

Exerpts from  
**HOLOI Ā NALO WĀHINE 'ŌIWI:**  
**Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women  
and Girls Task Force Report:**

*A publication of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in collaboration with Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women*

## BACKGROUND

in 1893, Queen Lili'uokalani, the last reigning monarch of the Kingdom of Hawai'i was illegally overthrown and falsely imprisoned by an oligarchy of U.S. businessmen. Hawai'i's legal annexation has yet to be ratified, meaning according to the laws of the United States, the Kingdom of Hawai'i, and the United Nations, Hawai'i is an independent nation heavily occupied by the United States. Through colonization, the laws of the United States that govern an illegally annexed Independent Native Hawaiian nation, is pretense for continued systemic violence via erasure and displacement of Kānaka Maoli. Kānaka Maoli women are displaced by colonization in unique ways. For example, Kānaka Maoli women are victims of gender-based violence such as domestic violence and sexual assault more than any other population in Hawai'i (OHA et al., 2020).

## Historical Trauma

Colonization is not a one-off event of the past. Colonization continues in practices of the present. Today, colonization is maintained through imperialism via the heavy military presence and land holdings in Hawai'i and capitalism via the domination of the tourism industry. Both industries (military and tourism) are the most extractive industries in Hawai'i in terms of environmental and cultural resources. Militarism and tourism are justified through United States colonial law that is upheld through the misplacement of Kānaka Maoli within the United States constitution. ...

The State of Hawai'i's current legal system was built upon a foundation of Kānaka Maoli erasure that directly sustains the systemic inequities of today. An automatic acceptance of colonial jurisprudence that operates from a fallacy of equal treatment regardless of race/ethnicity, class, gender/sexuality, etc ensures that Kānaka Maoli women and girls continue to be lost within a web of systemic social and economic inequities that kill and displace them.

∞ **More than a quarter (1/4) of missing girls in Hawai'i are Native Hawaiian** (JJIS, 2001-2021).

∞ Hawai'i has the **eighth highest rate of missing persons** per capita in the nation at 7.5 missing people per 100,000 residents (Kynston, 2019).

∞ **The average profile of a missing child: 15 year old, female, Native Hawaiian, missing from O'ahu** (MCCH, 2022).

∞ The majority (43%) of sex trafficking cases are **Kānaka Maoli girls trafficked in Waikīkī, O'ahu** (Amina, 2022).

∞ 38% (N= 74) of those arrested for **soliciting sex from a thirteen-year-old online are active-duty military personnel** (HICAC Task Force, 2022).

∞ In 2019, **majority of arrested adult sex offenders were white males** (DAG, 2019).

∞ **On Hawai'i Island, Kānaka Maoli children ages 15-17 represent the highest number of missing children's cases...**From 2018-2021, there were **182 cases of missing Kānaka Maoli girls** on Hawai'i Island, higher than any other racial group. (Hawai'i Island Police Department, 2022).

∞ 57% of participants served through the Mana'olana Program at Child & Family Services are **Native Hawaiian females who have experienced human trafficking** (Mana'olana, CFS, 2021-2022).

∞ **71% of trafficking victims are below the age of 19** and 46.8% of all cases are Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) cases and Child Sex Trafficking cases (Amina, 2022).



Read the full report: <https://www.oha.org/wp-content/uploads/MMNHWG-Report-Web.pdf>