

Hawaii

1893—Following the overthrow of Hawaii's queen and the 1898 U.S. annexation of Hawaii, Native Hawaiian women began to organize for suffrage rights.

1900—The U.S. Congress enacted the Organic Act of Hawaii, which established Hawaii as a U.S. territory and explicitly limited voting to men literate in either English or Hawaiian.

1912—Wilhelmina Kekelaokalaninui Wideman Dowsett, the daughter of a Native Hawaiian chieftain, founded the National Women's Equal Suffrage Association of Hawaii (WESAH), which welcomed women of all ethnicities and backgrounds. Almira Pitman, who married a Native Hawaiian in Massachusetts, linked WESAH to New England suffrage groups and testified before the U.S. Congress on behalf of Native Hawaiian women's need for the vote.

1919—The Hawaiian Senate approved suffrage legislation, but the House of Representatives declined to vote on the bill. House members feared that if women were allowed to vote, Native Hawaiians would surpass white representation in the Hawaiian Legislature. Even after Dowsett organized a 500 person suffrage parade which ended up with suffragists holding "Votes for Women" banners on the House floor, the House failed to pass the bill.

After Congress enacted the 19th Amendment, Hawaii, as a territory, could not participate in the ratification process. The 19th Amendment gave women in U.S. states and territories the right to vote, and Hawaiian women could vote in territorial elections.

1959—Hawaiians gained the right to vote in presidential elections when Hawaii gained statehood.

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