






Governor Josh Green

Josh Green, M.D., is the ninth Governor of Hawai'i. He served as Lieutenant Governor from 2018 to 2022, was a member of the Hawai'i Senate from 2008–2018, and a member of the House of Representatives from 2004–2008. Governor Green is the only active physician-governor in the United States.

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Hawai'i State Capitol Virtual Tour



The Deep Meaning of Aloha

- A** Akahai, meaning kindness (grace), to be expressed with tenderness
- L** Lōkahi, meaning unity (unbroken), to be expressed with harmony
- O** 'Olu'olu, meaning agreeable (gentle), to be expressed with pleasantness
- H** Ha'aha'a, meaning humility (empty), to be expressed with modesty
- A** Ahonui, meaning patience (waiting for a moment), to be expressed with perseverance

"The world will turn to Hawai'i as they search for world peace because Hawai'i has the key and the key is Aloha!" —AUNTY PILAHI PAKI

Aunty Pilahi Paki, a.k.a. Juliette Pilahi Paki Silva (1910–1985), Native Hawaiian kupuna (elder) and cultural practitioner, Hawaiian language historian, teacher, author. The ALOHA acronym, written by Aunty Paki, was adopted in 1986 by the Hawai'i legislature as the "Aloha Spirit" law (Hawai'i Revised Statutes, section 5–7.5). All citizens and government officials of Hawai'i are obligated by law to conduct themselves in accordance with this law.

HAWAI'I STATE CAPITOL

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



Welina Mai! (Welcome)

Aloha and mahalo for visiting the Hawai'i State Capitol. We hope your visit will be a memorable one.

Hawai'i became a state on August 21, 1959. The Capitol took four years to complete and was dedicated by Hawai'i's second Governor, John A. Burns, on March 15, 1969.

Originally, the building was surrounded with reflecting pools to symbolize the Pacific Ocean, and the design centered around the birth of the Hawaiian Islands from the sea. Like a volcano, the sloped chamber walls spring from the surface of these pools.

Bronze seals [1] are suspended above both entrances to the capitol rotunda. Written at the bottom of the seal is the state motto: Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono (The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness).

Father Damien Statue [2]
Mountain entrance to the courtyard stands a bronze statue of Father Damien, known as the "Martyr of Moloka'i." Born Joseph De Veuster in Belgium, Father Damien was a Roman Catholic priest who volunteered to go to Moloka'i in 1873 to care for the outcasts afflicted with leprosy. He lived and worked on Kalaupapa for 16 years alongside the patients. He built chapels, organized schools and choirs, provided medical care for the living, and buried the dead. In 2009, Pope Benedict XVI canonized Father Damien as Saint Damien of Moloka'i.

The Liberty Bell [3]
Left of the Father Damien statue is a replica of the Liberty Bell, which was presented to the Territory of Hawai'i in 1960. The U.S. Treasury Department produced 55 of these replicas for states and territories to ring on patriotic occasions. The Bell is a symbol representing liberty, freedom, and democracy. It is located on the front lawn of the Capitol building as a testimony to the history of the United States.

Hawai'i State Eternal Flame War Memorial [4]
Located across the street from the Capitol on the mauka (mountain) side, directly across from the Father Damien statue, is an abstract copper and bronze sculpture dedicated on Veterans Day (October 28), 1974 by Kaua'i sculptor Bumpei Akaji, a 442nd Regimental Combat Team veteran. The memorial is dedicated to the men and women of the State of Hawai'i who have served in the armed forces of the United States.



Capitol building under construction, c. 1967. Also shown is 'Iolani Palace (right) and 'Iolani Barracks (lower left).



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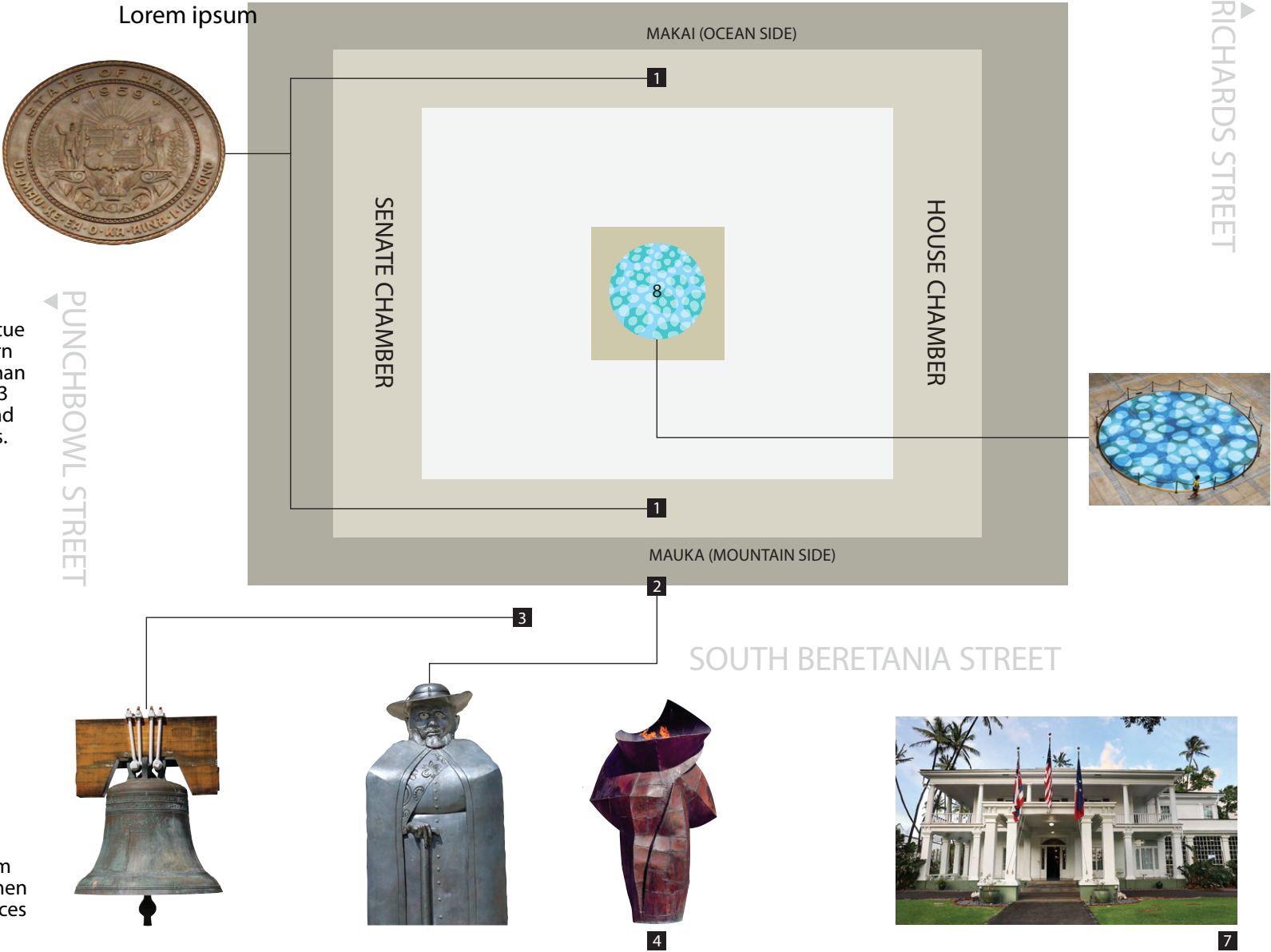
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Queen Lili'uokalani Statue [5]
The "Spirit of Lili'uokalani," created by Marianna Pineda, stands between 'Iolani Palace and the State Capitol. Queen Lili'uokalani became the first ruler of the Kingdom of Hawai'i in 1891. The Queen valued her people and organized schools for Hawaiian children. She was also a talented musician and composer. She composed more than 160 songs during her life, one of the most notable songs being, Aloha 'Oe (Farewell to Thee). Most of all, she was a steadfast, dignified queen who put her people first.

'Iolani Palace [6]
On the makai (ocean) side of the Capitol, behind the statue of Queen Lili'uokalani, you will see 'Iolani Palace. It was equipped with some of the most up-to-date amenities such as electric lights, indoor plumbing, and telephones. After the overthrow of the monarchy in 1893, the palace was renamed the Executive Building for the Republic of Hawai'i (1894-1898), the Territory of Hawai'i (1898-1959), and the State of Hawai'i until the present State Capitol building was finished.

Washington Place [7]
Located across Beretania Street from the Capitol on the mauka (mountain) side, you will find Washington Place, the former residence of Queen Lili'uokalani. Since 1921, Washington Place has served as the official residence of the governor of Hawai'i.

"Aquarius" mosaic [8]
Located on the floor of the atrium below the rotunda is "Aquarius," a 36-foot diameter circular mosaic made with over 600,000 Italian smalti (tiles). Conceived by Maui artist Tadashi Sato in 1969 this monumental work was dedicated on March 20, 1970. The overlapping colors capture the reflecting light glittering across the water surface of a pool with stone forms and shadows below. It was twice restored, once in 1988, and again in 2009.



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Twilight view of the State Capitol (House Chambers side), c. 1970s.