

The *Kumulipo* or Hawaiian cosmogonic creation chant is 2,102 lines and describes sixteen eras or ages of evolution that created the Hawaiian world view,



language, culture, societal values and familial interrelationships with all living things in relation to surviving on an island with finite resources over thousands of years. The Hawaiian civilization was highly developed and complex. This picture between *Papa* earth mother and *Wakea* sky father is believed by

many Hawaiians to be the beginning of their staple food *kalo* and the first human or Hawaiian progenitor to the Hawaiian race. This cosmogonic genealogy is one of many that informed and shaped a unique Hawaiian world view from the middle of the largest ocean on earth. According to Queen Liliuokalani's account of the *Kumulipo* the Hawaiian race traces the family tree 26,000 years ago. The *aikapu* or Hawaiian religion began thousands of years ago. The polytheistic religion evolved untouched from foreign influence for a very long time. Similar to many aboriginal religions around the world, the natural environment and celestial bodies were integrated into daily prayers and ceremonies. Kane, Ku, Lono and Kanaloa comprise the four main sects of Hawaiian religion. The Hawaiian religion was strictly followed and adhered to. The conversion into Christianity was an easy transition for Hawaiians because prior to polytheism Hawaii was a monotheistic society.

The first Christian service known in Hawaii was on January 28, 1779 at the



tower featured below. Captain James Cook read the burial service from the Bible for seaman William Whatham. This is known to be the first Christian service in the Hawaiian islands. Two weeks later on February 14, 1779, Captain James Cook was sacrificed at Hikiiau heiau for attempting to kidnap King Kalaniopuu at Kaawaloa. At this same spot the first Hawaiian missionary was born.

<https://konahistorical.org/mailes-meanderings/hikiiau-heiau-written-in-stone>

Now that we have shared 26,000 years of Hawaiian civilization in half a page to the first Christian service the next article will share the life of the first Hawaiian missionary Henry Opukahaia. Thanks to Henry the Christianizing of the Sandwich islands transition from polytheistic to an internationally recognized monotheistic Christian nation state is still in existence today.