PREFACE

The most important event in the reformation of the land system in Hawaii was *The Great Mahele* of 1848. This event separated and defined the undivided land interests of King Kamehameha III and the high-ranking chiefs and *konohikis*, and led to the end of the feudal system that existed in the Islands. However, *The Great Mahele* is still surrounded by confusion and misunderstanding.

In an attempt to understand *The Great Mahele* and its effect, I have studied thoroughly the events that preceded this momentous undertaking, the acts of King Kamehameha III and the high chiefs and *konohikis*, recorded as *The Great Mahele*, and the events that immediately followed. The Privy Council Records, the Journals of the Legislature, the records at the Office of Commissioner of Public Lands, and all the cases reported in the *Hawaii Reports* have been carefully analyzed. This book is the result of the research.

It is hoped that the materials in this book will be of aid to the reader in understanding and appreciating *The Great Mahele* of 1848.

Jon J. Chinen

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