the Hawaiian Pineapple Company (HAPCO) would remove Dole from management and place him in the honorary role of chairman. The company was reorganized and survived largely thanks to a new product – pineapple juice. After Dole's death in 1958, HAPCO was renamed the Dole Food Company.

As for Ginaca, he went to the goldfields of California, but was not



successful in making a fortune there. Unfortunately, in the fall of 1918, he was one of the 50 to 100 million world-wide victims of the great Influenza Pandemic of 1918.

This article incorporates material from the following articles:

*“Roxbury Latin School Newsletter,” Roxbury, Massachusetts, 2008 issue as cited in the “Jamaica Plain (Massachusetts) Historical Society Newsletter.”*

*American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), “Engineering History Landmark No. 167, the Ginaca Pineapple Processing Machine, 1911.”*



Guglielmo Marconi



## Chapter 8 Guglielmo Marconi “Annihilates Time and Distance” and Establishes Hawai‘i as a Leader in Early Wireless Communication

By Mark Ethridge

During the first years of the 20th century, wireless telegraph stations constructed by Italian inventor and engineer Guglielmo Marconi would place Hawai‘i in the forefront of early wireless technology. The remains of Marconi’s largest station in Kahuku, once the largest in the world, have been recently placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

On March 27, 1899, a 24-year-old Guglielmo Marconi transmits the first wireless telegraph signal across the English Channel from Wimereux, France to South Foreland Lighthouse, England. Several months later, this event is reported in the Honolulu magazine, *The Friend*, in its May 1899 issue:

*“Telegraph communications seems likely soon to be in operation between our islands. Marconi has successfully sent telegrams across the British channel without a wire. An invisible electric ray is flashed from a lofty mast, directed to a receiver thirty miles away, which records it. So Hawai‘i will not need an inter-island cable. Rain, fog, and darkness do not obstruct the ray.”*

In fact, an attempt had just been made in 1889 to lay a cable between the islands of Oahu and Molokai, but just after the

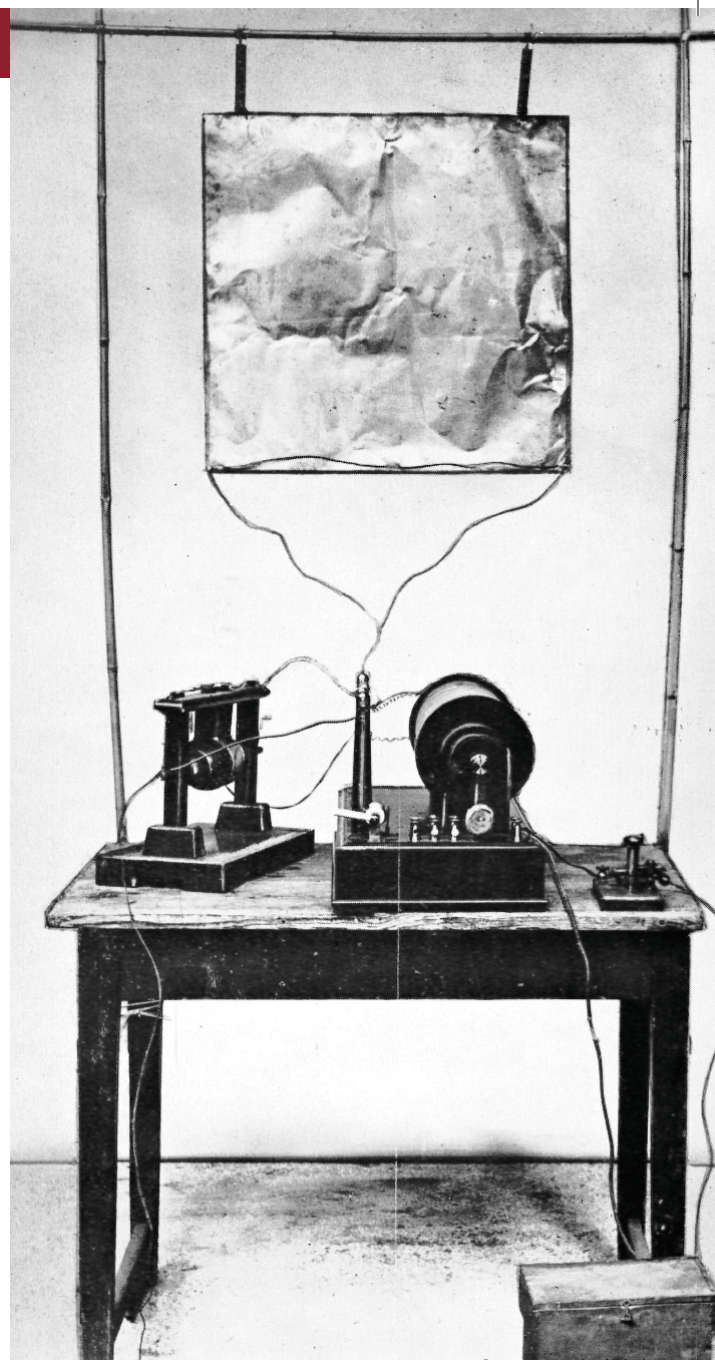


cable became operational and transmitted its first message, the cable snapped, could not be repaired and the line was abandoned. The only other means of transmitting messages prior to Marconi's invention was by mail via inter-island steamship.

Marconi's experiments soon attract the interest of Fred J. Cross, an electrician who had arrived in the Hawaiian Islands in 1897 and formed the Inter-Island Telegraph Company. He sees potential in Marconi's invention and travels in September-October of 1899 to New York where Marconi is promoting his wireless at the America's Cup Yacht Race. Marconi's operators are placed on ships where they transmit back to shore.

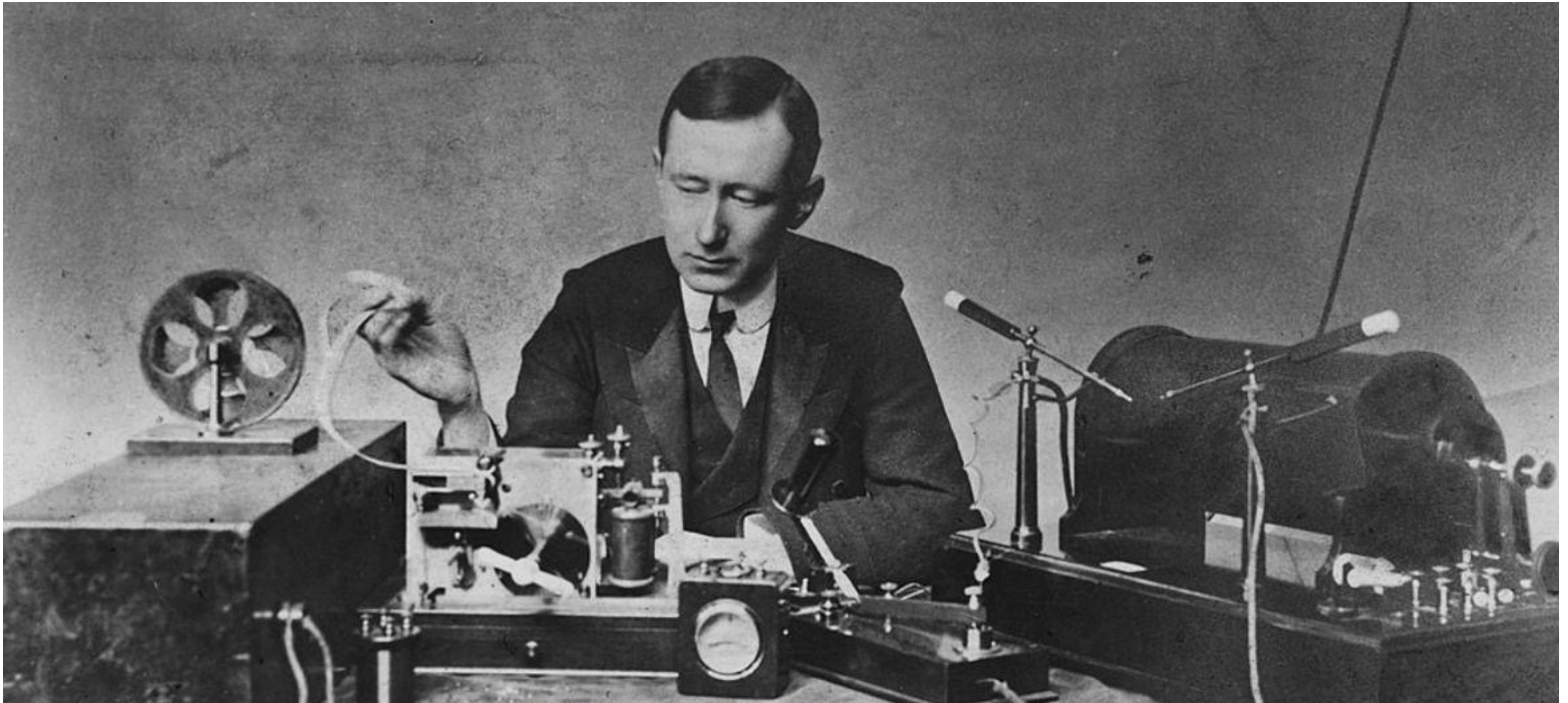
On October 31, 1899, Cox signs a contract with Marconi's Wireless Telegraph and Signal Company to construct five stations located across the islands. Notably this is Marconi's *first major order* for ground wireless stations.

Although Marconi's representatives are delayed by an outbreak of bubonic plague in 1900, by early June the necessary equipment is delivered from England, and on June 14, a successful demonstration of the technology occurs at Iolani Palace. A message is transmitted from the palace to a station in Kaimuki, a distance of four miles. The message,



“Hello! Is anybody out there?” is the ***first wireless telegraph message transmitted west of the Rocky Mountains.***

In 1902, Hawai'i's five stations represent ***twenty percent of the twenty-five such stations in the world,*** and at the end of 1904 the islands seven stations still account ***for over ten percent of the world's sixty-nine wireless telegraph stations.***



David L. Mackay, a reporter for the Pacific Commercial Advertiser, cannot believe such sophisticated technology exists on a chain of remote, sleepy islands in the middle of the Pacific when he first arrives in Honolulu in 1909:

*“I remember the distinct shock of receiving wireless messages at sea. Once on shore (my beliefs and expectations by this time tattered and pitiful) I felt numbed when they offered me, as the customary and unwonderful means of communication, wireless telegraphy. It is because the wireless is today so common and so commonly accepted that I still remember vividly how great was my surprise when I first saw it as a public utility. There could have been but one reason for it. I had come from a world to which the wireless was unknown except as a plaything, a ludicrous attempt to play superman, into a world where it had been in ordinary use for several years. So much for provincialism!”*

In 1913, Marconi builds a transmitting station at Kahuku for long range transmissions with a companion receiving station at Koko Head (now Hawai'i Kai). The Kahuku's station powerhouse and operating building are the largest in the world when constructed in 1913.

On September 24, 1914, 198 guests travel by train from Honolulu and attend the opening of the new long-range Kahuku station. A small silver key inserted by Governor Lucius Pinkham opens the new station. The first message from the new station is sent by the governor to the President of the United States, Woodrow Wilson.

*“With time and distance annihilated and space subdued through wireless triumphs and impulse, the Territory of Hawai'i conveys its greetings, profound respect and sympathy to Woodrow Wilson, president of the United States, as he so earnestly seeks the blessings of peace and good will for all men and all nations.”*

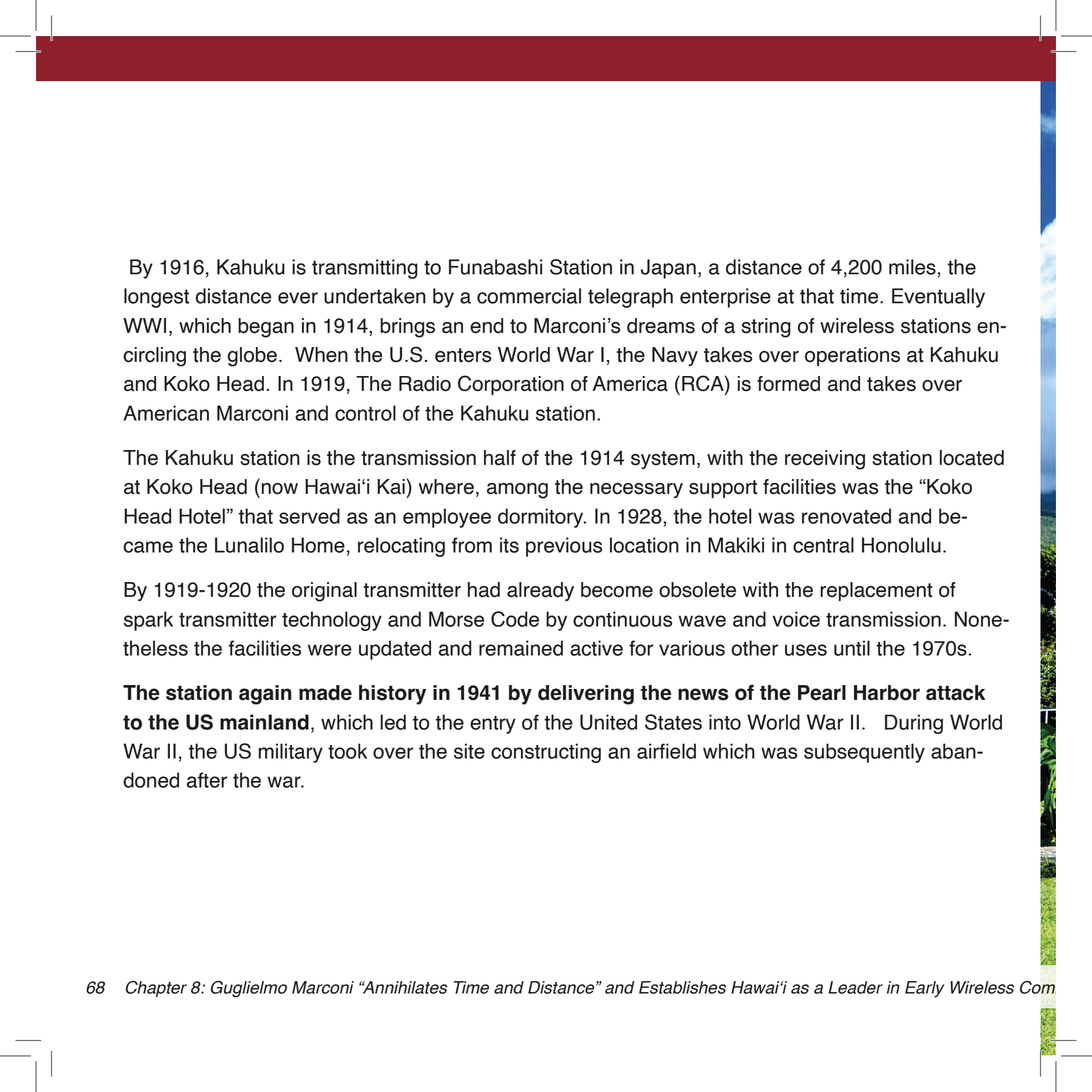
\* The “sympathy” was for Mrs. Wilson's death the month prior.



Powerhouse at Kahuku



Generators



By 1916, Kahuku is transmitting to Funabashi Station in Japan, a distance of 4,200 miles, the longest distance ever undertaken by a commercial telegraph enterprise at that time. Eventually WWI, which began in 1914, brings an end to Marconi's dreams of a string of wireless stations encircling the globe. When the U.S. enters World War I, the Navy takes over operations at Kahuku and Koko Head. In 1919, The Radio Corporation of America (RCA) is formed and takes over American Marconi and control of the Kahuku station.

The Kahuku station is the transmission half of the 1914 system, with the receiving station located at Koko Head (now Hawai'i Kai) where, among the necessary support facilities was the "Koko Head Hotel" that served as an employee dormitory. In 1928, the hotel was renovated and became the Lunalilo Home, relocating from its previous location in Makiki in central Honolulu.

By 1919-1920 the original transmitter had already become obsolete with the replacement of spark transmitter technology and Morse Code by continuous wave and voice transmission. Nonetheless the facilities were updated and remained active for various other uses until the 1970s.

**The station again made history in 1941 by delivering the news of the Pearl Harbor attack to the US mainland**, which led to the entry of the United States into World War II. During World War II, the US military took over the site constructing an airfield which was subsequently abandoned after the war.

Current Lunalilo Home (former Koko Head Receiver Site Hotel)





Runways adjacent to the site are visible in this World War II era photograph

After the war, the site was used for various experiments and even for drag racing in the 1950s. RCA conducted operations at the site until 1978.

Makai Ranch LLC acquired the property in 2005. In 2013, developer Jeremy Henderson succeeded in having the four original Marconi Wireless Telegraphy Station structures listed on the National Historic Registry, where they are recognized as a site critical to the development of wireless communications in Hawai'i and across the world. The owner plans to preserve the site through adaptive reuse.

Incidentally, Guglielmo Marconi did not visit Hawai'i until a one-day stopover on his way to Asia in November 1933. On that occasion he announced that "television for commercial purposes may come within a year" and that "static in radio will soon be a thing of the past." (ASCE Hawai'i section October 2002: Hawai'i Wireless (Part 3) By: C. S. Papacostas).



Ruins of the hotel (left) and power station (right)

The information used for this article was obtained primarily from the following sources.

1. United States Department of the Interior National Park Service National Register of Historic Places Registration Form OMB No. 1024-0018 APR 19 2013. Received April 19, 2013.
2. Jon Anderson, [www.secondshelters.com](http://www.secondshelters.com). "28-Acre, National Register Marconi Telegraph Station's History Encompasses World Wars and the Dawn of Global Communications." December 22, 2016.
3. ASCE Hawai'i section, October 2002: Hawai'i Wireless (Part 3) By: C. S. Papacostas. Allison McLellan, [www.arri.org](http://www.arri.org). "Time and Distance Annihilated." August 2018.



Left: General Messe presents himself to British General Montgomery after capture in Tunisia.  
Right: Aerial view of POW yard in Tunisia.

## Chapter 9

### **Prisoners In Paradise\*: Italian Prisoners of War in Hawai'i**

By Mark Ethridge

May 13, 1943: General Giovanni Messe, commander of the Italian First Army, surrenders his 80,000 troops to the British near Enfidaville in Tunisia, effectively ending the North Africa Campaign. The German commander Von Arnim surrenders the day before, so a total of almost 275,000 battle-hardened German and Italian veterans are marched into captivity. Most of these prisoners are shipped to prisoner of war (POW) camps in the U.S.

Approximately 50,000 Italian POWs are sent to the U.S., and about 4,800 of these prisoners are sent to Hawai'i, first passing through Fort Lawton in Washington State. Nearly 1,000 of these



Italian POWs find their way to the Sand Island Detention Facility, another 2,000 at Schofield Barracks, and others at Kalihi Valley and Kaneohe.

On September 8, 1943, with the announcement of the signing of the armistice by the Badoglio government, Italy officially became an ally of the United States. As a result, Italian POWs were faced with the dilemma of whether to “collaborate” (i.e., perform war related work in Italian service units) with their former enemy captor or continue resistance. According to “*Italian Prisoners of War in Hawai‘i, 1942-1946*,” by Louis E. Keefer, of the 50,000 shipped to the U.S. after Italy’s surrender, 35,000 POWs worked with the U.S. Army as cooperators, but 15,000 “non-cooperators” remained in stockades until their release in 1945 and 1946.


Why were these Italians sent to Hawai‘i? The U.S. military has never publicly explained why these prisoners were sent so far away from the European theater of the war.

Historian Gwenfred

Allen in her book “*Hawai‘i’s War Years 1941-1945*” mentions that the Army started importing Italian prisoners of war in July 1944 “to do work permitted under the Geneva Convention.”

However, she further explains: “Most of these men [those who chose not to collaborate] were considered politically dangerous or otherwise unacceptable for the Italian service units on the mainland which their comrades were allowed to join after the Italian surrender.” So, it is likely that they were sent to isolated areas where they would pose a minimal security risk, and not “cause trouble.” Since Hawai‘i is one of the most geographically isolated places in the world, it certainly meets that requirement.

Mario Benelli, one of the Italian POWs imprisoned in Hawai‘i, stated on his return to Hawai‘i 50 years later that he was sent to Hawai‘i because he refused to join Italian service units and fight with Americans. “We did not think it was the right thing to do –to jump on the bandwagon and join the winner. We just wanted to stay loyal to our country.” Benelli was only 19 when he was drafted in 1941.



Once in Hawai'i, "we were generally well treated," Benelli admitted. He said the POWs were paid 90 cents a day for work on Oahu. Some worked at Schofield Barracks laundry, others cleaned the beaches at Waikiki and the campus at Saint Louis School, planted trees on Oahu firing ranges and manicured the grounds of the Iolani Palace.

In 1980, Allen Bailey, former Kamehameha School principal, told the Honolulu Star-

Bulletin's military writer Kyle Nelson that the Italian POW camp in Kalihi was located at the entrance to the school's campus. "We could see the camp from the Boys' School dining hall, and I remember the prisoners spent much of their time playing soccer in their barbed-wire enclosure," said Bailey.

This Italian prisoner contingent was highly skilled in construction and engineering, and as a voluntary effort they were used extensively on many construction projects around the island where skilled labor was, at that time, in short supply, particularly around Honolulu Harbor, Sand Island, etc. (US Army)"For the most part, the US Army welcomed their labor and skills in construction of needed military facilities."

"At the end of each day, the Italians would salvage whatever waste materials were about as well as scouring and scooping up cement from spillage." (Moreo)

Many of the prisoners were not only good workers, but skilled artisans, artists, and musicians. With this salvaged material the Italian POWs built buildings and works of art (fountains and stat-

ues) at various locations on O‘ahu (these pieces are at Schofield Barracks, Fort Shafter, Sand Island, and the Immigration Building.) Many of these works still remain on Oahu.

At Sand Island, “(a)t sunset, hundreds of Italians formed a male chorale and sang for an hour. It became widely known and so popular that visitors came in the evening to listen and applaud.”

At Fort Shafter, one POW’s handiwork included a fountain bearing Venice’s emblem —winged lions, and another crowned by pineapples. Alfredo Giusti of Pietrasanta, Italy, inscribed his name and address on the north side of the fountain.

The fountain at Fort Shafter stands in front of Richardson Hall. The hall was named after Lt. Gen. Robert C. Richardson, Commander of the Middle Pacific area, who wrote the artist in June 1946:

*“You and your comrades left a little bit of Italy in Honolulu both at Sand Island and at Fort Shafter in the two beautiful fountains that you have built.”*

The fountain may look a little familiar to those who saw the movie “Pearl Harbor”—the fountain, along with Palm Circle, appeared in the movie a few times.

Another hard-to-see fountain crafted by the Italians is within the secured Immigration Center on Ala Moana Boulevard (you can see it through a chain link fence on the makai/Fort Armstrong side of the facility.)

Alfredo Giusto also sculpted two statues that are still located at the entrance to the Coast Guard facility on Sand Island. The “Hula Dancer” and “Bathing Beauty” statues were constructed by Giusti during WWII to honor the women back home, waiting for the prisoners’ return.





Bathing Beauty statue inscription Photo credit: Joe Magaldi

The Bathing Beauty Photo credit: Joe Magaldi

The most ambitious POW project was the construction of an entire chapel at Schofield Barracks dedicated to Italian-born Mother Francis Cabrini who traveled to the United States in 1889 to spend 28 years working with the sick and poor. She became the first American saint of the Roman Catholic Church in 1946. The chapel was designed by Astori Rebato of Venice and was constructed by nearly 2,000 prisoners in 1945 from scavenged materials during off duty hours and Sundays.

Astori started work on the chapel in July 1944, and said he designed and supervised the construction of the Cabrini Chapel and its four fluted pillars as “an act of devotion to the Madonna, so I could see my 75-year-old mother again.”

The Mother Cabrini Chapel “was huge, with an altar, and two large paintings of Mother Cabrini all done by the POWs. The chapel had a full basement for vestments and religious articles. Out in front of the chapel, the area was paved and filled by ‘well-constructed benches acting as pews for a thousand or more worshippers.”



Upon the chapel's completion, Sunday mass was celebrated every week with the prisoners exiting the prison compound in order to attend the services, seating themselves in the open-air pews. As word spread to the adjoining areas, Pearl City, Honolulu, Nanakuli, and even as far as Waikiki, a small group of Catholic worshipers started to drive up to the chapel on Sunday mornings to attend the services." (Dominic W. Moreo).

Unfortunately, the Cabrini Chapel no longer exists. In June 1949, the Army decided to demolish the chapel because it didn't have the funding to maintain it. The Catholic Church also declined to manage the facility because it was not located in a practical place and other chapels were available for Schofield Barracks military personnel. Another deciding factor was that almost all the Italian POWs who were using the chapel had left by early 1946.

Four POWs, however, did not leave –they died during their internment and were originally buried at the chapel and later moved to the Schofield Barracks cemetery.

\* *"Prisoners in Paradise"* is the title of an award-winning documentary film about Italian POWs held in America during World War II. The film was directed and produced by Camilla Calamandrei (prisonersinparadise.com). The title seems even more appropriate for Hawai'i.

Most of the material and quotes here are taken from a series of Hawai'i Star-Bulletin articles (May 10, 14, and 15, 1993 by Gregg K. Kakesako). Another significant source of material comes from the book, "Riot at Fort Lawton, 1944" by Dominic W. Moreo, 2004.

Italian Prisoners of War Deceased in the United States (Continued)

COMPASSIONATE LIT. NO. 1 - Corrected to 10 March 1952

<u>Name of Deceased</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>Died</u>	<u>Place of Death in U.S.</u>	<u>Cause of Death</u>
ASNO, Germano	Pvt	8W1-7006	16 Dec 46	Schofield Bks Cen, T. H.	Duress (Hanging)
CIVINALE, Francesco	Pvt	3W1-706	21 Sep 44	Schofield Bks Cen, T. H.	Asphyxia (Drowning)
COONDI, Giovanni Artista	Col	1552	23 Sep 44	St Peter's Cen, St Island, HI	Carcinoma of Gall Bladder
(CORSIGNI, Aldo	Pvt	Not Given	11 Apr 45	Not Given	Tuberculosis, Pulmonary
D'ANGELO, Francesco	Pvt	81-I-364912	22 Jun 47	Ft Leavenworth Sanitary Cen, Kansas	Duress (Attempted)
DIORAJDI, Vincenzo	Sgt	7W1-11337	22 Dec 45	Marb Post Cen, Vase-over Bks	Fractures, Truck Accident
MARCONI, Giovanni	Pvt	8W1-1458	21 Oct 45	Schofield Bks Cen, T. H.	Chorion meningitis

-57-

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Authority: NND 770720

By: DANA Date: 3-20-09

Three of the four deceased Italian POWs at Schofield Barracks are listed here.

## Chapter 10

### Return to Paradise: Eight Former Italian Prisoners of War Return to Oahu (continuation of our December Feature Story)

By Mark Ethridge

**May 15, 1993:** Eight former Italian Prisoners of War participate in the blessing of the graves of four of their less fortunate compatriots who died 50 years ago during incarceration at Schofield Barracks on Oahu during World War II. The Schofield Barracks Roman Catholic chaplain, Lt. Col. Joseph Goudreau, 25th Infantry, sprinkles holy water on the headstones while Mario Benelli, one of the POWs who have returned to Oahu, offers a silent prayer and gazes at the Ko'olau Mountains in the distance. An Army bugler sounds taps as Benelli and the other POWs drape lei on the tombstones.

The eight former Italian POWs in Honolulu – Honolulu Star-Bulletin Page 5 Feature Story (cont.) However, to their great dismay, they learn that the Cabrini Chapel was torn down in 1946 after neither the Army nor the local Catholic Church authorities could find any use for the structure. With the departure of the last Italian POWs, there is really no “congregation” left to use the church, and no one with the foresight at the time to preserve it as a historic structure.

The eight POWs who have made the





pilgrimage from Italy are Mario Benelli, Renato Astori, Fernando Rosati, Mario Lugaresi, Biagio Montaldi, Ezio Lucioli, Angelo Sacchi, and Gianni Pizzigoni. In addition to visiting the graves of their comrades, they come to visit some of the artistic and architectural masterpieces they built with scavenged materials on their own time: a beautiful chapel dedicated to Mother Frances Cabrini, the first Italian American saint, and several fountains, rock walls, and statues of a Hawaiian hula dancer and a bathing beauty. The chapel existed at a location which is now at a bend of the H-2 near Higgins Road on the East Range of Schofield Barracks across from Wheeler Army Airfield.



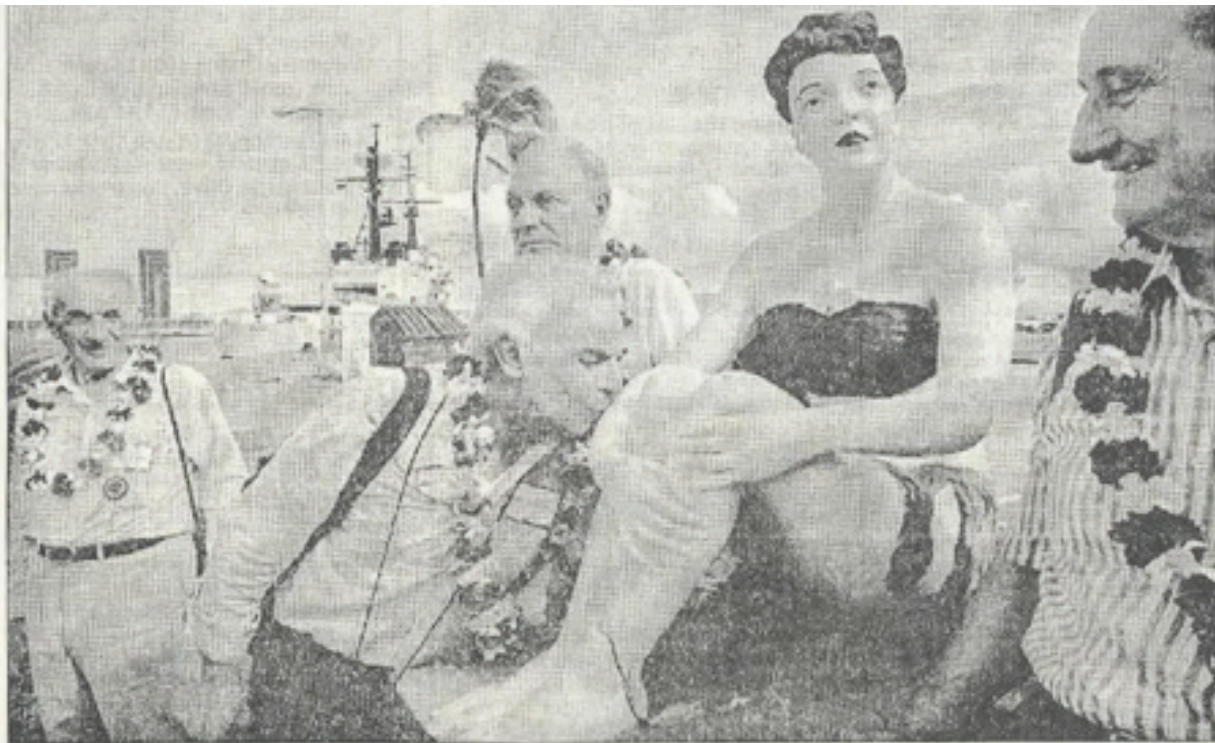
The red circle indicates the site of the former chapel.

The red circle indicates the site of the former chapel. The plan of the former POW camp has been superimposed on an aerial photograph of the current location. *O'ahu Army Cultural Resources Program (OACRP)*

The plan of the former POW camp has been superimposed on an aerial photograph of the current location. O'ahu Army Cultural Resources Program (OACRP) Benelli told Army representatives that several former POWs chose not to come on the visit when they heard that the chapel had been torn down. *"They cried like babies when they heard the chapel was gone."* Recently, the Oahu Army Cultural Resources Program (OACRP) has been busy researching the POW camp and the chapel built by its Italian prisoners. During 2015, researchers discovered several fluted columns that were part of the former chapel.



In addition to the gravesites at Schofield Barracks, the former POWs visit a fountain at Fort Shafter, and the Coast Guard's Sand Island Station to view the two statues sculpted by Alfredo Giusti, a fellow POW, who died several years before the visit. The Italians originally sculpted the dancer topless, but the military later painted a bra on the statue. Benelli reacted to this saying, *"it's like putting underwear on Michelangelo's David."*



By Steve Alkins, Coast Guard

*Gianni Pizzigoni kisses the statue of the Bathing Beauty. Honolulu Star-Bulletin Both statues bear the inscription, "Dedicated to give hope to those without hope" — a reference to Hansen's disease sufferers. The Coast Guard has adapted those words to its mission of giving hope to those lost at sea.*

The group also meets with Honolulu Mayor Frank Fasi and is interviewed by local reporters.

The impetus for the return visit came from former POW Mario Benelli. Benelli, who became a businessman in Italy, spent more than 1 ½ years as a POW in Hawai'i. "A part of my life is here, and I wanted to see what it is like today," he told a translator during his Oahu visit. He said that he and his fellow prisoners "wanted to take a sentimental journey to relive old memories."

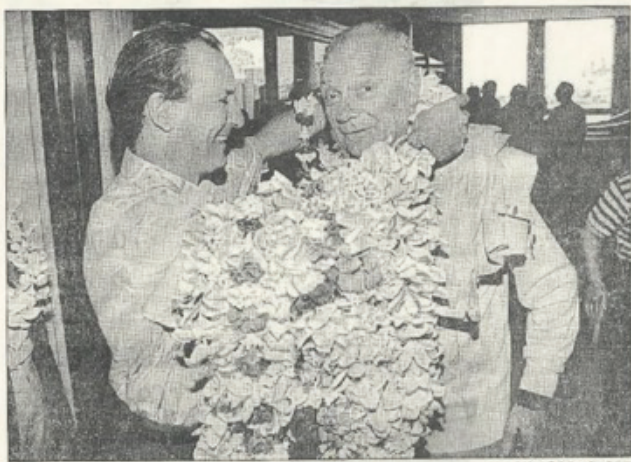
In 1992, Benelli, a certified public accountant, wrote to Louis Finamore, the honorary vice consul for Italy in Hawai'i, saying that he wanted to return to the islands to revisit the stockades and especially a chapel the prisoners built at Schofield Barracks.

The Italian POW trip to Hawai'i was coordinated by Armando Beccaria, President of the Friends of Italy Society of Hawai'i (FOISOH) in cooperation with the honorary vice consul for Italy.

After the visit, Mario Benelli, the group's leader sent a thank you letter to the FOISOH members:

*“A few days ago, we had a meeting with some POWs who could not make the trip to Hawai'i and we told them how we were welcomed...last May. I must say we were all surprised by the warmth and affection with which we were received. I wish to express my gratitude to you, other representatives of the Friends of Italy Society, the Honorary Consul Louis Finamore, the Mayor of Honolulu, and the Immigration administrators. I do not know whether our hope to return again will come true, given our age: it is certain, however, that we will remember May 14, 1993, as one of the most beautiful days of our lives...”*

Almost a decade later, in early September 2002, the crew of the Amerigo Vespucci comes to Honolulu and visits some of the same sites, including Schofield Barracks and the statues at the Sand Island Coast Guard Station. FOISOH also helps coordinate these visits. For officers and young cadets of the 71-year-old Amerigo Vespucci — the oldest vessel in the Italian Navy, it's an emotional experience.



Former POW Gianni Pizzigoni receives a Hawaiian lei greeting from Piero Sarale, the group tour leader.

Honolulu Star-Bulletin



Marinaio Sergio Cadalano of the Italian tall ship Amerigo Vespucci examines "The Hula Dancer," created by Alfredo Giusti, an Italian POW who was interned on Sand Island during World War II.

*"I feel a little bit sad because if you die not in your country, without your parents and the people you love, probably it's not a very good thing,"* said cadet Marco Epifanio, 21, of the four graves at Schofield. *"Places like this, it's kind of linking to (Italian) naval history and what happened in the past,"* said Lt. Sebastian Rossitto, 26, a staff officer. *"So, of course it's very important for us."*

Most of the information and photos in this story have been extracted and adapted from a series of articles in the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* from May 10 to May 15, 1993, as well as a *Honolulu Advertiser* story dated September 2, 2002.

Information and photos of the Army's investigation of the Cabrini Chapel site were taken from the *"Ecosystem Management Program Bulletin Volume 60, Issue 3"* published by the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit, in cooperation with the U.S. Army Garrison Hawai'i, Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Division.

## Chapter 11

### From Honolulu to Monte Cassino and San Terenzo– the 100th Infantry Battalion (and the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team) in Italy

By Mark Ethridge and Alessandra Di Vetta

Alessandra Di Vetta, born in Cassino, Italy, has always been profoundly moved by the stories of those who gave their lives during the brutal battles to free her hometown from Nazi occupation during World War II. From January through May 1944, approximately 55,000 Allied troops perished in these fierce battles, and many more were wounded. In her travels throughout the world, she has searched local military cemeteries for Allied soldiers who died in her part of Italy.

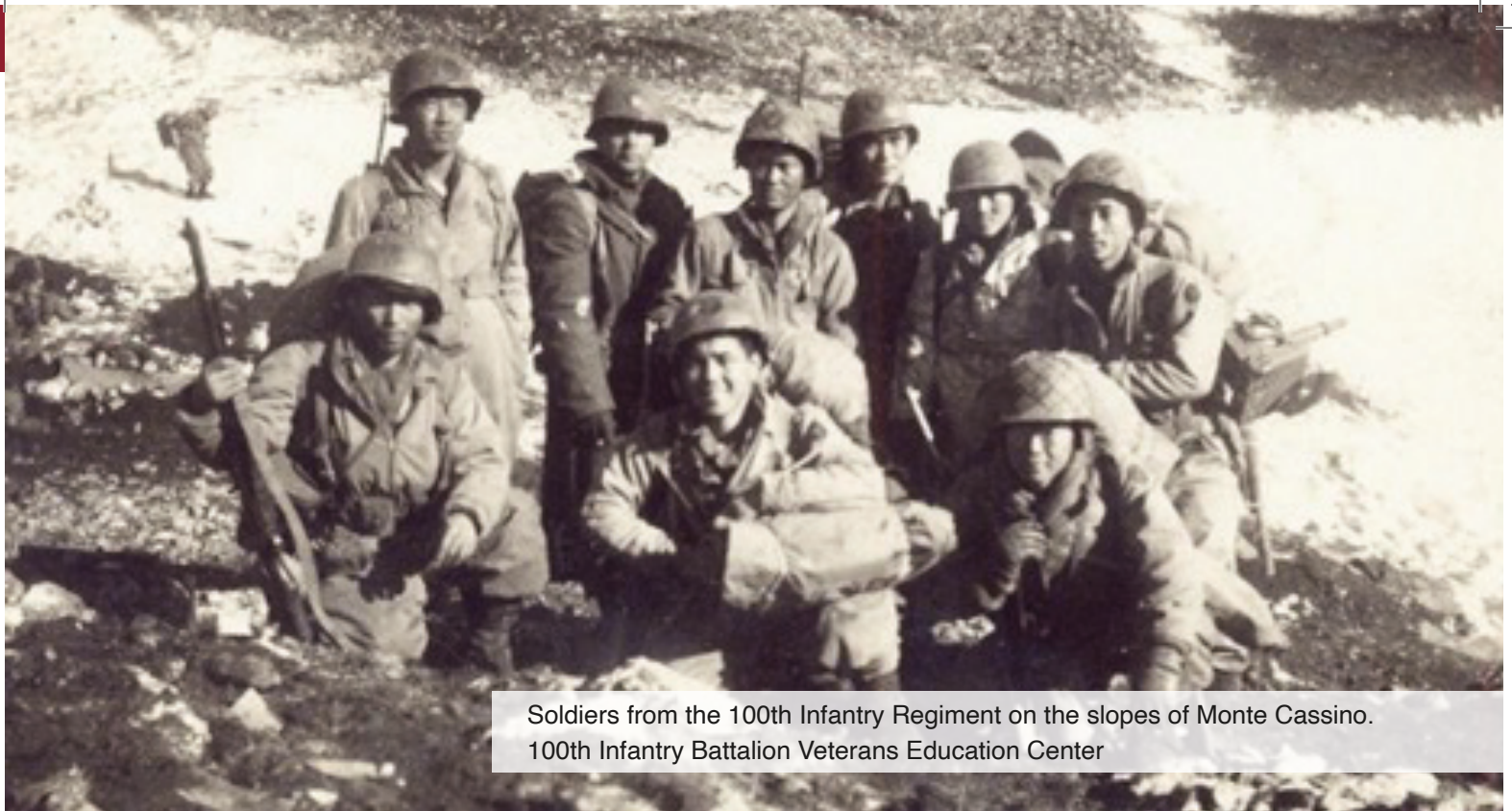
The soldiers' sacrifices remind Alessandra of the poem "Soldati" (Soldiers) by Giuseppe Ungaretti describing how soldiers are sitting in the trenches, facing the reality that at any moment, they may die and fall to ground like the leaves that cling precariously on the trees in autumn.



*Si sta come sugli alberi le foglie d'autunno*

*It's like being leaves on the trees in autumn*

—Giuseppe Ungaretti, Bois de Courton, France. July 1918



Soldiers from the 100th Infantry Regiment on the slopes of Monte Cassino.  
100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Education Center

For two years, Alessandra lived in Hawai'i with her American Navy paramedic husband, Jeremy. Several times they went to the Military Cemetery of the Pacific, in the ancient volcanic crater called the Punchbowl, to attend military ceremonies. This prompted Alessandra to search for any of the dead buried there who might have been killed in action in Italy. After many hours of searching on multiple visits, Alessandra located one such soldier, a member of the 100th Infantry Battalion, composed of Japanese American (Nissei) soldiers who were residents of Hawai'i. In the cemetery, she was finally able to locate the gravesite of this soldier, Mikio Hasemoto.

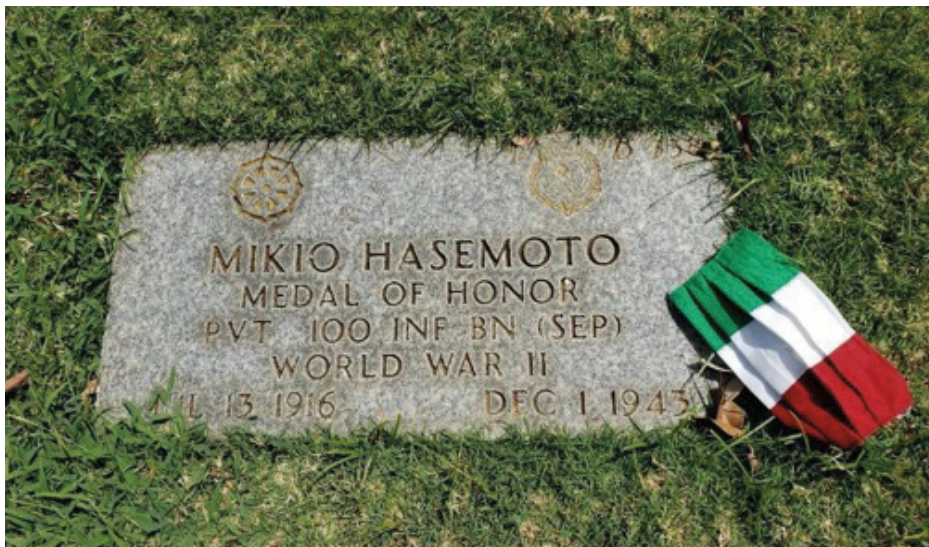
It so happens that Mikio was killed on December 1, 1943, during the first probing actions of the German Gustav Defensive Line that ran through the Cassino area and over the Apennine Mountains to the Adriatic Sea. He died in Cerasuolo which is about 15 miles northeast of Cassino. The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs describes his story:

*“Hasemoto received the Distinguished Service Cross in recognition of extraordinary heroism near Cerasuolo, Italy, on Nov. 29, 1943. Forty enemy soldiers, including two firing machine guns, attacked his platoon.*

*Hasemoto challenged the machine gunners and emptied four magazines from his Browning Automatic Rifle at the approaching enemy before gunfire damaged his weapon. He found a new rifle and killed 20 enemy soldiers. He kept fighting until his weapon jammed again.*

*Private Hasemoto survived this battle but died in combat two days later on Dec. 1, 1943.”*

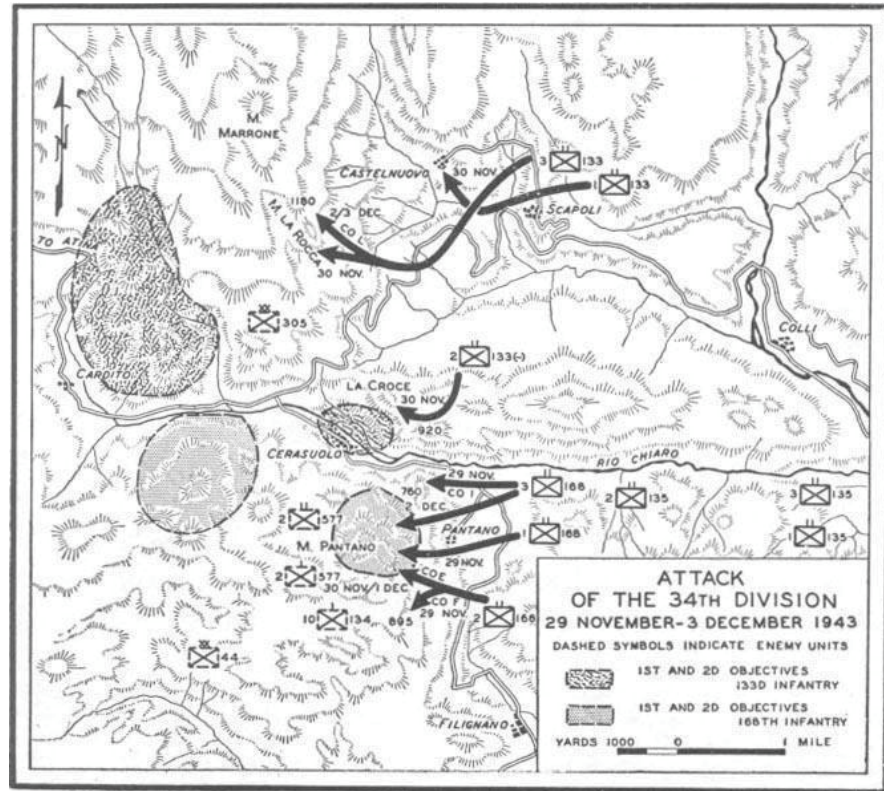
Many years later, he received the Congressional Medal of Honor on June 21, 2000.



The gravesite of Private Mikio Hasemoto at the National Military Cemetery of the Pacific  
Photo courtesy of Alessandra Di Vetta



The village of Cerasuolo where Hasemoto died, is located near the center of the map. CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY, UNITED STATES ARMY, WASHINGTON, D.C., 1990.



President Franklin Roosevelt activated the 100th Infantry Battalion on June 12, 1942. The Battalion was a racially segregated unit, comprised of more than 1,400 second generation Japanese Americans, known as Nisei.

They represented all walks of life in Hawai'i: schoolteachers, factory workers, manufacturing officials, mechanics, agriculturists, salesmen, civil engineers, workers from sugar and pineapple plantations and from dozens of other island occupations. What is most amazing perhaps is that 95 percent of them were children of immigrants. They faced substantial prejudice and were eager to prove themselves in battle.



The 100th Infantry Battalion was attached to the 34th “Red Bull” Division’s 133rd Regiment, and first saw action when it landed on the beachhead at Salerno in southern Italy on September 22. The unit then moved north, capturing the city of Benevento, northwest of Naples.

The battle for Monte Cassino commenced in January. The Germans occupied the upper slopes but not the abbey itself which stood on the hilltop. The 100th would suffer horrendous casualties in near suicidal attacks on the German lines. At night, A and C companies of the 100th slogged through the river reaching the wall where the enemy was located, and the units managed to hold their ground under intense fire into the next day. B Company was met with heavy machine gun fire and was nearly wiped out, leaving only 14 of the original 187 men in B Company to reach the wall.

The 100th then was ordered to take Castle Hill, which they did on February 8. This second assault was preceded by three days of intense bombing. In one platoon of the 100th, only five of forty soldiers survived. The 100th was again pulled back into reserve and replaced by British and Indian soldiers after nearly taking Cassino.

The devastating battle for Monte Cassino marked the end of the original 100th Infantry Battalion. The battalion had landed in Italy with 1,300 men, and five months later, only 521 were in fighting condition. An example was C Company. It had started with 170 men and after Cassino, only 23 remained. By this time, war correspondents were referring to the 100th as the “Purple Heart Battalion.”

With so many losses, the 100th desperately needed reinforcement. Help came in the form of two waves of replacements from the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, an all-volunteer unit made up of Nisei from Hawai'i and the United States mainland that had been formed a year earlier. The combined unit became the 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team. The first two groups of replacements joined the 100th in the spring of 1944, bringing the battalion strength up to 1,095.

The newly formed 100/442 saw its greatest moment in late 1944 in France in its successful, but costly effort to rescue the Lost Battalion of the Texas 36th Division. In early 1945, it found itself again in Italy helping to launch the Allied assault through the Apennine Mountains, which ended the war on the Italian front.

It was in the Apennine Mountains, along German Field Marshal Kesselring's Gothic Line, that a young Lieutenant Daniel Inouye, an Infantry Platoon Leader in the 100th/442nd RCT almost died in a horrific battle. On April 21, 1945, Lieutenant Inouye was leading a flanking attack on a heavily defended ridge near San Terenzo in Tuscany, Italy when he was himself ambushed by three German MG-43 machine guns.

Inouye's 30-man platoon was facing complete annihilation when he launched a series of successful attacks that eliminated the German positions but resulted in him being gravely wounded and eventually losing his right arm, which was sawn off without anesthesia.



Lieutenant Daniel Inouye

He awoke to see the worried men of his platoon hovering over him. His only comment before being carried away was to order them back to their positions, saying “nobody called off the war!” On June 21, 2000, Inouye, at that time a U.S. Senator from Hawai‘i, received the Medal of Honor from President Bill Clinton.

On July 15, 1946, in Washington, D.C., President Harry S. Truman pinned the seventh regimental citation on the 100th/442nd’s banners and addressed the Nisei troops: “You are now on your way home. You fought not only the enemy, but you fought prejudice — and you have won. Keep up that fight, and we will continue to win — to make this great Republic stand for just what the Constitution says it stands for: the welfare of all people all the time.”

And today a reconstructed Abbey of Montecassino (the current spelling) looks serenely over the valley below where so many gave their lives...



The reconstructed Abbey of Montecassino

Special thanks to:

*Daniel Inouye: A Japanese American Soldier's Valor in World II*

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/inouyeww2.htm>

Andrea Giannasi, *Nisei in guerra. I soldati nippoamericani in Italia (1944-1945)*. Argot Edizioni, 2018.

100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Education Center. <https://www.100thbattalion.org/>



## Chapter 12

### Hawai'i's Toscanini - Domenico Moro, The Sicilian Bandmaster of The Royal Hawaiian Band

By Mark Ethridge

December 6, 1941 —Domenico Moro and the Royal Hawaiian Band are preparing for their 3:30 p.m. Sunday concert at Kapi'olani Park in Waikiki.

Domenico Moro had only recently become the Bandmaster on January 2, 1941. Moro was born in 1885 in the little village of Caronia on the northeast shore of Sicily. When he was only 13 years old, Moro was already studying conducting at the Provincial Conservatory of Music in Messina, Sicily.

When Moro was seventeen, a U.S. Navy vessel visited Messina's harbor and an officer went to the conservatory to recruit local talent. Moro couldn't resist the offer, and several months later he was appointed bandmaster for the U.S. Navy, even though he couldn't speak English!

In 1924, by way of San Francisco, made his way to Hawai'i where he held a variety of musical jobs, including director of the Honolulu Plantation Band, flute player in the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra, and finally as a member of the Royal Hawaiian Band and bandmaster in 1941.

We don't know exactly what the bandmaster or the band members were doing that Saturday, December 6 night, but we do know the program that was to be performed. The program had been printed in the Sunday, December 7 issue of the Honolulu Star Bulletin that was in the process of being finalized and distributed Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

Other events on the social page included announcement of an Iolani Palace Christmas Eve program, a Farrington High School play, marriages and funerals, Dorothy Dix's advice column, a Kamehameha ROTC picnic, election results of the Waipahu High School sophomore class, and the publication of a Chinese cookbook.

We also know, that on Saturday, December 6, the Japanese Imperial Navy, about 240 miles north of Oahu, was finalizing their plans for a daring surprise attack on the United States Naval Base at Pearl Harbor.

***Royal Hawaiian Band Program December 7, 1941***

***The Royal Hawaiian band, under the direction of Domenico Moro, Bandmaster, will be heard at 3:30 p. m. Sunday at Kapi'olani park.***

***The program follows:***

*Hawai'i Pono (Hawaiian national an-them). . . . . Berger*

*Overture-Masaniello . . . . . Auber*

*Song-In The Land of Lei (by request) . . . . Perez (Miriam Leliani, soprano)*

*Ala Moana (a song of Hawai'i). . . . . Lukens and Noble*

*Capriccio Italien (by request). . . . . Tchaikovsky*

***Songs of Hawai'i by the Royal Hawaiian band vocalist and string ensemble:***

*Pill Aoao. . . . . Kellimoewai and Kaleiluhia*

*Hooma'u . . . . . Unknown (Vocal solo by Jack Heleluhee)*

*Haumani . . . . . Lena Machado*

*Maka Onana . . . . . Unknown (Vocal solo by Abbie Wilson)*

*Pau Lillia . . Alfred Alohihea (Vocal solo by John Panoke)*

*Kaena . . . . . Unknown (Vocal solo by Michael Hanapi)*

*He Ono . Bina Mossman (Vocal solo by Charles Pokipala)*

*O Oe Ka'u . . . . . C.King*

*Ua Nani Kauai . . . . . Unknown (Vocal solo by Miriam Leilani)*

***Finale:***

*The Star Spangled Banner . . . . . Francis Scott Key*



## Honolulu Star-Bulletin 1<sup>st</sup> EXTRA

# WAR! OAHU BOMBED BY JAPANESE PLANES

SIX KNOWN DEAD, 21 INJURED, AT EMERGENCY HOSPITAL  
Attack Made  
On Island's  
Defense Areas

San Francisco, Dec. 7.—President Roosevelt announced this morning that Japanese planes had attacked Manila and Pearl Harbor.

... (The rest of the newspaper clipping text is too small to transcribe accurately but follows a similar layout to the above.)

The next morning at 7:48 Hawai'i Time, the base was attacked by 353 aircraft launched in two waves from two aircraft carriers, and life in Oahu was forever changed.

We can safely assume that the Royal Hawaiian Band did not perform their concert. In the aftermath of the attack,

some band members left to join the U.S. military. However, in the days and years that followed, Moro and the band would continue to actively perform and support the war effort. On Army Day in April 1942, for example, the band performed for an audience composed of mostly servicemen at the Coronation Bandstand. As well as classical and patriotic favorites, at least half of the program was dedicated to local Hawaiian popular music. Moro made a concerted effort to increase the band's playing of Hawaiian music. These included performances by Hawaiian performers as soloists. One such talented local performer was Lena Machado, a native Hawaiian singer, composer, and ukulele player known as "Hawai'i's Songbird."

Under the direction of conductor Domenico Moro in 1941, she appeared as a guest soloist with the Royal Hawaiian Band. In response to requests by the public for her to become the band's regular featured soloist, the government's board of supervisors allocated \$2,000 for her to accompany the band to Hawai'i's outlying areas, including military installations.

She appears as a guest vocalist in a March 23, 1946, concert program.

In June of 1947, Moro also played a decisive role in the life of another Hawai'i musician, 17-year-old Gabriel Baltazar, Jr., who would later become a legendary jazz saxophonist. Gabe's father asked Moro to help his son with phrasing of the Concerto Fantasia from Rigoletto by Giuseppe Verdi, which was the audition piece for a prize for music camp at Interlachen, Michigan. He taught



Baltazar well, and he won the contest. In his autobiography Baltazar said:

*“Real Italian teacher, you know? He was the Toscanini of Hawai’i. He wrote some concertos and solo pieces, and he knew all the operas, all the overtures. And he memorized all that, like Toscanini. He didn’t need the music. He could memorize, man. Knew all the parts, the third part, the second part.”* (Gabe Baltazar and Theo Garneau, *If It Swings, It’s Music: The Autobiography of Hawai’i’s Gabe Baltazar, Jr.* University of Hawai’i Press, May 2012).

The Royal Hawaiian Band dates from 1836 when it was founded by King Kamehameha III. Henry Berger was the driving force behind the band from 1872 to 1915, and his arrangement of Hawai’i Pono’i became the royal Hawaiian national anthem (now the Hawaiian state song). On August 4, 1944, Moro celebrated the 100th anniversary of Berger’s birth with a concert in Kapi’olani Park and conducting with a gold-tipped baton given to Berger on his 70th birthday.

During the 1940s and 1950s, Moro worked hard to improve the working conditions of his band members. He obtained periodic pay increases for the members, obtained additional funds for the glee club associated with the band, and expanded the band’s Hawaiian and classical repertoire.

Moro retired as bandmaster when the board did not reappoint him because of his age (then 70 years old) and he lived many more years before quietly passing away on December 22, 1976.

Note: Much of the information for this article comes from the book titled the *Royal Hawaiian Band—the Legacy* by Scott C.S. Stone, Island Heritage Publishing, 2004.



Lela Machado

**Royal Hawaiian Band  
Concert Sunday**

The Royal Hawaiian band under the direction of Domenico Moro, bandmaster, will be heard Sunday afternoon at Kapiolani park in Wai-kiki commencing at 2:30 p. m. Featured on this program will be Sally Wood and her hula troupe. Radio station KGU will broadcast the entire program which is as follows:

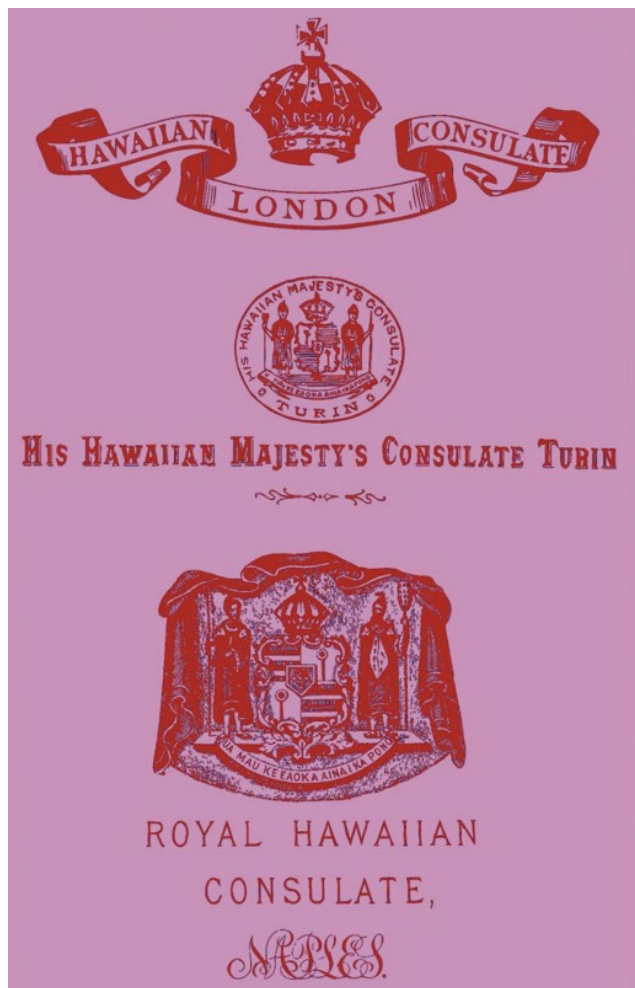
Hawaii Pono! (Hawaiian National Anthem) ..... Berger  
 March—Cosmopolitan ..... Herbert  
 Overture—Oberon ..... Weber  
 Song—Imi Au Ia Oe ..... C. E. King  
 (By the Group)  
 Suite Espagnole—La Feria ..... Lacome  
 No. 1—Los Toros  
 No. 2—La Reja (Serenade)  
 No. 3—La Zarzuela

**INTERMISSION**

Songs of Hawaii by the Royal Hawaiian band vocalists and string ensemble, also featuring Lena Machado as guest soloist and Sally Wood’s hula troupe:  
 Kuu Lei Aaloha ..... Chas. King  
 Kaulana Kauai ..... Lena Machado  
 What Else Can I Do ..... David Lum  
 (Vocal solos by Lena Machado)

**SALLY WOOD’S HULA TROUPE**  
 Kawaihae ..... Bill Lincoln  
 Gorgeous Hula ..... Johnny Almeida  
 Beauty Hula ..... Johnny Almeida  
 Show Me How To Do the Hula. Unknown  
 Noho Paipai ..... Johnny Almeida

**Finale—The Star-Spangled Banner** .....  
 Francis Scott Key  
 the ill mannered people who tor-



## Chapter 13 The 21st Century Rebirth of Kalakaua's Hawaiian Youths Abroad Program at the University of Hawai'i Manoa

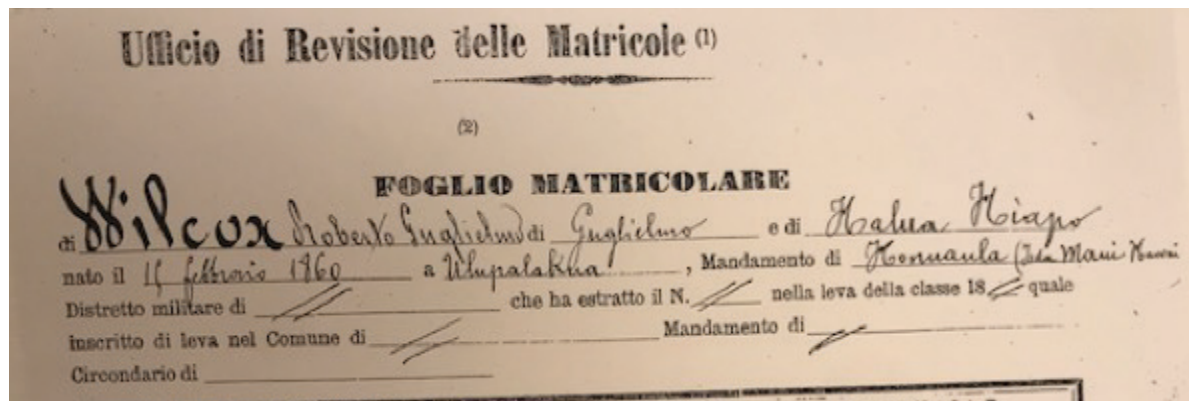
By Mark Ethridge

In the past several issues of the *Gazzettino*, we have presented the experiences of Hawaiian youth traveling to Italy to study under King Kalakaua's Hawaiian Youths Abroad Program. From 1880 to 1892, Kalakaua sent 18 Hawaiian youth abroad to study in Europe and Asia to develop future leaders for the Kingdom of Hawai'i; five of the students were sent to Italy. During the summer of 2018, after a 126-year hiatus, the University of Hawai'i Manoa restarted King Kalakaua's Hawaiian Youths Abroad Program. University of Hawai'i students first visited London and Paris during the summer of 2018, followed by Italy and England during the summer of 2019, just in time to avoid the world-wide pandemic and travel bans that followed.

This issue will examine the activities of the University of Hawai'i students in Italy, including research that they undertook to retrace the steps of the Kalakaua's Hawaiian Youths Abroad (HYA) Program during the late 19th century. The visits to Italy occurred during

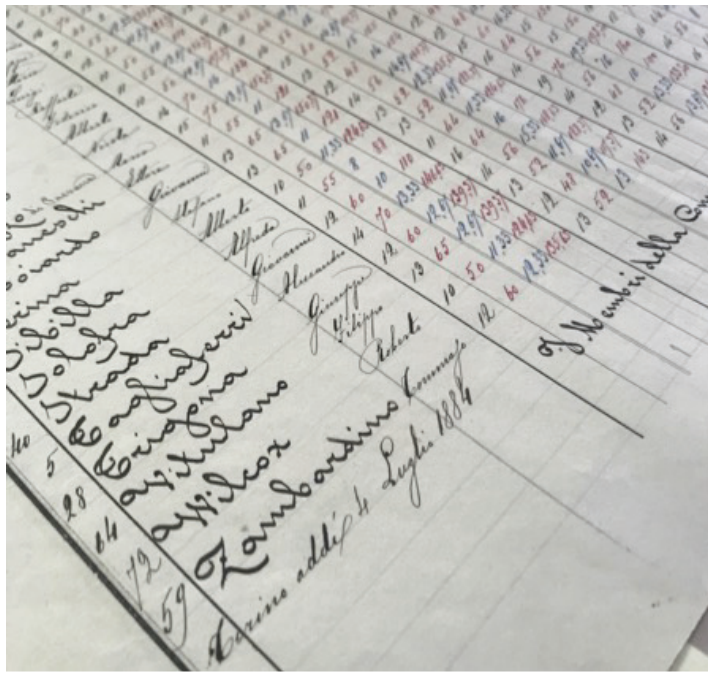
late July and early August of 2019 and included stays in Turin and Naples where the 19th century program participants studied. Three faculty and fourteen students prepared travel blogs as well as research projects related to the participants in the original HYA. Each modern student researched one of the original HYA students. Excerpts from these blogs and papers served as sources for this and our previous articles. We shall summarize here some of the highlights of these visits, but for the complete details we encourage readers to visit the University of Hawai'i Manoa website at: <https://manoa.Hawai'i.edu/nhss/programs/Hawaiian-youths-abroad-program/hya-2019-italy-england/>

In Turin, the group visited the Royal Military Academy of Turin (now the Scuola di Applicazione) where Robert Wilcox and James Kaneholo Booth had studied. The UH group also stayed at Via Verde where Wilcox had lived during his student years.



The registration records of Robert Wilcox

At the Academy, the UH group was greeted by university liaison Ten.Col (Lieutenant Colonel) Spinello, Manuel Lami (Librarian), and Gian Luca Falessi (General Affairs Office Manager). After a tour of the facility and its library, the Academy presented the Hawaiian visitors with documents including registration records, transcripts, student grades, and the only photo of James Kaneholo



Official Academy grades with Robert Wilcox  
in next to last position of the ledger



Presentation of documents by Academy  
officials to the Hawaiian students

Booth known to exist. The UH Team was then invited to be guests of honor at the 2019 Academy graduation ceremony (190 graduates).

Nearby the UH Team visited a cafe which was frequented by military students that would often discuss contemporary political issues. It can be reasonable assumed that Wilcox and Booth were frequent visitors and enjoyed the food and the conversations.

The group also found and visited the location of the former Royal Hawaiian Consulate managed by Hawaiian Consul de Bel Brounlie. On day ten of the visit, they then got a chance to see his residence in Turin. Also visited was the Academy Albertina where Maile Nowlein took art lessons.

The group spent the last three days of the trip in Naples where James Kāneholo Booth attended the Naples Naval Academy, and where he caught typhoid and died on a subsequent visit after studying with Wilcox in Turin. The group searched for his grave in the Old British Cemetery,

where they encountered closed gates and a cleaning crew of five men. Reluctantly the workers agreed to let the students in three at a time, and eventually all were let in. The students were very moved by this experience. Booth's body was first laid to rest in the British Cemetery in Naples. Eight years after Booth's death, the British Cemetery in Naples relocated and transported his remains to a new location in a mass grave. His remains could rest in the New British Cemetery, in the old British Cemetery or even possibly in the Vatican. Sadly, his final resting place may never be known.



The Hawaiian students posing for a photo at the end of their visit



Academy where Maile Nowlein studied



Friends of Italy Society of Hawai'i 101



## Chapter 14

### Joe Saturnia, A Long-Time Member of FOISOH Decided to Honor his Italian Ancestry with a Hawaiian Touch...

By Felicity James

Joe Saturnia, a long-time member of FOISOH decided to honor his Italian ancestry with a Hawaiian touch...

At first glance, it is clear that this is no ordinary surfboard. Whilst most modern-day boards sport anything from graffiti-style illustrations, geometric graphics, or surrealist art, these are noticeably absent from this image. In fact, if you look closely, you will see that this surfboard is adorned with a beautifully ornate and detailed crest - a somewhat unusual embellishment to see on a Hawaiian surfboard!

This crest represents the small comune of San Potito Ultra - a town of just 1300 people in the province of Avellino, Campania, and is around an hour's drive from Naples. Surrounded by rolling hills and bordered by the Salzola torrent, this piccolo villaggio counts 18th-century palaces of Palazzo Amatucci, Palazzo Maffei, and a 17th century church - St. Antony of Padua - amongst its draw cards.



The crest of San Potito Ultra, province of  
Avellino, Campania

Joe enlisted the talents of Eric Arakawa and Jeannie Chesser to help him bring his vision to life. Arakawa is a local surfboard shaper who has made a name for himself as one of the top shapers on the island. A long-time surfer himself, Arakawa cut his teeth shaping for Hawai'i Island Creations (HIC) before starting his own successful surf shop, Surfboard Factory Hawai'i, based in Waialua.

Chesser, a surfer herself, is an accomplished surfboard artist, having practiced her craft since the mid-1970s. Two Italian-inspired surfboards were created for Joe - a 7'6" board and a 6'0" board. They took a total of three months to make, and each feature the unique crest of San Potito Ultra and are framed by the colors of the Italian flag - green, white and red. Joe - who acquired Italian citizenship six years ago - plans to present one of the boards to the Commune of San Potito Ultra in person in the Fall of 2022.

We look forward to hearing all about Joe's presentation next year!



## **Friends of Italy Society of Hawai'i**

501(c)7 non-profit organization

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Curated by *Mark Ethridge* and designed by *Dario Failla*

