

Players:

President Clinton,	<i>President of the United States</i>
Narrator,	<i>this player exists outside of time and space</i>
Lorrin Thurston,	<i>a Hawaiian-born American politician and businessman in Hawaii during the late 1800's-early 1900's</i>
King <u>Kalakaua</u> ,	<i>King of the Kingdom of Hawaii</i>
Queen <u>Lili'oukalani</u> ,	<i>Queen of the Kingdom of Hawaii (post Kalakaua)</i>
John L. Stevens,	<i>American minister at Honolulu</i>
Nurse,	<i>attendant to the Queen</i>
Charles Wilson,	<i>Marshall of the Hawaiian government</i>

NOTE: The underlined words can be found in the vocabulary/pronunciation guide at the end of the drama.

*As the lights come up, President Clinton is seated in a chair behind a desk center stage. There are four people standing behind him in anticipation. One of them is the narrator. Upstage right and left are benches for actors when not playing parts. Projected on the screen: 1993, Hawaii. There is a document in front of him and he has a pen in his hand.*

Clinton: (reading) Whereas, it is proper and timely for the Congress on the occasion of the impending one hundredth anniversary of the event, to acknowledge the historic significance of the illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii, to express its deep regret to the Native Hawaiian people, and to support the reconciliation efforts of the State of Hawaii and the United Church of Christ with Native Hawaiians; Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled...

*Narrator steps forward and snaps. The actors freeze.*

Narrator: It's November 23, 1993 and America is apologizing for something. Did you hear that? Listen again.

*Narrator snaps. Clinton unfreezes.*

Clinton: ...to acknowledge the historic significance of the illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii, to express its deep regret to the Native Hawaiian people...

*Narrator snaps. Clinton freezes.*

Narrator: And another signed document interprets Hawaii's history. What happened in paradise 100 years ago? Look past the tourism. Past Don Ho and ukeleles. Turn right at the surfboards. Circumnavigate through hula skirts and the luau. If you reach Captain Cook, you've gone too far: turn back around and look to your left. There in the distance is a small haole child of missionaries.

*Enter Thurston from SL and stands to the left of the narrator.*

Though his frame is small, inside him is a lawyer, a business man, a newspaper owner, a tourism guru, a revolutionary, a rebel, a liar, a traitor, an opportunist, and a human. When the sun sets on the stage, it will be 1874, and this man to my left is Mr. Lorrin Thurston, the thirty year old interior minister serving the kingdom Kalakaua of Hawaii.

Clear the desk area ladies and gentlemen.

*Narrator snaps. The four additional Players clear off papers from the desk.*

See you in a bit, Bill.

*Bill Clinton sits down on bench USR. Players take three rifles with bayonets and a king's sash from under the desk. Narrator passes out the props to the people as he re-introduces them in their new characters. As this transition occurs, the lighting onstage should simulate a sunset.*

*(handing a player the sash and a document)*

Sir, you can be King Kalakaua.

*(handing the other three players guns)*

You three will be soldiers.

*When the stage is black, the projector screen shows **Hawaii, 1878**. Imposed over the date is a picture of King Kalakaua. It is titled "The King and the Honolulu Rifles." When the lights come up, Kalakaua is seated at the desk reading through a document, the rifles are around his desk and Thurston is downstage left.*

Kalakaua: I see you have been busy, Thurston. This is a different constitution.

Thurston: I've merely made amendments, sir.

Kalakaua: Is that the haole way of saying it?

Thurston: Sir, we've amended specific articles so that they reflect the attitude of Hawaii's new demographic. Things have changed since 1864. Americans and Europeans are land owners now. We want to be represented.

*Kalakaua continues reading the document.*

Kalakaua: You've changed the way **my** people are represented. Only twenty-four representatives and they shall serve until 1890. Representatives are elected biennially, Thurston.

Thurston: We've streamlined protocol, king.

Kalakaua: *(reading)*... "shall be based upon the principles of equality..." I see that you've also changed who can vote. "All men, Hawaiian, European, and American who can read and write. And own at least \$3000 in property." Are you aware of how many of my people are literate? And you know good well, how many Hawaiians have assets that great.

Thurston: It is important for voters to be informed.

Kalakaua: I refuse to sign this constitution.

Thurston: Sir, you tried to fire us. And then you refused to sign the treaty with the US allowing free trade of sugar cane.

Kalakaua: Minister, the US demanded that Pearl Harbor be a coaling station. I feel that our archipelago is owned by enough haoles: I don't want the US military to have ownership.

Thurston: You and your damned nationalism. Do you really think that your monarchy is going to last? Look at you in your throne now! It's in the middle of the night and I'm forcing you to read a new version of your constitution. Read and understand, Kalakaua. This is your future. Pick up your pen and sign the constitution.

Kalakaua: Your tactics betray your politics.

Thurston: Unquestionably, this is not in accordance with law; neither was the Declaration of Independence from Great Britain. Both are revolutionary documents, which had to be forcibly effected and forcibly maintained. If you need any encouragement to sway your loyalty from your people's uncivilized ways, look behind you. Let the bayonets speak wisdom to you and grant direction to your autograph.

*After hesitation, Kalakaua signs. Narrator snaps fingers: players freeze.*

Narrator: This became known as the bayonet constitution. And this paved the way for the destruction of the Hawaiian monarchy. Let's fast forward sixteen years to January 14, 1893. There is a new monarch: Queen Lili'oukalani.

*Slide on screen changes to show the courtyard at Iolani Palace. The Queen approaches narrator. He gives her the crown and then bows.*

Why don't you tell us why today is important?

Queen: As you all know, King Kalakaua was forced to sign a new constitution that limited Hawaiian rights and increased the influence of mainlanders upon Hawaiian governance. On this Saturday, I announced my intention to correct the constitution so that it accurately reflected the rights and intentions of Hawaiians.

Narrator: Congratulations.

*Thurston approaches narrator on the left.*

Thurston: Let's not have preemptive celebratory tidings.

Narrator: Why not?

Thurston: My safety committee considered the situation and devised ways and means for the maintenance of the public peace and the protection of life and property.

Narrator: *(to Queen)* Oh, so your proclamation caused a public stir?

Queen: Hardly. Thurston's safety committee agreed upon a "provisional government until terms of union with the United States of America have been negotiated and agreed upon." Those are your words, are they not, Thurston.

Thurston: They sound familiar.

Queen: It was a quiet and slow afternoon.

Narrator: Do you agree, Thurston?

Thurston: Our safety committee saw fit to write to Mr. John L. Stevens, the American minister at Honolulu.

*Queen pulls out a piece of paper from the desk. She reads.*

Queen: We are unable to protect ourselves without aid, and therefore hope for the protection of United States forces." Do those also sound familiar, Mr. Thurston?

Thurston: Mr. Stevens requested the Captain of the U.S.S. Boston to land a force “for the protection of the United States legation, United States consulate, and to secure the safety of American life and property.”

Queen: I feel as though it was an ostentatious display of power.

Narrator: What happened Thurston?

Thurston: Troops came accompanied with gattlin guns. They marched through the streets to a public hall.

Queen: I was more than alarmed at this brazen display of power. Like I said before, the streets were silent: there were no protests or displays of dissidence. We sent a letter to Mr. Stevens informing him that the proper authorities were able and willing to afford full protections to the American legation and all American interests in Honolulu.

Thurston: We were being precautionary, queen. There, in the hall across from the government building and across from your palace. Stevens, why don't you step forward and read your place.

Narrator: With all due respect, Thurston, you are not narrating. That's my job.

Thurston: Right, Mr./Ms. Narrator. Truly sorry to bruise your storytelling ego. In fact, I am just a figment of our storytelling imagination.

Narrator: I now introduce Mr. John L. Stevens.

*Stevens approaches DSL.*

Stevens: “Such provisional government has been proclaimed, is now in possession of the Government department buildings, the archives, and the treasury, and is in control of the city. We hereby request that you will, on behalf of the United States, recognize it as the existing *de facto* government of the Hawaiian Islands and afford to it the moral support of your Government, and, if necessary, the support of American troops to assist in preserving the public peace.”

Queen: Stevens, was there audience who was present when the proclamation was read?

Thurston: You're not obligated to answer, Stevens.

Narrator: The proclamation for a new government was read, but those being governed were not present to hear about the regime change?

Thurston: (to narrator) Isn't it convenient to look back one hundred years and judge?

Narrator: Sanford B. Dole was appointed the president of the new government.

Queen: Later that day, I was informed by Stevens that the Provisional Government would be maintained--forcibly--if necessary.

Stevens: Resistance would result in useless sacrifice of life. Dear queen, you could surrender under protest and your case would be considered later at Washington.

*Narrator snaps fingers. Players freeze.*

Narrator: Thank you for your narration skills. Stevens and Thurston, you may return to your respective benches.

*They return to their benches USL.*

Narrator: At this point, our story leads us to the interior room of the Iolani Palace where the Queen is imprisoned. That's right, imprisoned: House Arrest. Outside the palace, American naval troops have barricaded her in order to ensure public peace and safety.

*The slide changes and projects an interior room of the palace.*

Narrator: The stress of the situation has taken its toll, and the Queen has been struggling with ill health. Nurse, please come and take your place next to the Queen.

*Narrator snaps. The nurse comes forward and begins to attend to the Queen. The Queen unfreezes and responds to her medical attendant.*

Narrator: Mr. Charles Wilson, please take your place. He is the current Marshall of Hawaii's government. Here, he met the queen at her palace during her imprisonment. For a while they had been friends.

*Narrator snaps again. Wilson comes forward and stands next to the desk.*

Wilson: Come, fair Queen and take your place. Are you feeling better?

*She shakes her head, no. Then she sits at the desk. She places the crown on her head. Wilson places some papers in front of her on the desk.*

Queen: What is this?

Wilson: It is a letter saying that you will abdicate the throne, and stop this nonsense.

Queen: I would rather die than sign this, and am prepared to do so in order to save my people.

Wilson: I don't doubt that this is true. Tell me though, are you willing to have the blood of six of your co-conspirators on your hands?

Queen: Of course not, why would you even suggest this?

Wilson: If you refuse to sign, those six will die.

Queen: And if I do? What assurance do I have of their safety?

Wilson: If you will sign this document, I can assure you that your friends will be immediately released.

Queen: And no alternative exists under which I might avoid signing?

Wilson: Those people have been imprisoned because of their love and loyalty towards you, Queen. It would seem heartless and cruel to see them killed because of your stubborn reluctance.

*Queen thinks for a moment, clearly struggling with the weight of the decision.*

Queen: It seems the stream of blood will only be stayed by my pen.

*She reaches out her hand for the document on the table.*

Queen: How shall I sign?

Wilson: Lili'uokalani Dominis.

Queen: What?

Wilson: *(With a bit more force, and in a somewhat condescending tone).*  
Lili'uokalani Dominis.

*Queen signs the document, with obvious reluctance.*

Wilson: *(hands the queen another document)* And this....

Queen: I have done what was agreed!

Wilson: Read it and sign....need I remind you of the consequences?

Queen: I, Lili'uokalani Dominis, do solemnly swear in the presence of Almighty God that I will support the Constitution, Laws and Government of the Republic of Hawaii, and will not, either directly or indirectly, encourage or assist in the restoration or establishment of a Monarchical form of Government in the Hawaiian Islands.

*She again reluctantly signs. Wilson leaves. Then the attendant leaves. Lili'oukalani slowly removes her crown and lowers her head. The lights fade. A new picture is projected, it is of the Iolani palace when the Hawaiian flag was replaced by the American flag.*

Narrator: It is May 12, 1898. Let's have some music.

*Narrator snaps. "Hawai'i Pono" is played over the sound system.*

Narrator: You are looking at the Iolani palace. Today the Hawaiian flag will be lowered and replaced by the American flag. There are no Hawaiians to watch. They are shuttered in their homes and silent. Western businessmen and their families surround the flagpole, the warm tropical breeze cascades over their face, through their hair. They are hot and sweaty in their western clothes. When the American flag is raised, the band plays "The Star Spangled Banner."

There is no retirement for the Hawaiian flag. It is not folded. It is not given back to the Queen. It is cut into 2 or 3 inch strips and distributed to those present. Their flag is a souvenir..a chotchke to commemorate a fallen kingdom.

*The lights raise and in the dim light, Bill Clinton enters with a handful of scraps of the flag and stands next to Lili'oukalani at the table. He continues reading his speech from the beginning.*

Clinton: ...expresses its commitment to acknowledge the ramifications of the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii...

Queen: *(speaks as she writes a letter)* ...my people, about forty thousand in number, have in no way been consulted by those who claim the right to destroy the independence of Hawaii...

Clinton: ...expresses its commitment to acknowledge the ramifications of the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii...

Queen: ...the perpetuation of the fraud whereby the constitutional government was overthrown, and, finally an act of gross injustice to me.

Clinton: ...in order to provide a proper foundation for reconciliation between the United States and the Native Hawaiian people...

Queen: ...and it is thereby in violation of international law.

Clinton: ...in order to provide a proper foundation for reconciliation between the United States and the Native Hawaiian people...

Queen: Therefore, I, Lili'oukalani of Hawaii, do hereby call upon the President of that nation, to whom alone I yielded my property and my authority, to withdraw said treaty from further consideration...

Clinton: ... and to support reconciliation efforts between the United States and the Native Hawaiian people...

Queen: I ask the honorable Senate of the United States to decline to ratify said treaty and implore the people of this great and good nation from whom my ancestors learned the Christian religion, to sustain their representatives in such acts of justice and equity as may be in accord with the principles of their fathers, and of the Almighty Ruler of the universe, to him who judgeth righteously, I commit my cause.

Clinton: ...and to support reconciliation efforts between the United States and the Native Hawaiian people...

Queen: I yield to the superior force of the United States of America so that upon facts being presented to it, undo the action of its representatives and reinstate me in authority which I claim as the Constitutional Sovereign of the Hawaiian Islands.

Clinton: ...and to support reconciliation efforts between the United States and the Native Hawaiian people.

*Clinton then sits down next to the morose queen. Together, they begin to weave the fragments of the flag back together. Lights fade.*

*END PLAY*