

Aloha mai kakou,

We live in exciting times! We recently celebrated the coronation of King Charles III of the United Kingdom. Hawaii has a long and lasting connection with the monarchs of the United Kingdom. So, it is only natural for us to celebrate with them. It also leads us to think about the royal lineage of the Kingdom of Hawaii. How well we know the names of Kamehameha and Kalakaua and Bishop. But, do we still have royalty for our kingdom? Yes, here is some information about some of them.

It is known that *Abigail Kinoiki Kekaulike Ellerbrock-Kawananakoa* was a philanthropist and supported Native Hawaiian culture, arts and heritage. She was called Princess by some. Born on April 23, 1926, in Honolulu, O'ahu, Territory of Hawaii, she passed away recently on December 11, 2022, at the age of 96. Her birth mother was *Lydia Liliuokalani Kawananakoa*. Her adoptive mother was *Abigail Campbell Kawananakoa* (her grandmother). Her father was William Jeremiah Ellerbrock. She was the granddaughter of *Prince David Kawananakoa*, hanai son of *King Kalakaua* and granted the title of Prince and the style (the way one is to address a royal) of His Royal Highness by *King Kalakaua*. She was descended from *Alii Kaumualii*, the last independent ruler of Kauai and Niihau.

She went to school at Punahoa then the Shanghai American School in Shanghai and Notre Dame High School in Belmont, California. Abigail then attended Dominican College in San Rafael, California and studied at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

*Abigail K.K. Kawananakoa* succeeded her mother as President of the Friends of 'Iolani Palace from 1971 to 1998. Her mother had founded the organization to help with restoration of the Palace. She had no children.

Another claimant to the throne is *Owana Ka'ohelani Mahealani-Rose Salazar*. She was born on October 30, 1953, in Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii. Her parents were *Helena Kalokuokamaile Wilcox* and Henry Mario Salazar.

She was raised on Oahu and graduated from *Kamehameha* Schools where she sang in the Concert Glee Club. At the University of Hawai'i, she learned *Kiho'alu* (slack key guitar) and studied hula with Kumu Hula *Ho'akalei Kamau'u*, *Ho'oulu Richards* and *Winona Beamer*. Owana also studied western music and dance from other countries.

Owana "is thought to be the only female steel guitar player in Hawaii trained by Jerry Byrd" (quoted from Wikipedia). She has performed with the likes of Don Ho, Ohta-San, Ed Kenney and Charles K.L. Davis. She is actively working as a professional musician.

She is a member of the Daughters and Sons of Hawaiian Warriors, *Mamakakaua*, a lineage society of descendants of Hawaii's ruling chiefs.

The "Royal Family of Hawaii official website" has numerous photos of Owana engaging royals from around the world as a fellow royal.

Upon the passing of *Abigail K.K. Kawananakoa*, the Royal Family of Hawaii official website issued a press release stating that they were saddened by her passing. However, it was expressed that some misinformation continues about who is a rightful heir to the throne of the Kingdom of Hawaii.

A quote from the aforementioned press release states, "By definition and in accordance with the rules governing succession, the offspring of a queen consort's sibling were not royal and therefore not eligible to rule. *David Kawananakoa's* princely title was in fact a "courtesy title" or what is known as a "courtesy treatment" bestowed upon him by H.M. King Kalakaua for exclusive use in the court and it was only valid for the duration of *David Kawananakoa's* lifetime. It therefore extinguished upon his passing and thus did not pass to any of his descendants because honorary titles, or in this case the "style" or "treatment", was not hereditary. **"...David and his brothers were proclaimed princes of the realm in 1883; the title could not, however, be inherited."** (from History Makers of Hawaii by A. Grove Day). Consequently Ms. Kawananakoa was neither a princess, did not have the treatment of "Her Royal Highness" and nor was she or anyone in her family ever eligible to rule. To suggest otherwise ignores and greatly diminishes the preservation of the surviving Royal Family of High Chiefess H.R.H. Princess *Elizabeth Keka'aniau La'anui* (1834-1928) who was in fact pre-emptive and eligible to ascend to the throne."

No matter which viewpoint you take on who was and is heir to the throne of the Hawaiian Kingdom, it is good to know that we still have people who are willing to stand up for our shared history as an internationally recognized sovereign nation. Thanks to all who help keep our heritage alive to pass on to future generations.

Sharon Abbott, Chairman of the Mainland Council Historic Sites Committee