

The State Seal

- The year 1959 appears at the top of the seal. Hawaii became a state in 1959.
- The rising sun represents the birth of a new state.
- The star in the middle of the shield represents the 50th star added to the United States flag.
- The center of the seal features a shield divided into four quarters. Two quarters have white, red, and blue stripes to symbolize the Hawaiian flag. There are eight stripes in each quarter, representing the eight main islands of Hawai'i. The other two quarters have a *kapu* ball and stick, or *Pulo'ulo'u*, on a yellow background. *Pulo'ulo'u* were placed before the door of the king's home to signify his authority, and in the state seal represent the power and authority of government.
- Kamehameha I is on the left of the shield. This is the same pose as the Kamehameha statue in front of Ali'iolani Hale in downtown Honolulu. The goddess of Liberty is on the right of the shield. Kamehameha and the goddess of Liberty represent the old and new government leaders.
- A phoenix is under the shield. The phoenix is a symbol of death and resurrection and signifies the change from a monarchy to a democratic form of government.
- Below the phoenix are eight taro leaves, signifying the eight main Hawaiian Islands. On either side of the taro leaves there are banana leaves, which represent fruitfulness. Finally, maidenhair ferns appear on both sides of the seal symbolizing the greenness of Hawai'i.
- The State Motto - *Ua Mau ke Ea o ka 'Āina i ka Pono* - is on the bottom of the seal. It means "*The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness.*" Attributed to Kamehameha III, the phrase was originally on the royal coat of arms for the Kingdom of Hawaii when it was adopted around 1850.

