



For Immediate Release

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**Hawaiian Mission Houses Wins Two
2020 AASLH Awards of Excellence**

NASHVILLE, TN—June 2020—The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) proudly announces that Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives is the recipient of two Awards of Excellence for:

- *"My Name is 'Ōpūkaha'ia" Travels to New England* (Project Award)
- *Kōkua Aku, Kōkua Mai: Chiefs, Missionaries, and Five Transformations of the Hawaiian Kingdom* (Local History Small Press Publication Award)

The AASLH Leadership in History Awards, now in its 75th year, is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history. This year, AASLH is proud to confer fifty-seven national awards honoring people, projects, exhibits, and publications. The winners represent the best in the field and provide leadership for the future of state and local history.



Hawaiian Mission Houses coordinated both the program and book as part of Bicentennial events marking 200 years since the 1820 arrival of the first missionary company in Hawai‘i. *"My Name is ‘Ōpūkaha‘ia" Travels to New England* was a month-long tour of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, and Washington, D.C., held in October 2019, aimed at bringing Hawai‘i’s history to an audience that shares a role in that history but was often unaware of it. The tour featured a theatrical portrayal of the complex life of the man who inspired the first mission, ‘Ōpūkaha‘ia, (part of Hawaiian Mission Houses’ award-winning History Theatre program; written and performed by acclaimed Hawai‘i-based actor Moses Goods), a Humanities Discussion Series featuring University of Hawaii and local New England scholars (co-sponsored by MASSHumanities and Connecticut Humanities), symposia, lectures, classes, and events.

Kōkua Aku, Kōkua Mai: Chiefs, Missionaries, and Five Transformations of the Hawaiian Kingdom features new scholarship about the results of interactions between the Hawaiian ali‘i and the early missionaries, which led to: the development on the written Hawaiian language; the combination of Hawaiian and Western medicine; the spread of Christianity; the development of constitutional government; and the evolution of a new and distinct music tradition. An AASLH award reviewer said, “The book represents one of the most comprehensive overhauls of professional practice and placing practice going forward on sound, academically valid research.” *Kōkua Aku, Kōkua Mai* was edited by Dr. Thomas A. Woods (Executive Director Emeritus, Hawaiian Mission Houses) and written by Drs. Albert Schütz, Jeffrey “Kapali” Lyon, Thomas A. Woods, M. Puakea Nogelmeier, David Keanu Sai, Malcolm Nāea Chun, and Ralph Thomas Kam.



The AASLH awards program was initiated in 1945 to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history throughout the United States. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards not only honor significant achievement in the field of state and local history, but also bring public recognition of the opportunities for small and large organizations, institutions, and programs to make contributions in this arena. For more information about the Leadership in History Awards, contact AASLH at 615-320-3203, or go to www.aaslh.org.

The American Association for State and Local History is a not-for-profit professional organization of individuals and institutions working to preserve and promote history. From its headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee, AASLH provides leadership, service, and support for its members who preserve and interpret state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful to all people. AASLH publishes books, technical publications, a quarterly magazine, and maintains numerous affinity communities and committees serving a broad range of constituents across the historical community. The association also sponsors an annual meeting, regional and national training in-person workshops, and online training.

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