This, the fourth and final volume of the Hawaiian National Bibliography, covers
the years 1881–1900, which were without a doubt the most politically charged,
unstable, and volatile period in Hawaiian history. While reciprocity agreements
with the United States had resulted in prosperity, sugar politics and the interests
of Island businessmen were pitted against a monarch desirous of extending his
power beyond the constraints of a constitutional monarchy. The “Bayonet Con-
stitution” of 1887 was forced on the king and his subjects after what has been
termed a bloodless revolution. While the foreign residents largely supported it,
native Hawaiians were dissatisfied. A subsequent revolution in 1889 resulted in
the loss of lives and damage to government buildings, and a similar action was
narrowly avoided in 1890. In January 1893, King Kalakaua’s successor, Queen
Liliuokalani, was deposed and a Provisional Government was established. An
attempt to have the Islands annexed to the United States occurred that year. In
1895, a counterrevolution supported by many of the queen’s native Hawaiian
subjects was put down only after formal military actions in Waikiki, Manoa, and
Moiliili. In the aftermath those responsible were incarcerated, the queen for-
mally abdicated the throne, and after a military trial she herself was imprisoned
in Iolani Palace.

The record for this period, however, was not always grim. Publications on
King Kalakaua’s trip around the world in 1881 and his coronation in 1883, the
sheet music of Queen Liliuokalani, songbooks, and the ephemeral records of
daily life are found in this volume. Travel narratives continued to appear regu-
larly, and, with the aim of encouraging tourism, shipping lines and hotels began
to distribute promotional literature, tourist guides, and pictorial albums.

Government publications increased in both number and complexity. I have
paid considerable attention to all Hawaiian departmental reports (both the
English- and Hawaiian-language editions), which detail the workings of the gov-
ernment. As in previous volumes, broadsides and single-sheet publications, par-
ticularly those of a political nature, are included. Some are the only printed
records of a political event, and in a few cases (where I could not find an original
delete evidence that it was issued) I have depended on transcriptions found
in the Honolulu newspapers. Theater broadsides like those found in earlier vol-
umes are included. Most new English-language newspapers are recorded, but
new Hawaiian-language newspapers are not. The latter present particular prob-
lems for the bibliographer; they were generally printed on poor quality paper
and casually issued with the result that few runs even approach completeness,
and some are now only ghosts. Much of what remains, however, has been micro-
filmed and is retrievable in that form.

I have paid particular attention to recording the voluminous numbers of doc-
uments on political affairs in the Islands issued by the House and the Senate of
the United States Congress. These were published (and frequently reprinted in
various forms) from 1893 to 1898 while the question of Hawaiian annexation
was being debated and finally settled. I have made every effort to be complete
and have included a labyrinth of cross-references. The alert reader will notice
occasional variations in different editions of the same titles. (For other matters
of style, the reader should consult both the preface and notes to the user in the
first volume of this series.)

Hawaii ceased being a politically distinct nation as of August 12, 1898, and
a purist might well have stopped the entries with that date. I have, however, con-
tinued the bibliography through 1900. During that two-year interim period fol-
lowing annexation, all aspects of government were altered. The final reports of
the Republic of Hawaii were published in 1900, as were United States govern-
ment documents that established a territorial form of government for the Hawai-
ian Islands. My inclusion of selected 1900 publications here means that the
future bibliographer of twentieth-century Hawaii will need to begin with 1900
for a full record. I wish him or her the best of luck.

To acknowledge by name all those who have given assistance during the writ-
ing of this final volume of the Hawaiian National Bibliography would mean a
repeat listing of the many persons whose assistance is acknowledged in the first
three volumes. I can only reiterate that staffs of the Bishop Museum, the Hawai-
ian Historical Society, the Hawaiian Mission Children’s Society, the Hawaii State
Library, and the Hawaii State Archives have generously continued to be respon-
sive to what must have seemed to them at times a never-ending series of prob-
lems and tedious questions requiring solutions or answers. I thank them again,
one and all, for their assistance.

All those who have ever written for publication know the debt owed to their
editors, and in the case of such a complicated bibliogiganticum, the debt is enor-
mous. My particular thanks goes first to the project manager, Iris Wiley, who in
the beginning agreed to shepherd the first volume through to publication and has
seen what she envisioned as a one-year commitment extend into a challenging
task now in its seventh year. I would also like to express my thanks to her hus-
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of the four volumes straightened out a tangle of inconsistencies, made sense of
sometimes confusing collations, and brought to my attention incorrect transcrip-
tions of Hawaiian-language titles.

I again thank the members of the Committee for a Hawaiian National Bibli-
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worthy addition to the literature and historical resources of Hawaii.