

PRESS RELEASE

In the interest of providing accurate reporting and advocating the legal right to reply in the matter of public clarification, we respectfully request that all media publications publish this Statement so as to clarify false and misleading information:

Regarding All Media of Abigail Kinoiki Kekaulike Ellerbrock-Kawananakoa

The news of Abigail Kinoiki Kekaulike Ellerbrock-Kawānanakoa's passing has brought great sadness. May God grant her eternal rest and comfort her family and friends.

Sadly, the news of Ms. Kawananakoa's passing also reveals a collective loss of historical knowledge and memory for the people of Hawai'i as evidenced by the inaccurate reporting and the use of the title *Princess* when referring to her person, as well as the recurring comment that she was the *last Hawaiian Princess* and that her ancestor, *David Kawananakoa had been named as an heir to the throne of Hawai'i*. These statements however, are not only false, but serve to perpetuate untruths and further mislead the Hawaiian people, the residents of Hawai'i, the general public and the international community.

Abigail Kinoiki Kekaulike Ellerbrock-Kawananakoa, who was widely known for her cultural, social and philanthropical work, was in fact a descendant of David Kawananakoa (1886-1908) but he was in fact a nephew of H.M. King Kalākaua's wife, Queen Consort Kapi'olani. That makes him and his descendants "*in-laws*" and not direct or collateral descendants of H.M. King Kalākaua.

By definition and in accordance with the rules governing succession, the offspring of a queen consort's sibling were not royal and therefore not eligible to rule. David Kawananakoa's princely title was in fact a "courtesy title" or what is known as a "courtesy treatment" bestowed upon him by H.M. King Kalakaua for exclusive use in the court and it was only valid for the duration of David Kawānanakoa's lifetime. It therefore extinguished upon his passing and thus did not pass to any of his descendants because honorary titles, or in this case the "style" or "treatment", was not hereditary. **"...David and his brothers were proclaimed princes of the realm in 1883; the title could not, however, be inherited."**¹ Consequently Ms. Kawananakoa was neither a princess, did not have the treatment of "Her Royal Highness" and nor was she or anyone in her family ever eligible to rule. To suggest otherwise ignores and greatly diminishes the preservation of the surviving Royal Family of High Chiefess H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth Keka'aniau La'anui (1834-1928) who was in fact pre-emptive and eligible to ascend to the Throne.

Upon the passing of H.M. Queen Lili'uokalani in 1917, the High Chiefess Princess Elizabeth Keka'aniau La'anui was recognized as the head of the royal family of Hawai'i.² As royal children, Princess Lili'uokalani (*Lydia Kamakaeha*) and Princess Elizabeth (*Elizabeth Kekaniau*) both attended and resided at the Chiefs' Children's School which was created to educate and groom future rulers of Hawai'i. In her own book, "Hawaii's Story by Hawaii's Queen" H.M. Queen Lili'uokalani affirms High Chiefess Princess Elizabeth Keka'aniau La'anui's place and status in the royal family. Queen Lili'uokalani states in her book that the School's **"...pupils were exclusivley persons whose claims to the throne were acknowledged"**³ Hawai'i's royal sucession was subject by law per the proclamation by His Majesty King Kamehameha III in June 1844 where

¹ History Makers of Hawaii by A. Grove Day

² KEOUA Father of Kings by High Chiefess Pratt, Elizabeth Kekaaniau Laanui

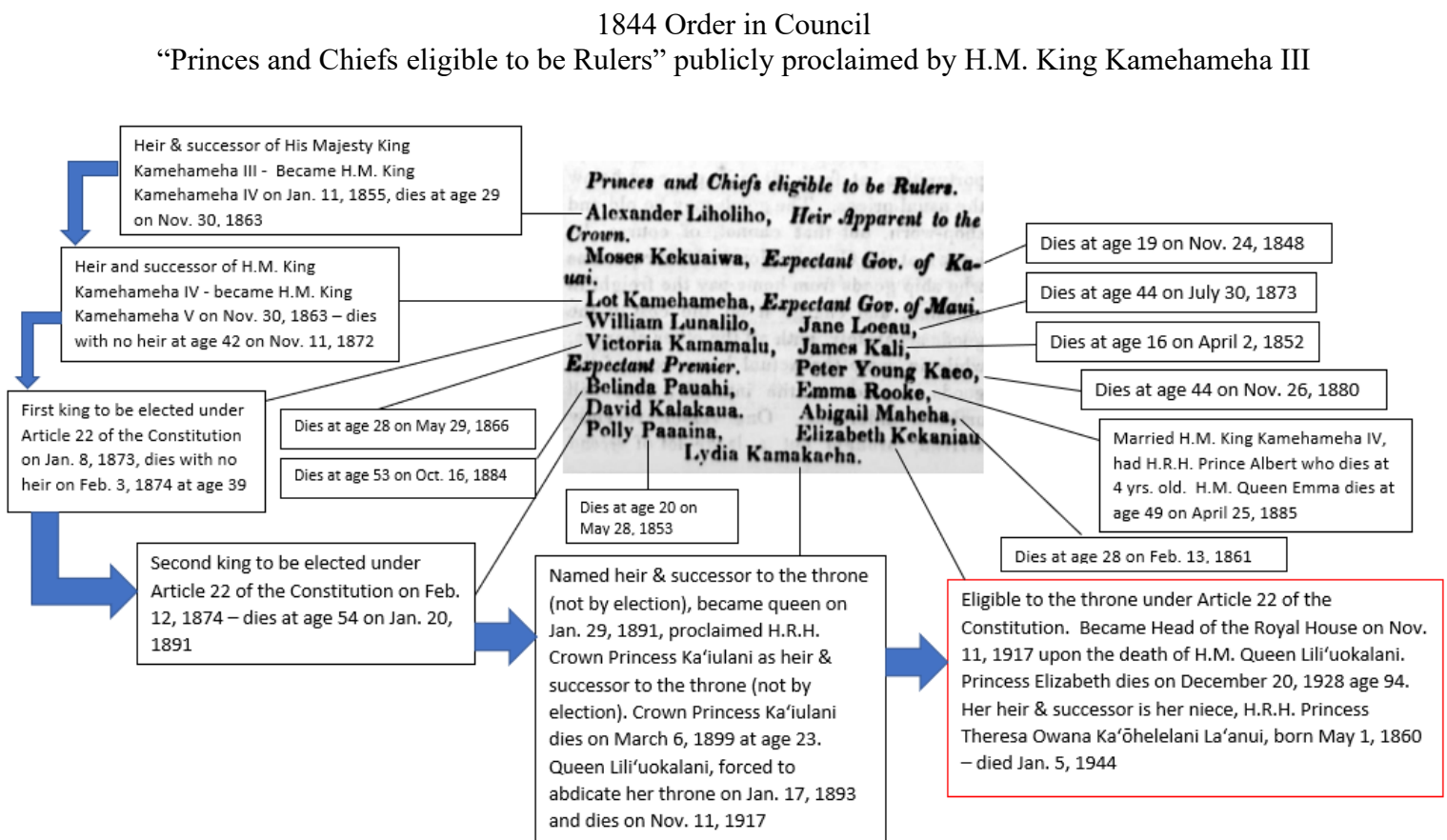
³ Hawaii's Story by Hawaii's Queen by Queen Lili'uokalani

he named High Chiefess Princess Elizabeth Keka‘aniau La‘anui among the sixteen **“Princes and Chiefs eligible to be Rulers”**⁴ of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

H.R.H. High Chiefess Princess Elizabeth Keka‘aniau La‘anui descended directly from the High Chief Kalokuokamaile, eldest brother of H.M. King Kamehameha I, which is why she was chosen to be an eligible ruler along with her Royal Cousins.

After the death of Queen Lili‘uokalani, it was indeed High Chiefess Princess Elizabeth Keka‘aniau La‘anui who solely held the “Fons Honorum” and the Exclusive Right to continue to use the Royal Prerogatives, Styles, and Treatments of the Heir Presumptive. Today, the position of Head of the Royal Family of Hawai‘i and Pantheon of the Royal Fons Honorum solely belongs to H.R.H. Princess Owana Ka‘ōhelelani, heir and successor of High Chiefess H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth Keka‘aniau La‘anui.

For the sake of historical clarity regarding the Succession of the Royal Family of Hawai‘i, here is the historic timeline of the Sovereigns and eligible rulers of the Hawaiian Kingdom:



⁴ *Polynesian. [volume]* (Honolulu [Oahu], Hawaii), 20 July 1844. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn82015408/1844-07-20/ed-1/seq-1/>>

On behalf of the Prester John Institute – Imperial and Royal Council of Foreign Nobility:
Prof. Humberto Nuno de Oliveira – Spokesperson / Historian
presterjohninstitute@gmail.com

On behalf of the Royal Family of Hawai‘i:
The Secretariat of the Royal House of Hawai‘i
chancellery@crownofhawaii.com