

Hawaii Postage Stamps

Until 1893, Hawaii was an independent Kingdom. From 1893-1898 it was a republic. The United States annexed Hawaii in 1898, and it became a Territory on April 30, 1900. Hawaiian stamps remained in use through June 13, 1900, and were replaced by US postage stamps on June 14. In 1959 Hawaii became the 50th US State consisting of about 20 islands in the mid-Pacific about 2300 miles southwest of San Francisco.

Missionary Issue

Hawaii's first stamps are known as the Missionary Issue. Four stamps of three values - 2¢, 5¢ and 13¢ - comprise the issue, all printed locally by letterpress at the Government Printing Office. Missionaries are assigned Hawaii Nos. 1-4 by Scott Catalogue. The first three stamps in the issue were announced for sale on October 1, 1851, at the Honolulu and Lahaina post offices. By early April, 1852, the fourth stamp was printed to correct confusion and state clearly the 13¢ value was to pay both Hawaiian and United States postage through to any East Coast United States destination.



2 Cents blue
1



5 Cents blue
2



13 Cents blue
3



13 Cents blue
4

Boston Engraved Issue

Hawaii's second issue was produced by intaglio printing in Boston, thus the name Boston Engraved. They are assigned Hawaii Nos. 5-9 in Scott Catalogue. Only two denominations were printed, 5¢ and 13¢. The 5¢ value paid the Hawaiian domestic foreign mail charge to handle a letter and deliver it to a ship bound for San Francisco. The 13¢ value paid both the Hawaiian 5¢ rate and the United States 6¢ rate from San Francisco to the Eastern States plus the 2¢ ship fee paid to the captain of the vessel carrying the mail to San Francisco.



5 Cents blue
5



13 Cents dark red
6

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Numeral Issue

Philatelic writers of the 19th Century labeled Hawaii's Numeral Issue the plain border numerals to distinguish them from the fancy bordered Missionaries. Early collectors recognized the many varieties presented in these stamps and began to plate them - assigning each stamp to its proper position on the ten subject plate of moveable type. This exercise is challenging because moveable type shifted in the frame and, compounding the problem, the printer disassembled the frame whenever a value change was made and things never got back quite the way they were.



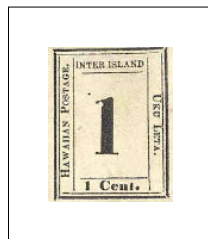
1c light blue
12



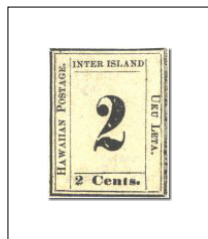
2c light blue
13



2c black on greenish blue
14



1c black on greyish
15



2c black on greyish
16



2c dark blue on bluish
17



2c black on blue grey
18



1c black
19



2c black
20

Hawaii Postage Stamps

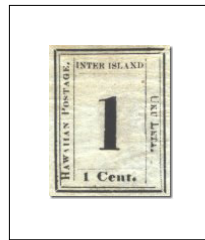
Numerals Issue Continued



5c blue
21



5c blue
22



1c black
23



2c black
24



1c dark blue
25



2c dark blue
26

Boston Lithograph Issue

By 1861, Hawaiian postal officials were confident the 2¢ domestic rate would be retained so they decided to replace the 2¢ Numerals with a more finished stamp. Because these new stamps were printed by a Boston printer using lithography, they and their engraved re-issues and engraved imitations are known collectively as the Boston Lithographs.

1861-63



2c pale rose
27



2c carmine rose
27a

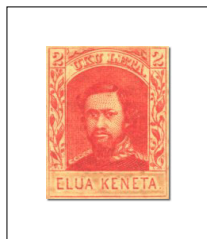


2c pale rose
28



2c carmine rose
28a

1869 RE-ISSUE Thin Wove Paper



2c red
29

Hawaii Postage Stamps

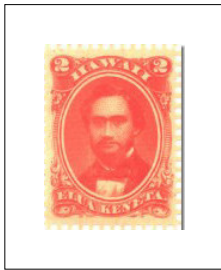
Bank Note Issue

Stung by criticism of their stamps in the philatelic press, the Hawaiian post office determined to obtain more finished stamps from the United States. Borrowing much of the design concept from the the Nova Scotia 10¢ stamp (Nova Scotia Scott No. 12), William J. Irwin, a clerk in the Honolulu post office, created a 2¢ orange red stamp featuring a portrait of King Kamehameha IV. Postmaster General David Kalakaua, ordered the stamp from the National Bank Note Company of New York, and directed they be perforated, if it would cause little extra cost. The first of the Bank Note Issue, the Engraved Perforated Royal Portrait Stamps, thus came to be. This issue, if it can be called such despite its long period and varied designs, began with the 1864 2¢ orange red Kamehameha IV stamp and ends with the 1891, 2¢ dull violet Queen Liliuokalani stamp.

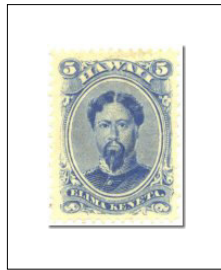
1864-66



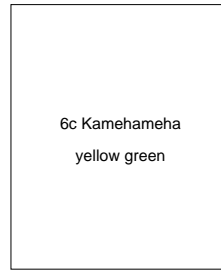
1c purple
30



2c rose vermillion
31

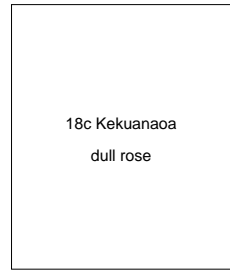


5c blue
32



6c Kamehameha
yellow green

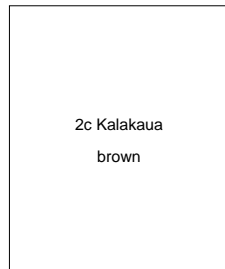
33



18c Kekuanaoa
dull rose

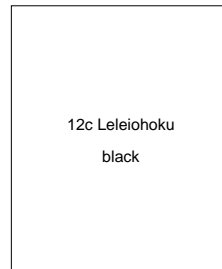
34

1875



2c Kalakaua
brown

35



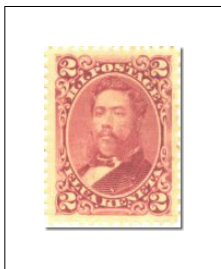
12c Leleiohoku
black

36

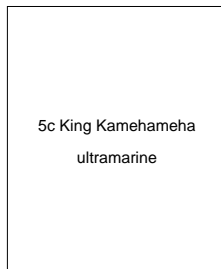
1882



1c blue
37

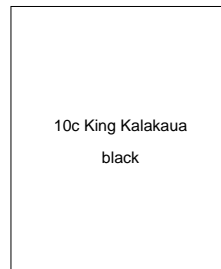


2c lilac rose
38



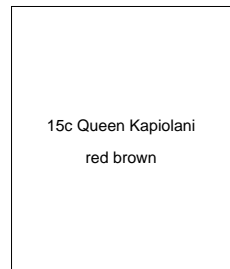
5c King Kamehameha
ultramarine

39



10c King Kalakaua
black

40



15c Queen Kapiolani
red brown

41

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Bank Note Issue Continued

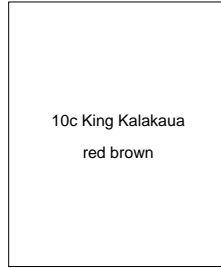
1883-86



1c green
42

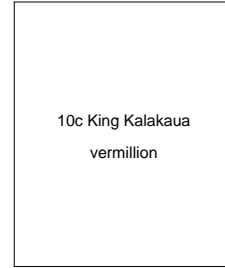


2c rose
43



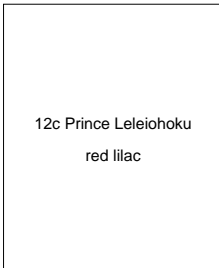
10c King Kalakaua
red brown

44



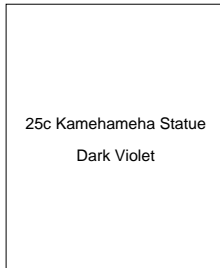
10c King Kalakaua
vermillion

45



12c Prince Leleiohoku
red lilac

46



25c Kamehameha Statue
Dark Violet

47



50c red
48

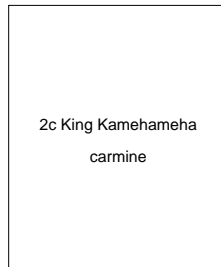


\$1 rose red
49

1886-89 Reproduction and Reprint



2c orange Vermillion
50



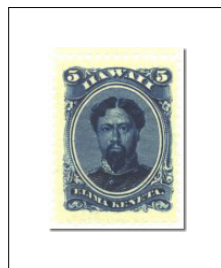
2c King Kamehameha
carmine

51

1890-91



2c dull violet
52



5c deep indigo
52c

Hawaii Postage Stamps

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT ISSUE OF 1893

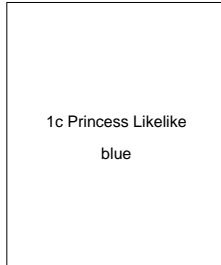
Queen Liliuokalani was deposed in a bloodless revolution on January 17, 1893. Hawaii's new leaders created a provisional government and sought quick annexation to the United States but politics in America got in the way when a new administration was inaugurated, sympathetic to the Hawaiian royalty. As the weeks passed, it became evident the provisional government would need to govern rather than be a temporary caretaker.



Stamps of 1864-91. Overprinted in red

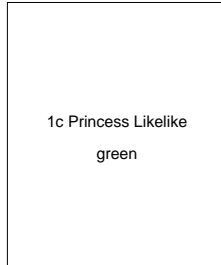


1c purple
53



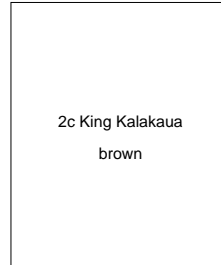
1c Princess Likelike
blue

54



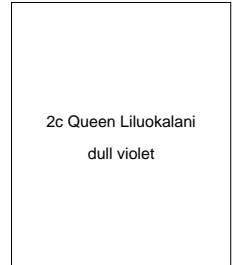
1c Princess Likelike
green

55



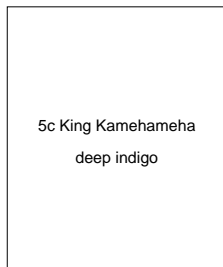
2c King Kalakaua
brown

56



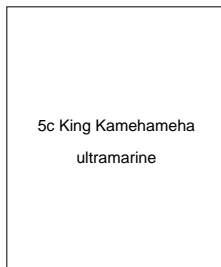
2c Queen Liliuokalani
dull violet

57



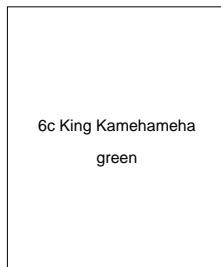
5c King Kamehameha
deep indigo

58



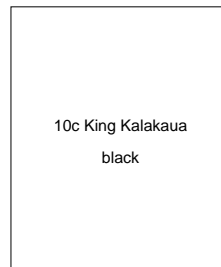
5c King Kamehameha
ultramarine

59



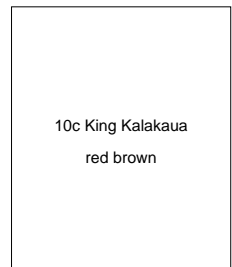
6c King Kamehameha
green

60



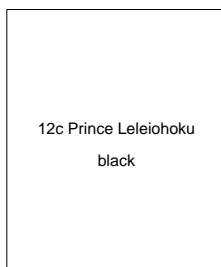
10c King Kalakaua
black

61



10c King Kalakaua
red brown

61B



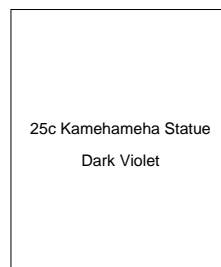
12c Prince Leleiohoku
black

62



12c Prince Leleiohoku
red lilac

63



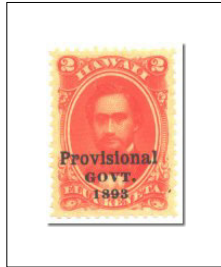
25c Kamehameha Statue
Dark Violet

64

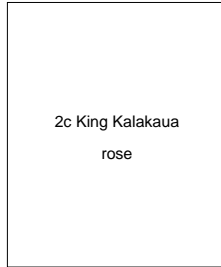
Hawaii Postage Stamps

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT ISSUE OF 1893 CONTINUED

Stamps of 1864-91. Overprinted in black

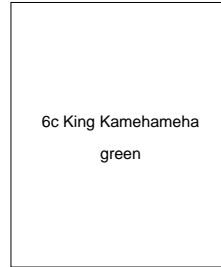


2c vermilion
65



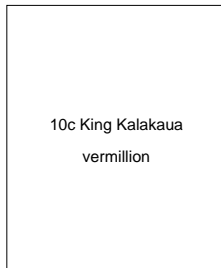
2c King Kalakaua
rose

66



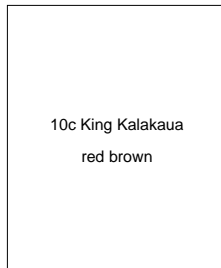
6c King Kamehameha
green

66c



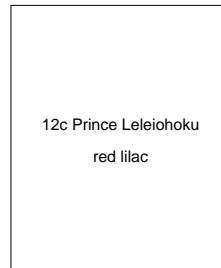
10c King Kalakaua
vermilion

67



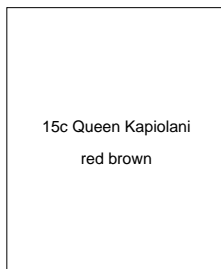
10c King Kalakaua
red brown

68



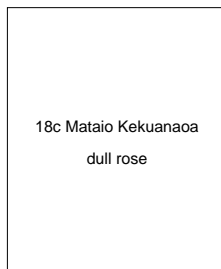
12c Prince Leleiohoku
red lilac

69



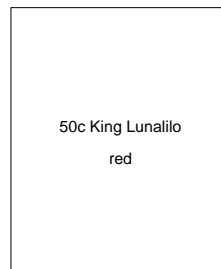
15c Queen Kapiolani
red brown

70



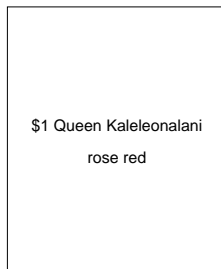
18c Mataio Kekuanaoa
dull rose

71



50c King Lunalilo
red

72



\$1 Queen Kaleleonalani
rose red

73

Hawaii Postage Stamps

PICTORIAL ISSUE

Three different governments issued the nine stamps of the Pictorial Issue. The first five stamps were issued by the Provisional Government, created in 1893 to provide an interim government following the revolution of January 17. The Republic of Hawaii was established July 4, 1894, and the twelve cents stamp was issued by the Republic of Hawaii on October 27, 1894. The twelve cents stamp is the only one of these nine stamps to bear the name Republic of Hawaii. Hawaii was annexed to the United States on August 12, 1898. After annexation, the formerly independent Republic of Hawaii continued to exist as a United States possession for purposes of conducting all internal affairs, including the operation of its independent postal service. The Republic of Hawaii as a possession of the United States ceased when Territorial status was established on June 14, 1900. The final three Pictorial stamps were issued by the Republic of Hawaii, a possession of the United States.

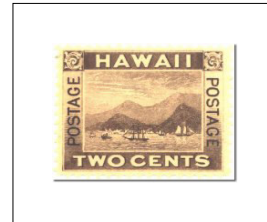
1894



1c yellow
74



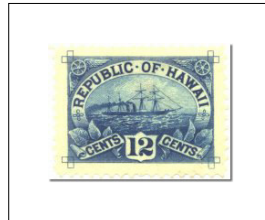
5c rose lake
76



2c brown
75



10c yellow green
77



12c blue
78



25c deep blue
79

1899



1c dark green
80



5c blue
82



2c rose
81

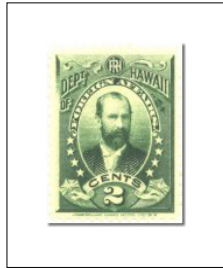
Hawaii Postage Stamps

OFFICIAL STAMPS

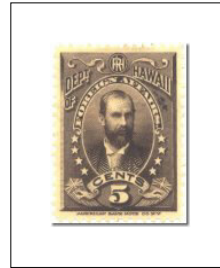
While Hawaii lobbied for annexation in Washington, D.C., an idea was born to print stamps for the Hawaiian Department of Foreign Affairs. At the time these stamps were issued on January 28, 1897, the prospect for annexation was dimmed by opposition of President Grover Cleveland. Indeed, there is a rub-it-in-your-face aspect of these stamps. The central portrait features Lorrin Andrews Thurston, Hawaii's former minister plenipotentiary who had antagonized President Cleveland by his aggressive pursuit of annexation. Placing Thurston's portrait on the stamps communicated Hawaii's resolve to win annexation.

Six stamps printed by the American Bank Note Company make up this issue, all bearing the same design, made by Maj. G. C. Potter, Chief Clerk of the Office of Foreign Affairs:

1894



2c green
O1



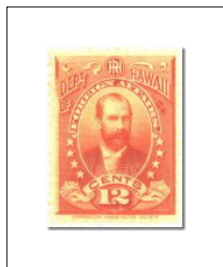
5c black brown
O2



6c deep ultramarine
O3



10c bright rose
O4



12c orange
O5



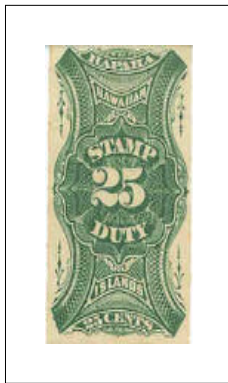
25c grey violet
O6

Hawaii Postage Stamps

REVENUE STAMPS

Hawaii's first adhesive revenue stamps were issued December 22, 1876, to pay newly enacted taxes on deeds, agreements, bills of lading and various other instruments and contracts. Taxes had been a part of Hawaiian society since long before 1876. Sometime around 1850, someone conceived the idea to apply a seal to any taxable document to show the tax was paid. The Stamp Duty Act of 1876 taxed many more kind of instruments than were taxed previously and also authorized the printing of adhesive stamps to use as evidence of tax payment. During the next twenty-five years, Hawaii's governance transferred from a monarchy to a republic and then to a United States Territory. Revenue stamps were printed by each of these governments.

1877



25c green
R1



50c yellow orange
R2



\$1 black
R3



\$5 vermilion & violet blue
R4



\$10 reddish brown & green
R5



\$50 slate blue & carmine
R6

Hawaii Postage Stamps

REVENUE STAMPS CONTINUED

1893-94



20c surcharge on 25c green
R7



inverted surcharge
R7a



20c surcharge on 25c green
R8

1894



20c red
R9



25c violet brown
R10

1897



\$1 dark blue
R11

Hawaii Postage Stamps

REVENUE STAMPS CONTINUED

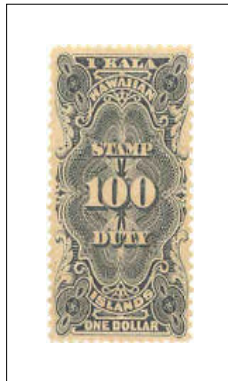
1901



\$50 slate blue & carmine
R12



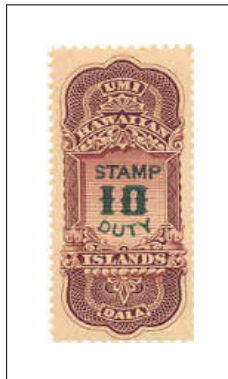
50c yellow orange
R13



\$1 black
R14



\$5 vermilion & violet blue
R15



\$10 reddish brown & green
R16