

# **A DICTIONARY OF THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE**

BY  
**LORRIN ANDREWS**

REVISED BY  
**HENRY H. PARKER**

PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF  
PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF THE TERRITORY OF HAWAII

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## **PREFACE**

In 1836 "A Vocabulary of Words in the Hawaiian Language" was published by Lorrin Andrews. The evident usefulness of this list of about 6000 words led its author to prepare "A Dictionary of the Hawaiian Language" which was issued in 1865.

Andrews' dictionary had long been out of print and increasing interest in Polynesian linguistic studies, the need of an authoritative reference book for the spelling, pronunciation, and definition of Hawaiian words, led to arrangements for the preparation of a new Hawaiian dictionary under the direction of the Board of Commissioners of Public Archives. A legislative act of 1913 made provision for "compiling, printing, binding, and publishing in book form a dictionary of the Hawaiian language" in which was to be given "the correct pronunciation of the ancient and modern Hawaiian words and phrases and their respective equivalents or meanings in the English language."

As a necessary step in the preparation of a dictionary the Board of Archives transcribed all the words appearing in Andrews' Dictionary. These totaled about 15,000 typewritten cards.

Following this preliminary work consideration was given to the selection of a compiler on whom might be placed the responsibility for preparing the desired manuscript. Rev. Henry Hodges Parker was chosen and financial arrangements made whereby he was released from other obligations for the five years following the date of appointment, January 1, 1915. The outstanding features of the work performed by Mr. Parker are: the incorporation into the cards prepared by the Board of Archives of the extremely valuable revised definitions prepared by the distinguished Hawaiian scholar, Lorenzo Lyons (1807-1886) into the body of the original Andrews Dictionary, the revision of many definitions, the time-consuming task of supplying diacritical marks, the comparison of word lists from various sources (see pp. vi and vii). Particular effort was made to insure correct separation into syllables of the words defined, and to insure correct spelling of Hawaiian words, phrases and quotations.

Early in 1921 the manuscript cards were transmitted by the Board of Archives to the Bishop Museum, which consented to do the editorial work necessary to prepare the volume for the press. The Museum staff verified many scientific terms, compiled a list of Hawaiian geographic terms,

and with the assistance of J. S. Emerson, Stephen Mahaulu, and other Hawaiian scholars, added a few words and enlarged and clarified many definitions. Galley proof has been read by Mr. Parker.

The Board is under obligation to the Bishop Museum for skilled assistance and for financial aid which has permitted the publication of the dictionary without further drafts on Territorial funds.

Board of Commissioners of Public Archives.

September 1, 1922.

## INTRODUCTION

### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY HENRY HODGES PARKER

An act providing for the compilation and publication of a dictionary of the Hawaiian language passed by the Legislature in 1913 says: "In such dictionary there shall be given the correct pronunciation of the ancient and modern Hawaiian words and phrases and their respective equivalents or meanings in the English language."

Taking Judge Lorrin Andrews' Dictionary as a basis for the new work, the compilation of such existing materials as are found in it is completed. Andrews' Hawaiian Dictionary is the only work of its kind in the Hawaiian language; it registers more than 15,000 words. A revision or review of this work is accomplished. Each word has been rewritten twice, first in its entirety and again in its syllabic parts.

Most scriptural references have been omitted in this review since alterations made in the text of later editions of the Hawaiian Bible make these references unserviceable. A list of words taken from foreign languages, and the English-Hawaiian vocabulary found in Andrews' Dictionary are also omitted. Hawaiianized words derived from foreign speech have their place in the main body of the work. All words and definitions registered in Andrews' vocabulary are embodied in this new dictionary excepting such words and definitions as conflict with accuracy.

An interleaved volume of Andrew's work with notes and criticisms by the late Rev. Lorenzo Lyons has been used to advantage. A few old letters written by Hawaiians have been accessible and have added to the list of words. Ancient Hawaiians knew their mother tongue well. An old native tells a story about Kamehameha which was told him by his father and that story-telling reveals the use of a word heretofore inexplicable even to a modern native scholar.

A mass of unclassified material has been used: manuscript from the Catholic Mission in Honolulu dating as far back as the days of Bishop Maigret; manuscript from the Hawaiian Board of Missions, courtesy of the Rev. W. D. Westervelt; a "Lexicon of the Hawaiian Tongue taken from the Apograph of Hiram Bingham," dated July 4, 1832; and a brief list of Hawaiian words with their definitions in the handwriting of the late Rev. W. P. Alexander.

A valuable contribution to this work is made by Mr. W. F. Wilson of Honolulu in words listed by himself. Additions have been made from Dr. William T. Brigham's *Ka Hana Kapa*; Dr. N. B. Emerson's translation of *Pele and Hiiaka*; and Ellis' *Tour Through Hawaii*. From Mrs. Irene Ii Holloway has come literature on the indigenous plants of Hawaii. Through the kindly office of Mr. J. S. Emerson a copy of William's *Maori Dictionary* is at hand which reveals a remarkable similarity in the structure of many Hawaiian and Maori words.

Sincere gratitude is due and here expressed to those who have exhibited a friendly concern in the work; to Dr. William T. Brigham and Mr. Thomas G. Thrum of the Bishop Museum staff for various helpful suggestions and criticisms; to Mr. Robert C. Lydecker, Librarian of the Public Archives, and his clerks for information in their possession; to Mr. W. F. Wilson for his carefully prepared lists of unenrolled words; to Messrs. Edward K. Alapai and Daniel Damien, scholars of the old Lahainaluna class, for assistance rendered in a clearer translation of obscure words and phrases.

Perfection is not claimed for this work. Few are able to appreciate the amount of labor or the length of time required to complete a work of this sort.

[PREFACE TO THE ORIGINAL EDITION BY LORRIN ANDREWS, 1865](#)