

A historical map of Honolulu, Hawaii, from 1887, is the background. The map shows the city grid, the harbor, and the mountain of Diamond Head. A large, glowing orange and yellow volcanic eruption is superimposed on the right side of the map, appearing to flow down from the top right corner. The title 'HONOLULU' is centered over the map in a large, black, serif font with horizontal lines above and below each letter. Below the title, the text 'A Television Series Event' is written in a smaller, black, serif font. In the bottom left corner of the map, there is a title block: 'HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT SURVEY', 'W. V. BARNES, SURVEYOR GENERAL', 'AND VICINITY', 'MAP BY WAWALL', '1887', and 'Scale 1:2000'.

HONOLULU

A Television Series Event

— . —
1886
— . —

The Kingdom of Hawai'i is on the brink of destruction.

Rival nations threaten her independence as a rebellion festers from within.

The denizens of Honolulu don't know it yet,

but the island is erupting beneath their feet.

Some of the Factions in Honolulu:

THE ROYAL POLICE: The Bluebacks, a military guard sworn to protect the monarchy.

THE SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES: Plainclothes law enforcement who report to the Sheriff.

UNCLE SUGAR: A bloc of US Corporations that would benefit most from Hawai'i's annexation.

THE BLACK FLAG ARMY: Chinese freedom fighters, martial artists, and terrorists.

THE YAKUZA: Japanese gangsters, thieves, and old ronin.

THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY: An unsanctioned secret society made up of American insurrectionists.

THE GRUENE MISSION: A cult-like organization advocating for a Christian theocracy.

PROLOGUE

Three thousand miles from anywhere, yet at the center of everything, Hawai'i is called the "Paradise of the Pacific." Whether a ship is crossing from the Eastern hemisphere or the West, they all pass through HONOLULU.

David Kalakaua has reigned as king for twelve years. In that time, he has kept all rival nations at bay, skillfully leveraging each one's interests against the others. As he sees it, it's his job to keep everyone disappointed — from the nobles who want his throne, to the rebels who want his head.

However, both the Americans and the Japanese view Hawai'i as a necessary acquisition and part of their country's manifest destiny. The United Kingdom, in possession of the largest empire in the world, is strategically inclined to act as Hawai'i's closest ally and protector for the time being. Given its military and geographical significance, everyone wants Pearl Harbor for themselves.

In addition, there is a shadow war brewing. The growing number of gangs and militias carving up Honolulu for themselves has become a real problem, and the two police forces, The Royal Police and the Honolulu Sheriff's Deputies, are just as territorial and corrupt.

This is a world in which Cowboys, Ronin, Criminals, Cops, Kings, and Princesses reside. There are sword fights and gun fights and bodies dropped into volcanoes. No one is safe. No one is spared.

Welcome to Paradise.



Riz Ahmed

ORION NASSIR
“The Smuggler”

Ethnically Lebanese but raised in the Australian Outback, Orion is a bonafide citizen of the world, having journeyed to one edge of the Pacific and back more than a dozen times. His nomadic lifestyle has made him untrusting of others, except for his business partner, Tomi, and his on-and-off paramour, Mei, who lives in Honolulu. Behind his stoic/nihilistic demeanor is a conscience wrestling with the morality of his actions.



Te Ao o Hinepēhinga

ELLA KALIOKALANI
“The Princess”

A native Hawaiian who has lived in England for much of her young life, Ella is a spitfire rebel with only one cause — her freedom. Though her father was the presumed heir to the Hawaiian throne before his death, Ella has no interest in being royalty, much less a political pawn. But her longing to escape is challenged when her cousin is found murdered and Ella is believed to be the intended victim.



Dean Fujioka

TOMI GENSAI
“The Gambler”

Though he is related to several prominent Japanese crime bosses, Tomi has only narrowly escaped legal consequences for his many illicit ventures, including his current scheme to sell Gatling guns to the Chinese Black Flag Army (the Boxers) who are planning a revolt against the British. No risk is too great or reward too meager; Tomi can't help himself when he spots a score.



Cooper Andrews

DAVID KALAKAUA
“The King”

Ella’s uncle, David is the ruling monarch and head of state of the Kingdom of Hawai’i. He has grand plans to unite all of Polynesia, requiring Ella to wed the Emperor of Japan’s son in order to forge an alliance. A skilled politician and patron of the arts, David treasures his country’s culture above all else.



Kaliko Kauahi

LYDIA KAMAKA’EHA
“The Future Queen”

David’s younger sister and Ella’s aunt, Lydia (better known as Liliuokalani) will be queen someday, but not yet. Having learned of David’s plot to wed Ella to the Japanese prince, Lydia writes Ella a letter to warn her before she arrives in Honolulu. She does this to protect her niece as well as her own position at court.



Simon Pegg

HALBERT WILHELM
“The Marshal”

Hawai’i’s head of security and commander of the king’s private army, Halbert was born in Hawaii to a British officer and an American missionary. He loves his country and will do anything to protect her, though his body and mind are a web of scars received in the Anglo-Zulu War.



Alex Tarrant

WADE MAHUIKI
“The Constable”

Hailing from a lesser noble family, Wade is no less committed to the royal family and Hawai’i. He, Lani, and Ella were friends as children, but haven’t spoke since Ella’s parents died. As a constable, Wade has no patience for those who come to Hawai’i and break her laws.



Denee Benton

BETHANY KRUG
“The Innkeeper”

Bethany inherited the inn from the same dead, abusive husband who gave her a permanent limp. She is initially smitten with the mysterious Joshua, who rents out the whole property, but gradually sees him for the monster that he is.



Joseph Gordon-Levitt

JOSHUA STERN
“The Spy”

Murderer, torturer, and patriot, Joshua is an undercover American agent charged with securing Pearl Harbor for the U.S. by any means available. He falls in love with Bethany, but he cannot conceal his true nature from her.



Wen Jiang

XHANG CHEN
“The Admiral”

An exiled Chinese Admiral from Hong Kong. Xhang is fluent in English but refuses to speak it. He is only in Hawai'i on business to buy weapons. These include the US-made Gatling guns smuggled in by Orion and Tomi.



Charlit Dae

BAO WENG
“The Boxer”

A skilled martial artist, Bao begins as a low-level enforcer for the Admiral until he is promoted when the Chinatown fire wipes out the Black Flag's' middle management and ignites a war with Japanese organized crime.



Cliff Curtis

GIDEON ALANA

“The Uncle”

Gideon is Ella’s other uncle, on her mother’s side. Though his sister married into the nobility, Gideon is a simple day laborer on a pineapple plantation. When Ella reappears unexpectedly, Gideon decides to turn her into the Sheriff in order to claim a reward.



Auli'i Cravalho

LANI ALANA

“The Cousin”

Lani was Ella’s closest friend from childhood, but no longer. She is envious of Ella’s worldly adventures, and offended that Ella is privileged enough to attempt a life with no responsibilities. Despite their disagreements, Lani’s murder haunts Ella and is the main reason she doesn’t leave Honolulu.



Christopher Meloni

SHEPHERD QUINN

“The Sheriff”

What do you get when you cross the conscience of an outlaw, and the bravado of a lawman? The answer is Sheriff Quinn. Though he is an elected official who supposedly serves the people rather than the royal family, Shep will align himself with anyone, so long as they serve his own interests.



Takayuki Suzuki

TOSHIRO GENSAI

“The Gangster”

Toshiro is Tomi’s Yakuza-affiliated brother, a skilled swordfighter and marksman. Whereas Tomi has a limited concept of honor, nothing is more important to Toshiro. Inside, he loves his brother, but his hatred runs just as deep.



Ellen Wong

MEI WENG
“The Artist”

Born to wealthy parents who gave her a rich education, Mei grew up depressed, bored, and homicidal. Once a prolific poet/painter/philosopher/mid wife/serial killer, she’s now more interested in mahjong and opium. She is married to Bao Weng, though she has had an on-and-off affair with Orion Nassir among others.



Sean Penn

DANIEL B. DOLE
“The Tycoon”

Daniel is the congressional representative from Oahu, as well as the founder of the first Dole Fruit Company. He, along with other white Hawaiians, plan to overthrow the government in order to enact racist laws designed to disenfranchise Asians and most Native Hawaiians, as well as strip the monarchy of its power.



Hope Davis

CHARITY CLARKE
“The Missionary”

Charity is a teacher who subscribes to a white supremacist interpretation of the Bible. She says she is opposed to racial violence for the sake of her Native Hawai’ian students, but politics and religion have warped her mind. She believes wholeheartedly that King David is a cannibal antichrist.



David Thewlis

QI ALATAS
“The Whaler”

As the world was depleted of whales and evolved beyond its dependency on whale oil, the man known as Alatas switched to a more stable commodity — human beings. He now trafficks them from all over Asia to work in Hawai’i and wherever else in need of women, debtors, and slaves.



ACT I

A transpacific passenger ship crashes its way through a violent storm as **ELLA KALIOKALANI**, a Hawaiian princess, **discreetly boards a lifeboat and rows in the opposite direction.**

The next morning in Honolulu, **HALBERT WILHELM**, Marshal of the Royal Police, examines a dead man hanging from a rope off the side of a bridge over Nuuanu Stream. He deduces that the man is a Japanese national, and orders a deputy to keep him informed.

The Marshal visits King **DAVID KALAKAUA**, sovereign of the Kingdom of Hawai'i. David intends to unite all of Polynesia under a Hawaiian dynasty. Central to his plan is engaging his niece, Ella, to the future Emperor of Japan. **Her disappearance from the passenger ship threatens everything.**

Meanwhile, Ella's lifeboat crosses paths with the **Cassiopeia**, a sailboat manned by two smugglers — the rugged adventurer, **ORION NASSIR** and the dandy gambler, **TOMI GENSAI**. They are hesitant to help at first. They owe a huge debt to someone or something called "The Kraken" and have an appointment to make. Finally they allow her to board, but upon learning their destination is Honolulu, **she pulls out a pistol and commandeers the ship, then orders her would-be rescuers onto the lifeboat.**

ACT II

As the *Cassiopeia* sails away, Orion holds onto a rope tied to its deck. Ella is busy with the rigging when Orion pulls himself back aboard and brandishes his sawed-off shotgun. For the time being, Ella surrenders.

Elsewhere in Oahu, JOSHUA STERN, an American, is busy mapping Pearl Harbor. He's visited by SHEPHERD QUINN, the Sheriff of Honolulu, who suspects that Joshua is looking for a hidden cache of treasure earmarked for the Japanese as Ella's dowry. Joshua does not deny this, even when Shepherd blackmails him for half of whatever Joshua finds.

On arriving in Honolulu, Ella is recognized by Constable WADE MAHUIKI of the Royal Police. She grabs Orion's shotgun, blasts a warning shot, and runs away. After a harrowing foot chase, Ella makes her escape on a passing vessel and Wade finds himself in the bay. When Wade returns to the pier, he detains Orion and Tomi, despite their protestations that they don't know Ella.



ACT III

Sheriff Quinn arrives at the pier to interrogate Orion and Tomi. They insist they are innocent, and Quinn appears to believe them. **He has them released, but orders a deputy follow them.**

Elsewhere on the island, **GIDEON ALANA** and his niece, **MOMILANI "LANI" ALANA** toil in a pineapple orchard. They return to their hut to find Ella, cousin to Lani and niece to Gideon, inside. We learn that Ella's mother was a commoner, while **her late father, James Kaliokalani, was King David's older brother.**

Tomi and Orion make their way to Chinatown with one of their crates in a rickshaw. After losing their tailing deputy, they arrive at a pig slaughterhouse run by a Chinese exile and war criminal, Admiral **XHANG CHEN**. Tomi and Orion open the crate to reveal all of the necessary components to construct a Gatling gun, prompting Xhang to demand a demonstration.

ACT IV

Orion assembles the Gatling gun and fires upon several impaled dead pigs wearing British uniforms. Xhang, thoroughly impressed, pays for the fourteen Gatling guns Orion and Tomi have stored on their ship.

Meanwhile, King David attends a luau meant to be held in honor of Ella returning to the island. Given her absence, David's sister, LYDIA "LILI'UOKALANI" KAMAKA'EHA, asks to be declared crowned princess instead of Ella.

While Ella rests in Gideon's hut, he decides to turn her in to the authorities. Rather than standing up for her cousin, Lani reminds her uncle to claim the reward.

Back at the luau, a would-be assassin attempts to murder the king, but is apprehended by Marshal Wilhelm.

Gideon finds the sheriff and tells him Ella is at his house but the sheriff is preoccupied with smoking opium.

When Ella realizes that she has been locked inside the room, she sets the hut ablaze and crashes through the door to make her getaway. As Lani helplessly watches Ella run towards the bay, a lasso wraps around Lani's neck and yanks hard. Ella makes her way to the *Cassiopeia*, and sets sail.

ACT V

Orion and Tomi return to the pier to discover the *Cassiopeia* is missing. Bao Weng takes Tomi hostage and gives Orion **twenty-four hours to deliver the Gatling guns to the Admiral or Tomi's life is forfeit.**

At the site of Gideon's burnt cabin, Wade finds the locket that Ella gave Lani. Halbert issues a warrant for Gideon's arrest. Shepherd learns from his deputy that the hanged man from the bridge was a Japanese surveyor mapping Pearl Harbor. Shepherd confronts Joshua, who he believes to be working illegally for the US government to acquire Pearl Harbor before it changes hands to the Japanese. When Shepherd tries to blackmail him, **Joshua breaks Shepherd's arm and warns him not to interfere.**

At his palace, King David confronts Lydia when he realizes it was she who warned Ella of the arranged marriage.

Rather than go after the guns like he told Bao he would, Orion finds Tomi's Yakuza-affiliated brother, **TOSHIRO**, and tells him the Chinese are holding Tomi, lighting a spark that will ignite a gang war.

Realizing that Gideon is innocent yet wanted by the Marshal, Shepherd locks Gideon up to keep him quiet. Lani's body is found by a pair of naturalists, hanged in the same manner as the Japanese surveyor.

Aboard the *Cassiopeia*, Ella is overrun by the whaling ship *Kraken*, piloted by QI ALATAS and his crew of human traffickers headed for Honolulu.

Why *Honolulu*? Why now?

"Honolulu" is a groundbreaking television series that defies genre conventions while immersing viewers in a captivating and culturally rich narrative that blends action-adventure, crime drama, political thriller, western, and a murder mystery.

The series delves into the complexities of Hawaiian culture, exploring themes of power, loyalty, and the consequences of insurrection and supremacist ideology. With its compelling characters, visually spectacular scenes, and timeless messaging, "Honolulu" is poised to become a must-see television event that excites and entertains viewers.