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## LUNALILO'S MOTHER INTERRED IN PACIFIC OFF WAIKIKI

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"Did you ever ask yourself why King Lunalilo preferred to have his remains put in a tomb in Kawaiahae Church [Yard] rather than in the Royal Mausoleum at Maunaala (in Nuuanu Valley)?" asked the *Hawaiian Gazette* on March 29, 1892. "Was it because of his love for his people? Not exactly. It happened this way.

"When the new Royal Mausoleum at Nuuanu Valley was completed in 1865 the remains of all the Kings, Princes and Princesses were moved there, excepting that of Princess Kekauluohi, the mother of Lunalilo. This act of disrespect of Kamehameha V to the remains of his mother made Lunalilo sorely indignant and he swore that he would not have his remains buried at the Royal Mausoleum. He kept his word. As there was no proper place for the burial of his mother, he [Lunalilo] ordered his native-servants to take the bones of his mother and bury them in the bosom of the deep, where no mortal could disturb them."

### THE BURIAL-CANOE LEAVES WAIKIKI

"At the dead of night, the canoe bearing the remains of Kekauluohi, manned by a crew of native *kahu* [attendants] left Waikiki [probably from where the Outrigger Canoe Club now stands]. They went to a point many miles off Diamond Head. When they reached the [selected] place [in the Pacific] prayers (*kanaenae*) were offered according to the ancient rites of burial. When the ceremony was over, the bones of Kekauluohi, carefully wrapped-up in white clothes, were consigned to the deep.

"One of the crew, who is still living [in March of 1892], testified that when they threw the Royal Remains into the Ocean, phosphorescent light illuminated the spot, and they could distinctly see the remains descending slowly toward the bottom . . .

"The crew returned from their solemn mission, but they were in honor-bound not to reveal the exact position where they buried Kekauluohi."

### THE ROYAL TOMB

"Directly in front of the Archive Building" in Iolani Palace Grounds, "is a circular grassy mound hedged with hibiscus," I wrote in the *Advertiser* January 26, 1927.

"At or near that mound was situated the Royal Tomb of the Kamehamehas from about 1825 to 1865. Thomas G. Thrum told me recently that he had an idea that the Royal Tomb had been located some few yards *ewa*-direction from the present Mound and near the present Palace. . . . Well-informed persons have told me that they believe that under or near the Mound that marks the site of the old Royal Tomb there still rests the bones of several High Chiefs and among them may be those of William Richards. I am informed that today there is no cavity under or near that Grassy Mound"

### ROYAL BODIES TRANSFERRED TO ROYAL MAUSOLEUM

"The Hawaiian Government . . . transferred the coffins containing the mortal remains of the Kings and High Chiefs of *Hawaii nei* from the Royal Tomb, on the Palace Grounds, to the Royal Mausoleum, on October 31, 1865," reported *The Friend* of November, 1865. "A torchlight procession accompanied the long train of carriages conveying the coffins . . . the solemn stillness was broken by the wailing of one solitary native woman . . . There were the remains of twenty different royal personages," re-interred in the Royal Mausoleum. At least three royal remains were reported

not moved from the Royal Tomb — Kekauluohi (mother of Lunalilo), Kai-neinaauao (sister of David Kalakaua), Haalilio, late ambassador to America, and possibly William Richards.

#### KING LUNALILO KEEPS HIS WORD

Prince William Lunalilo—the Peoples' Choice—was elected to succeed the late Kamehameha V in January of 1873. He reigned for about only a year, dying in 1874. David Kalakaua was elected to succeed Lunalilo.

"More than any other Ruler, Lunalilo was the Peoples' Choice," Elizabeth Lahilahi Rogers Webb told me in December of 1937. "Before he died . . . he willed . . . that he be buried in the Cemetery (Kawaiahao) with the People who elected him . . . that was not the only cause for his wanting to be buried in Kawaiahao Cemetery rather than in the Royal Mausoleum . . . his Mother is buried there and near where his tomb is now." ["Aunty Webb's" version differs from that of the *Hawaiian Gazette*.]

"His Tomb in Kawaiahao Church Yard, not being ready, his remains were temporarily deposited in the Royal Mausoleum," continued Mrs. Webb to me in 1937. "So, Lunalilo had two funerals. The first when he was interred in the Royal Mausoleum [in 1874] and the second on November 23, 1875, when he was removed from there to where his earthly remains rest today. I saw both of these funerals."

#### HEAVENLY SALUTE TO KING LUNALILO

"When the casket of Lunalilo was being carried out of the Royal Mausoleum on November 23, 1875 . . . a glaring flash of lightning and an earsplitting peal of thunder welcomed it. Volley after volley resounded through the Heavens, and continued until the Royal Burden was safely and reverently placed within the final Tomb," at "the corner of the front-yard of Kawaiahao Church [King and Punchbowl Streets]."

"When the Procession arrived at Kawaiahao Church and just as the casket was entering the Tomb, a most terrific clap of thunder burst from a heavy cloud. According to the count of many Hawaiians this was the twenty-first of these thunder-peals and the last was the most

thunderous . . . a discharge from the Artillery-of-the-Clouds, a Royal Salute sent from Heaven to honor our Beloved-Sovereign."

But where are the royal bones of Kekauluohi? In the Kawaiahao Church Yard or in the Pacific Deep off Waikiki?

#### MOONLIGHT SURFING

On Saturday evening August 22, under the auspices of the Waikiki Surf Club a display of surf board riding and canoe surfing was held. It was a perfect moonlight night and the canoes and surfers carried flaming torches. Thousands of spectators thronged the beach from Diamond Head to Fort De Russy and a real traffic jam was created.

The display while very pleasing was not as spectacular as it might have been as the spectators could see only the lights bobbing up and down and could not see either canoes or riders until they were close to the beach.

Many OCC members remember the spectacular exhibition put on by the club in the thirties when flood lights illuminated the surfers making them stand out like statues as the waves curled and they rode. This affair was never repeated as, though the spectacle was beautiful and thrilling, the riders were blinded by the lights, many lost their boards and the action was dangerous.

Such an exhibition should be carried on, but some method to light the area without danger to the riders must be worked out before it will be good for the spectator and participant alike.

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