

Hawaii Medical Board



Physicians first came to the Hawaiian Islands in 1778 on sailing ships commanded by Captain James Cook. The first foreign trained physician to reside in the islands arrived from Brazil in 1811 to serve as physician and secretary to King Kamehameha I. Nine years later, the first of several medical missionaries arrived from Boston to practice medicine in the islands. Shortly after, other physicians began to settle in the islands.

As the Kingdom of Hawaii, the island nation adopted its first Medical Practice Act in 1856. The monarchy was overthrown by resident Americans and Europeans in 1893 and Hawaii became an independent republic for five years. In 1896, the republic established the Hawaii Medical Board. The United States annexed Hawaii as a territory in 1898, but it wasn't until 1959 that Hawaii became the 50th U.S. state.