



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the life and works of Henry ‘Ōpūkaha‘ia, who voyaged to America and became a devout Christian, inspired the first mission to Hawai‘i; and

WHEREAS, to establish a mission in the Hawaiian Islands, the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions sent the Pioneer Company of missionaries to Hawai‘i which included two ordained preachers, two teachers, a doctor, printer, farmer, their families and four young Hawaiian men—Hopu, Kanui, Honoli‘i and Humehume, the son of King Kaumuali‘i of Kaua‘i; and

WHEREAS, on April 4, 1820, the Pioneer Company of American Protestant missionaries anchored at Kailua-Kona, and within the first month of arrival, the Hawaiian Mission was established with the formation of the Kailua-Kona Mission Station and Moku‘aikaua Church on Hawai‘i Island, the Waimea Mission Station and Waimea Mission on Kaua‘i, and the Honolulu Mission Station and Kawaiaha‘o Church on O‘ahu where Reverend Hiram Bingham gave the first sermon to the Hawaiian people; and

WHEREAS, the arrival of the missionaries with the support of King Liholiho (Kamehameha II) marked the beginning of a rise in literacy, which was pushed forward by the ali‘i who mastered English, taught their peers and the people, and created the Hawaiian orthography; and

WHEREAS, collaboration between Native Hawaiians and the missionaries resulted in the introduction of Christianity to Hawai‘i, development of a written Hawaiian language, establishment of schools, promulgation of the concept of constitutional government, Western medicine, and the evolution of a new and distinctive musical tradition with harmony and choral singing; and

WHEREAS, 2020 marks the 200th anniversary of the founding of the mission headquarters at Hawaiian Mission Houses in Honolulu, established by the Kingdom of Hawai‘i with the arrival of the Pioneer Company of American Protestant missionaries; and

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor of the **State of Hawai‘i**, do hereby proclaim 2020 as the

“HAWAIIAN MISSION BICENTENNIAL”

in Hawai‘i and ask the people of the Aloha State to commemorate this anniversary and pivotal part of Hawaiian history.

Done at the State Capitol in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai‘i, this nineteenth day of February 2020.



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai‘i