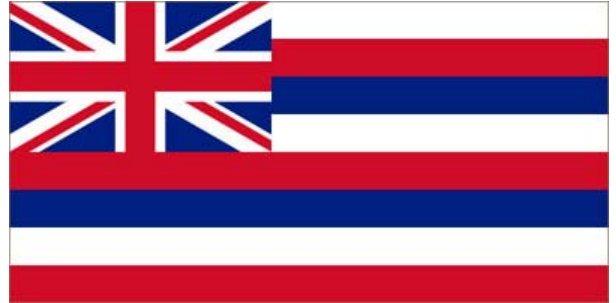


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## Hawaii Statehood Day

**Sixty years ago, on August 21, 1959, Hawaii was admitted as the 50th U.S. state.** Here in Hawaii, Statehood Day (or Admission Day) is celebrated annually on the third Friday in August. So today, August 16, is a state holiday. The school year started on August 5, but today there is NO SCHOOL!

If our state flag looks a bit familiar, that's most likely because it has the Union Flag of the United Kingdom in the upper left corner. King Kamehameha I commissioned the Hawaiian flag in 1816. The Union Jack was included to honor Hawaii's friendship with the British. The eight white, red, and blue stripes symbolize the eight major islands: Hawai'i, Maui, O'ahu, Kaua'i, Moloka'i, Lana'i, Ni'ihau, and Kahol'olawe.



Happy Hawaiian Statehood Day!