



Last month we illustrated stamps from Newfoundland, a “Dead Country.” Stamp collectors refer to countries that are no longer issuing their own stamps as “Dead Countries.” The land and people are still existing – but they are using stamps of a different country. This happens when a country splits up into smaller countries, a country changes its name, the type of government changes, a new country is created, and when a group of countries combine to form one country.



The Kingdom of Hawaii issued its own stamps from 1851 to 1893. It issued its own stamps and postal cards. For a brief period in 1893, the stamps of Hawaii were overprinted “Provisional Govt. 1893.” From 1893 to 1898 it was a Republic, and issued its own stamps. Most of the Republic of Hawaii stamps just said “Hawaii,” but at least one said “Republic of Hawaii.”

(See Republic of Hawaii stamp below.)



^^^^ Kingdom of Hawaii stamp issued in 1853 in 1853 featuring King Kamehameha II (1797-1824)

Provisional Government ^^^^^ King David Kalakaua stamp overprinted

King David Kalakaua was born on November 16, 1836, and was elected King on February 2, 1874. He was the last King of Hawaii at his death on January 20, 1891. He was succeeded by his oldest sister, Queen Lili'uokalani who was the last monarch of Hawaii. She reigned from January 29, 1891 until the overthrow her government on January 17, 1893, when Hawaii became a Republic. She died on November 11, 1917.



In 1898, the Republic of Hawaii lost its independence when it was overthrown by the United States, whereupon it became a territory of the United States, at which point it began using the stamps of the United States. When the territory of Hawaii (“T.H.”) became a state in 1959, it continued to use stamps of the United States.

So, Hawaii has had five different governments: Kingdom, Provisional, Republic, Territory, and State. Although the Territory and the State both used stamps of the United States, the cancellations were different when Hawaii was a Territory (“T.H.”) and when Hawaii became a state (“HI.”) More about Hawaii next month.

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