

***Journal #4763 from sdc 9.10.20***

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**90 year old Navajo rug weaver Alice Begay in 2016**

## **Eight Things You Never Knew About Hawaii**

*We know there are questions around travel amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Read our note [here](#).*

For decades, the Aloha State has been tempting us to leave our worries behind and spend a few luxurious days or weeks enjoying its tropical climate, friendly people, glorious beaches, and Polynesian cuisine. Hawaii became the U.S.' 50th state in 1959, but these paradisiacal islands had a fascinating history and sophisticated culture long before Europeans and Americans arrived. Here are eight things you might not know about Hawaii.

### **Hawaii's First Human Inhabitants May Have Arrived as Early as the 4th Century**



Credit: [YinYang](#)/ iStock

There's debate over this, but some historical and carbon-dated evidence indicates that Hawaii's first settlers sailed north from the Marquesas Islands sometime between A.D. 300 and 500. Known as Polynesians, these intrepid seafarers crossed 2,000 miles of open ocean without compasses or any other navigational aids apart from their [ancestral knowledge of wayfinding](#). Wayfinding means relying on environmental clues such as celestial bodies, currents, winds, swell patterns, animal migrations, and cloud formations instead of navigational tools and equipment.

Later, Polynesians from the Society Islands, which lie just south of the Marquesas and include Tahiti, made the trek north and settled in the Hawaiian Islands, too. People from other Pacific archipelagos followed suit over the next several centuries.

### **Hawaii's First Settlers Arrived Aboard Double-Hulled Canoes**



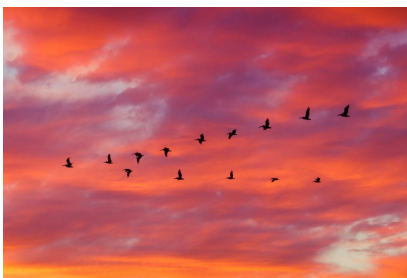
Credit: [flemmingmahler](#)/ iStock

Polynesians constructed sturdy canoes (known as *wa'a kaulua*) with two planked hulls connected by crossbeams. They used these canoes to cross the 2,000 miles of open ocean en route to Hawaii. If you visit Pacific islands today, you might see people racing smaller canoes

(*wa'a kaukahi*), which were originally made from a single, hollowed-out tree trunk and a much smaller outrigger (hull). Pacific islanders used *wa'a kaukahi* canoes for fishing and traveling short distances.

*Wa'a kaulua* [canoes](#) were much larger — around 50 to 70 feet long with a central platform situated over the crossbeams. The narrow, V-shaped double hulls provided greater stability and more cargo space than the smaller canoes with an outrigger, and the 20-foot-wide platform provided living space. For ropes and sails, Polynesians twisted and wove together coconut husks and other plant fibers. The vessels traveled from 100 to 150 miles per day and carried anywhere from 30 to 100 people — plus all their food, supplies, livestock, and plants.

### **Polynesians Followed Bird Migrations to Hawaii**



Credit: [heyengel](#)/ iStock

The Polynesians who voyaged vast distances across the Pacific were excellent navigators. In addition to relying on celestial bodies such as the moon, sun, and stars to find their way, Hawaii's first settlers carefully observed birds. They noticed that seabirds flew long distances away from land in the morning to hunt for fish and then returned to shore in the evening. By noting the directions the birds flew later in the day, the sailors accurately surmised which direction land lay.

These early navigators also recognized that some land-based bird species, such as the [Pacific golden plover](#), flew north in the spring and returned in the fall. This migration confirmed for these astute observers that a significant landmass or masses must exist somewhere farther north. When a group of Polynesians decided to follow the birds' flight paths more than 1,500 years ago, it led them to Hawaii.

### **An Authentic Polynesian Canoe Replica Sailed From Hawaii to Tahiti in 1976**



Credit: [KenWiedemann](#)/ iStock



The Polynesian art of canoe building and navigation was almost lost forever until a group of artists, boat builders, historians, scientists, and native Hawaiians designed and built the canoe Hokule'a. [Hokule'a](#) ("Star of Gladness") is a 62-foot authentic replica of the canoes the first Polynesians used to sail to Hawaii. Hokule'a was the first wa'a kaulua anyone had seen in more than 600 years.

In keeping with tradition, the group (who later became the Polynesian Voyaging Society) wanted to navigate by wayfinding as their Polynesian ancestors had. No one in Hawaii possessed the necessary knowledge, so they recruited Mau Piailug, a navigator from a small Micronesian island who had ancestral wayfinding skills. Under Piailug's expert guidance, Hokule'a's 12-member crew successfully sailed from Hawaii to Tahiti in 1976. A month later, Hokule'a made a return trip to Hawaii.. It has since sailed all over the world, and [just celebrated the 44th anniversary](#) of that maiden voyage. More than just a vessel, Hokule'a is credited with reviving interest in preserving native Hawaiian culture.

### **Hawaiian Culture Evolved in Isolation Until Captain James Cook's 1778 Arriva**



**Credit: [LanaCanada](#)/ iStock**

Once the first Polynesians arrived and established settlements in Hawaii, they often sailed back and forth between their new home and their previous ones in the Marquesas and Society Islands. They returned for reasons such as finding marriage partners, bringing back skilled workers, and obtaining plants, animals, and materials unavailable in the Hawaiian Islands.

New waves of inhabitants continued to arrive in Hawaii over the next few hundred years. However, contact with outside societies ended around the 12th century. The reasons for the end of relations aren't entirely clear, but many speculate that Hawaiians' population size, as well as their culture, governance, and agricultural activities, no longer relied on support or familial ties to their ancestors. For the next 500 years, Hawaiians developed a [sophisticated system of social structure, religion, and governance](#). Although its roots are Polynesian, their culture developed nuances (such as new gods and hula dancing) unique to Hawaii.

Hawaii was (and still is) one of the world's most isolated large populations, lying almost 4,000 miles from Japan to the west and more than 2,300 from California to the east. Its isolation ended when Captain James Cook, a famous British explorer, arrived in Kauai in 1778. Over time, European and American influences nearly supplanted many ancient Hawaiian customs.



## **The Hawaiian Language Was Completely Oral Until the 1820s**

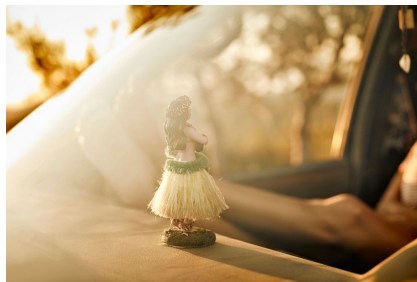
**Credit: [WesternWriter](#)/ iStock**

Hawaiians had no written version of their language until American missionaries arrived in the 1820s. For hundreds of years, Hawaiians communicated and preserved their ancestral knowledge via oral tradition — passing memorized information vocally from one generation to the next.

After listening to the Hawaiians' speech patterns, American missionaries created a writing system using a 12-letter alphabet. Later, they added a 13th to accommodate the [okina sound](#). The okina sound (the slight pause or “oh-oh” sound as in Hawai‘i) is written using a single backward apostrophe. The missionaries' objectives for creating a written language had a religious purpose — they wanted to teach Hawaiians how to read the Bible and other books they deemed necessary for converting the “heathen” islanders to Christianity.

When Cook arrived in Hawaii, hundreds of thousands of Hawaiians spoke their native language. Over time, however, that number dwindled, and the language was nearly lost. Fortunately, new efforts to preserve native Hawaiian culture include teaching language.

## **The Hula Was a Form of Flattery**



Credit: [Nomad](#)/ iStock

You'll find many stories and myths about who and which Hawaiian island created the hula, but there appears to be no definitive answer. The most common origins connect the hula to goddesses — like many polytheistic people, Hawaiians endowed their gods and goddesses with human attributes. Hula dancing is a [complex art form](#) that involves intricate hand gestures, chanting, footwork, and sometimes sitting. The movements and chants aren't simply songs — they dramatize ancestral legends and convey messages.

Dancers often performed hula as part of religious ceremonies honoring a Hawaiian god or goddess, or as social entertainment — particularly for Hawaiian royalty. Chiefs and their entourages often visited villages within their domain, so villagers scrambled to house, feed, and flatter the visiting dignitaries. Hula dancing communicated fealty and praise, so the training to perform hula was vigorous.

Before Western contact, dancers performed hula with chants and traditional instruments such as drums made from gourds, bamboo sticks, conch shells, and stones. (Hawaiians invented the ukulele, but it was based on a Portuguese stringed instrument.) Other Western influences altered the traditional hula, and new variations formed. Missionaries and converted Hawaiians frowned on the dance, deeming it immoral, and hula fell in and out of favor over the next few hundred years. Today, events such as the [Merrie Monarch Festival](#) aim to preserve this ancient Hawaiian performing arts tradition.



### **The Aloha Spirit Eventually Became a Hawaii State Law Credit: [skodonnell](#)/ iStock**

Most of us know the word *aloha* as a cheerful arrival or farewell greeting, but to Hawaiians (and Polynesians), the word conveys a more profound spiritual message. A few variations of aloha's root meaning exist, but the overall message it conveys is peace, honesty, unity, humility, compassion, patience, and affection. Aloha can also mean sending and receiving positive energy and living in harmony with the world and everything in it.

Aloha is such an essential element in Hawaiian culture that the state Legislature created a state law in 1986 supporting it. You won't end up in jail or be forced to pay a fine if you violate Hawaii's Aloha Spirit law, but it is listed in the state Legislature's statutes as [\[§5-7.5\]](#). According to the law, Aloha Spirit "was a working philosophy of native Hawaiians and was presented as a gift to the people of Hawaii. 'Aloha' is more than a word of greeting or farewell or a salutation. 'Aloha' means mutual regard and affection and extends warmth in caring with no obligation in return." The law serves as a reminder to government officials and business leaders to treat those they serve — and visitors — with sincerity, warmth, and friendliness.

[https://www.traveltrivia.com/things-you-never-knew-about-hawaii/XyHe64j3zgAHXdXv?utm\\_source=blog&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=1146167090](https://www.traveltrivia.com/things-you-never-knew-about-hawaii/XyHe64j3zgAHXdXv?utm_source=blog&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=1146167090)

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from "The Heyday of Malcom Margolin "

*Boston Public Library...That library is still embedded in my mind when I think of libraries: You climb those big steps...the stone lions on either side. You go up to the second floor, with all the marble, into the Reading Room with the big reading tables and the Tiffany lamps. We'd be doing homework. You'd go to the counter. A real adult in dress or a necktie would come and call you "Sir" and ask what you were doing. They'd offer to bring you books and help you. It was something about the magnificence of the library that let you know that if you were into a life of learning, the culture respected it so much it was providing this temple, this place of beauty and opulence for you, with fine art and fancy people, with infinite layers of potential there for what try could get in life..*



Dallas Smales

## Driving Less Drives Up Productivity

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to participate in an unplanned experiment: working from home, along with its close companion, homeschooling. Contrary to popular expectation, moving around half the nation's workforce into home offices has actually gone remarkably smoothly.

Most kinds of desk work have continued almost as if nothing had changed. And quite unexpectedly, the results of the unplanned experiment forced upon us suggests we might have stumbled upon a [massive opportunity for a microeconomic reform](#), including increased productivity rates.

It starts with the commute. The average worker spends an hour on commuting every work day, which, amazingly, has remained about the same since Neolithic times. If working from home eliminates an hour of commuting, without changing time spent on work or reducing production, the result would be equivalent to a 13 percent increase in productivity (assuming a 38-hour working work).

If half the workforce achieved such a gain, it would be equivalent to a 6.5 percent increase in productivity for the labor force as a whole. By comparison, the radical microeconomic reforms of the 1990s, including privatization, deregulation, and national competition policy, were estimated to increase national income by 5.5 percent.

In retrospect, the total increase relative to the long-term trend was less than one percentage point per year above normal. Even so, those reforms were widely seen as a crucial contributor to economic prosperity. So an improvement of 6.5 percent would be a huge benefit. If such predictions are correct, it would be enough over a few years to offset the economic costs of the lockdown and many other impacts of the pandemic. And even if this initial estimate turns out to be misleading, there are still real net benefits.

Of course, it'll be harder for those workers who crave the "social contacts" at work, or for those who rely on chatting to colleagues to develop ideas, or middle managers whose jobs revolve around physically keeping an eye on people to make sure they are at their desks, working. (The Conversation)

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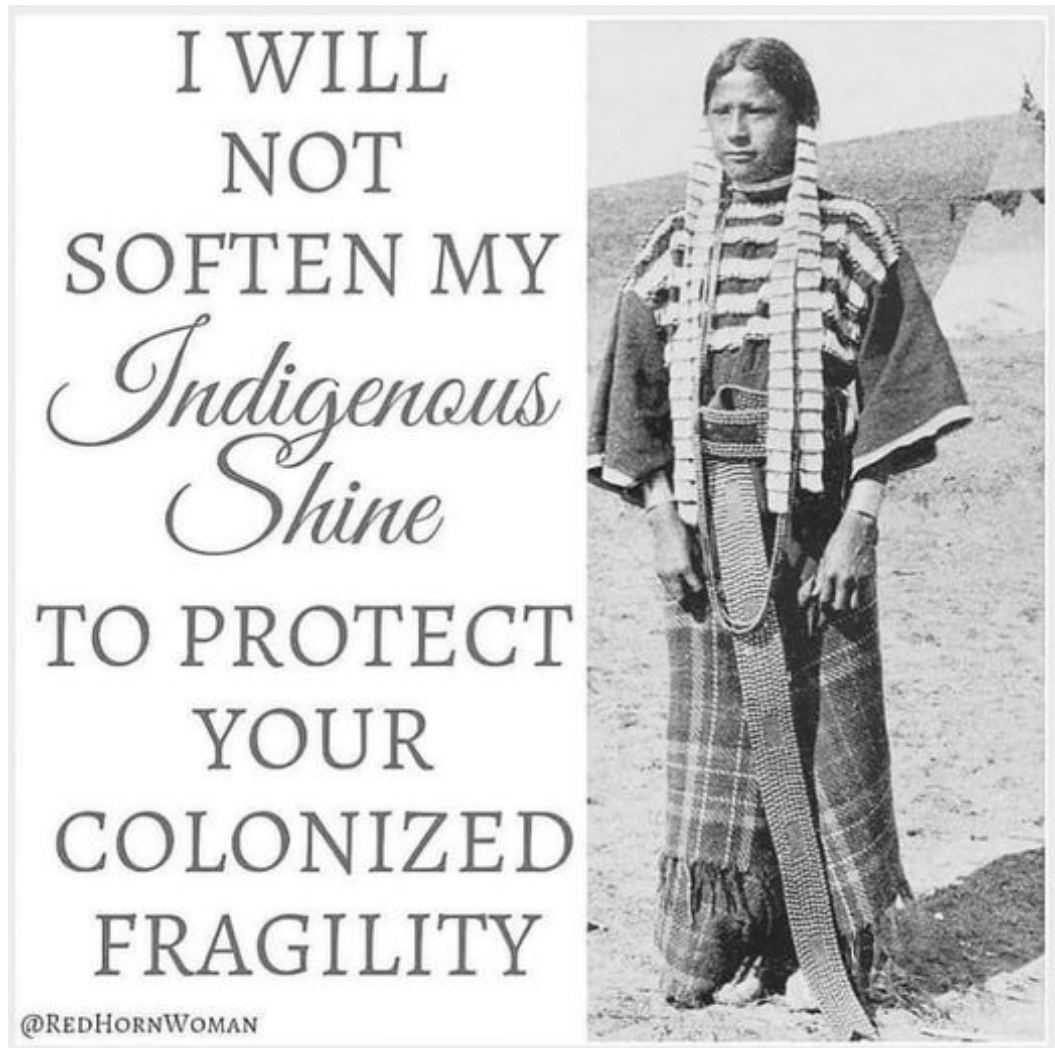
## Thoughts

*Rossitza Todorova reflects on how landscape embodies the idea of time, past, present, and future. The landscape reflects our memories by helping us recall and associate a place with history. It captures our present by allowing us to let go and be in the moment. And shows us our future, metaphorically, and literally as it reveals the journey ahead.*

*In the words of Ken Taylor, "one of our deepest needs is for a scene of identity and belonging and a common denominator in this is human attachment to landscape and how we find identity in landscape and place. Landscape, therefore, is not simply what we see, but a way of seeing: we see it when our eyes but interpret it with our mind and ascribe value to landscape for intangible - spiritual - reasons. Landscape can, therefore, be seen as a cultural construct in which our sense of place and memories inhere."*



*As Henri Frédéric Amiel eloquently said, "Any landscape is a condition of the spirit."*



### **How Textbooks Taught White Supremacy**

"I came across one textbook that declared on its first page, "This is the White Man's History." At that point, you had to be a dunce not to see what these books were teaching

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### **Guide to Every Person Whose Name Could be Removed from D.C. Buildings or Sites, from the Famous to the Forgotten**

A Washington, D.C. government committee issued recommendations for reassessing many public facilities named for historical figures. In some cases, the case against the figure is might need some explanation

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### **The West is burning, yet nobody is learning. They Know How to Prevent Megafires. Why Won't Anybody Listen?** (ProPublica)

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## WRPT Food Sovereignty Program

We are a group with the goal of creating a sustainable source of fresh produce for our tribe and improving the health of the community. Give us a like and a follow for updates on our projects!

### **Our next spotlight is for our valued team member Kyle!**

Kyle is a proud husband and father of 3. He was born right here in Schurz, NV and spent much of his adolescence working at Junior's in construction. He began working in the 3rd grade. Once he had begun attending high school in Yerington, Kyle became very involved as a 4-sport athlete who played baseball, basketball, football, and was a boxer. Following



his days at Yerington High, Kyle gave it the old “college try” at TMCC in Reno before deciding that he would pursue a career in landscaping. Kyle has a unique relationship with dirt. A painter’s medium is their canvas and paint and they use that to express themselves and create their art. Kyle’s medium is the earth and the dirt and he uses that to craft beautiful gardens and other various land sculptures.

Kyle found work with one of the premier landscaping companies in Northern Nevada and began crafting artistic gardens around the area. Kyle took a pause in his landscaping efforts in pursuit of his dreams as a professional boxer and moved down to Las Vegas.

Currently, Kyle is living his dream as a self-employed licensed contractor in Schurz, NV. In his free time, Kyle is an avid hunter. He loves hunting big game and upland game and even partakes in solo hunting (Weapon of choice? Traditional Recurve bow). Kyle wanted to become involved in the project to be able to bring his creativity, skills and knowledge as a landscaper and apply them in a way that would have a positive impact on the community members. He also wants to see to it that this project is completed and will have longevity for the community. His perfect meal would be some Elk Back Strap with mashed potatoes and gravy. In the future Kyle hopes to be able to travel up north to Alaska to participate in some of the best hunting and fishing in the world. Come see Kyle and the rest of the Team’s hard work at our community garden!

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**Its not just Big Oil that going through industrial overhaul: Jobs in these industries won't**  
come back even after the pandemic is over (CNN)

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**Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood Greenwalls - Featured Project** 0:22 / 3:57



**McKinley High School - Featured Project**



[click on pic for video](#)

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### **ANNY - Amplify Nevada Native Youth**

**We are pleased to** Welcome Tyler Sumpter for our Career Readiness Discussion of the Discovering Pathways Series! In this discussion, we dive into Tyler's journey through college and learn about her ambition to become a teacher for Native students.

<https://www.facebook.com/amplifynevada/videos/347148610001429>

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**Tribal Unity Impact Days**  
**Tribal Leader Roundtables**  
Wednesday, September 16, 2020  
11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. EDT  
and  
Thursday, September 17, 2020  
12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. EDT

This year, NCAI's **Tribal Unity Impact Days** will be going virtual. The event will feature two days of roundtable conversations with members of Congress, providing tribal leaders important opportunities to engage with legislators about the most pressing issues facing Indian Country before the end of the current session of Congress.

Register today to save your seat!

**REGISTER**