

Queen Lili'uokalani Commemoration at Mauna 'Ala

By Carolyn Morinishi



An inaugural commemoration of Queen Lili'uokalani as a "saint" in the Episcopal Church was held on Thursday, January 29, 2026, at Mauna 'Ala, the Royal Mausoleum. I was so honored to be present and to bring and present several lei as ho'okupu from All Saints' Church on Kaua'i.

Organized by the Rev. Dr. Kaleo Patterson, Vicar of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, the event was attended by 35 invited guests, clergy and community leaders, including several from Hawai'i Island, Maui and Kaua'i.

The heartfelt service commenced with a procession led by Kuhina Nui Coline Aiu of the Daughters and Sons of Hawaiian Warriors - Mamakakaua. Other Hawaiian organizations in the procession included the Royal Order of Kamehameha, the 'Ahahui Kai'ulani, and Hawaiian Civic Club. Various clergy leaders present included representatives from the Hawai'i District of the United Methodist Church, the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches, The Oahu Association of the United Churches of Christ, The Roman Catholic Church of Hawai'i, The Episcopal Church of Hawai'i, and other denominations and religious organizations.



An emotional history of Mō'i Wahine (queen) Lili'uokalani was presented by Healani Sonoda-Pale of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, who implored the people at the gathering to *mai poina* – never forget – the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian kingdom and how the queen endured the loss of her kingdom with grace, always showing compassion and caring for her people.



Speakers and readers from many church and community organizations also participated in the service with *oli*, *mele* and Scripture readings and prayers from the new lessons

appointed for use on the Feast of Queen Lili'uokalani of Hawai'i, January 29th, (<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/lectionary/lili'uokalani-of-hawaii/>), these lessons were approved by the General Convention in 2024.

In the Episcopal tradition, sainthood honors the entire body of work in a person's life – how they wove their Christian faith and values into their roles as leaders and helped others flourish.

A perfect example of a true saint, the spiritual Lili'uokalani led her kingdom in a time of turmoil and chose a path of peace and forgiveness to protect her people.

Although this long path to sainthood belies the significance of Lili'uokalani's reign and her importance to the Hawaiian people, the attendees were filled with joy that their beloved monarch will now be recognized and her stories told throughout the worldwide Episcopal Church.

According to Kahu Patterson, the enthusiasm around this event has encouraged similar remembrances to be held across Hawai'i in future years, so we will all *mai poina* – never forget!



(Photos and supporting material contributed by the Rev. Hau'oli Tomoso, the Venerable Steve Costa, the Rev. Dr. Kaleo Patterson, Carolyn Morinishi)