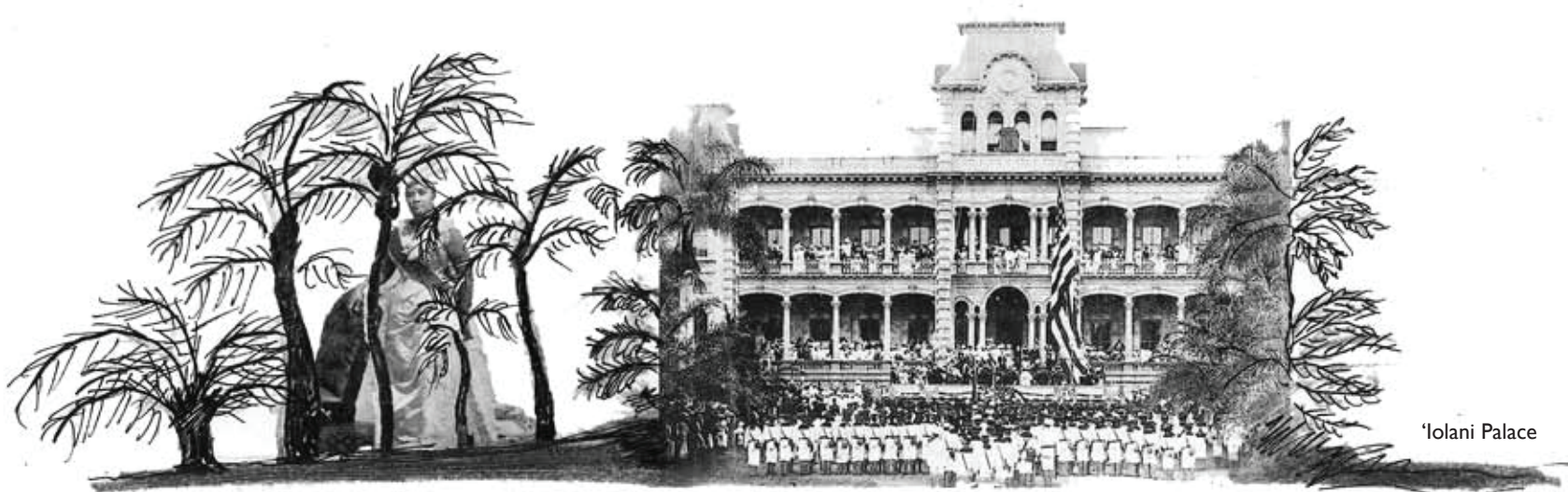


‘Iolani Palace

The ‘Iolani Palace was the residence of Hawaii’s last king and queen. It was built in 1882 for King Kalakaua, the last king of Hawaii. He was the first king to visit the United States, and in doing so he began a sugar trade with them. After Kalakaua’s death in 1891, his sister Lili’uokalani stepped in as queen. During her reign, Lili’uokalani planned to draft a new constitution for her kingdom, hoping to strengthen Hawaii’s political power. But this plan was a threat to many businessmen and sugar traders from the United States and Europe. So in January, 1893, U.S. troops were sent to Hawaii, and the queen was forced to relinquish her throne to “the superior military forces of the United States.” Two years later she was put on trial for attempting to take back the throne, and she was humiliatingly sentenced to imprisonment in an upstairs bedroom of her own palace, the ‘Iolani Palace. During this time in isolation, she composed music and wrote her memoirs. After Hawaii was annexed by the U.S., Lili’uokalani continued to fight the U.S.’s presence in her kingdom until her death in 1917.

The palace itself is located in downtown Honolulu. Its architecture is very unique, and resembles structures from the Italian Renaissance period. The style of architecture is known as American Florentine, and the ‘Iolani Palace is the only building constructed in this style.



‘Iolani Palace

Answer the question below on a separate piece of paper.

Think about what it means to annex an entire kingdom or nation. How would you react if someone tried to take over your home and family and put different rules in place? Why do you think the U.S. imprisoned Lili’uokalani in her own palace?



Lili’uokalani in her youth.

Vocabulary

Reign: period of time when a king or queen occupies the throne.

Relinquish: to give up, surrender

Annex: to seize a territory; to add to something larger