

Hawaii Five-O Cameras in Former Royal Palace

Of the many beautiful and historic spots available as backgrounds for the Hawaii Five-O television series now being filmed in Hawaii, none is more awe-inspiring or impressive than the Iolani Palace. Within its walls live memories of the monarchy, the pomp and pageantry of old Hawaii.

Iolani Palace holds a special place in the annals of the United States as well, for it's the only royal palace in the country.



Jack Lord

Yesterday it housed Hawaii's royal families; today the palace contains legislators' offices and those of the state government's executive branch. In Hawaii Five-O, starring Jack Lord, premiering on CBS, Thursday, Sept. 26 at 8 PM, the palace also houses the Five-O state investigation unit.

On Saturdays, when the official business of the state of Hawaii tapers off a bit, the Hawaii Five-O cast and crew move onto the grounds and set up shop for filming scenes for another episode, with permission granted by Hawaii's Governor John Burns.

Iolani Palace (Iolani means "bird of heaven") was built during the reign of King Kalakaua, the Merry Monarch. It was completed in 1882.

King Kalakaua lived in it until his death in 1891. His sister, Queen Liliuokalani, also lived there until the overthrow of the monarchy in 1893. Subsequently she was held prisoner in a second-floor room for nine months for her alleged involvement in an uprising.

The palace is open to the public. Particularly interesting to visitors is the Throne Room, where the State House of Representatives convenes. Here Hawaiian royalty received guests and provided entertainment. The original crystal chandeliers still are in place, and portraits of the royal family look down on visitors.

The main hallway was used as an informal reception room. On its opposite side, in what became the State Senate chamber, is the former royal dining room.

On the second floor, which once housed the royal bedroom, library and music room, the governor and his staff have their offices.

Leonard Freeman is executive producer of Hawaii Five-O.