

# hawai'iculturecue

**Hawaii's Last Queen** – On 1/16/1893, four boatloads of US Marines armed with guns and ammunition came ashore in Honolulu. The Queen of Hawai'i, Lili'uokalani, watched from her balcony as the troops took up their positions. The following day, she surrendered at gunpoint, yielding her throne to the government of the US. Born in 1838, Lili'uokalani was trained by missionaries in Western academic disciplines and the ways of polite society. She was well traveled, yet she never forgot her native language, was fiercely proud of Hawaiian traditions and was always loyal to her people. A talented composer, Lili'uokalani wrote more than 165 songs, including 'Aloha Oe,' probably the most widely recognized Hawaiian song. Following her succession to the throne, Lili'uokalani worked secretly to frame a new constitution that would restore power to Hawaiians. The US government and the sugar growers were convinced that the only way Hawai'i could survive was via annexation to the US and in 1898, Hawai'i was recognized as part of the US by President Wm. McKinley.



*Source: PBS - 'American Experience' - Hawaii's Last Queen.*

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