



0. The Descendants - Story Preface

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4. FINDING BRIAN SPEER
5. KING KAMEHAMEHA and HIS DESCENDANTS
6. THE PRINCESS and HER SCHOOLS

Image of Princess Bernice Pauahi and her husband, Charles Reed Bishop, circa 1850. The Princess granted a huge gift of land to the Hawaiian people. Original maintained at the Bishop Museum in Honolulu.

*The result of her wise disposition of her property,
you young people all know too well.
It is yours - you who live it each day of your lives.
Without it, where would many of you be today?*

Mrs. Pierre Jones

On the Use of Hawaiian Land Owned by Princess Bernice Pauahi Pahi

The wealthy Princess had to make a decision about her property. The last surviving descendant of Kamehameha I - a warrior chief who united all the Hawaiian Islands in 1810 - Bernice Pauahi Pahi owned about 375,500 acres of gorgeous Hawaiian land.

She could have done anything she wanted with her treasure. Inheriting about nine percent of the entire Kingdom of Hawaii, Pauahi Pahi wasn't just land-rich. Her status as a Princess meant that she was highly respected by all Hawaiians.

Yet ... she was bothered by her wealth. What had she done to deserve it? What if she had been born into a poor family instead of a rich one? What if she were a descendant of land workers instead of land owners?

Feeling "responsible and accountable" for the inheritance she'd received from her ancestors, Pauahi Pahi made a profound decision. She would place all of her land in trust for the benefit of Hawaiian children.

It is against this backdrop that we meet Matt King and his dying wife, Joanie (called "Elizabeth" in the film based on Kaui Hart Hemmings's book, *The Descendants*).

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/The-Descendants>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/The-Descendants>

Questions 2 Ponder

Do Wealthy People Have a Responsibility to Help Others?

Pauahi Pahi was a Princess of the Hawaiian royal family. As a descendant of King Kamehameha I, she was wealthy, just like the rest of her relatives. When she married an American, she was also known as Princess Bernice Pauahi Pahi Bishop.

By 1884, the Princess was the last-surviving descendant of Kamehameha I. She was also the largest landowner in the Hawaiian Islands.

Princess Bernice Pauahi Pahi was concerned about ethnically Hawaiian children. As more and more "outsiders" moved to Hawaii, newcomers were becoming wealthy. The Princess wanted to guarantee the future of her people. She decided to put her vast fortune into a trust which would benefit Hawaiian children for generations to come.

Do wealthy people have a responsibility to help others? Explain your answer.

If riches are inherited, does that make a person more (or less) likely to share? Explain your answer.

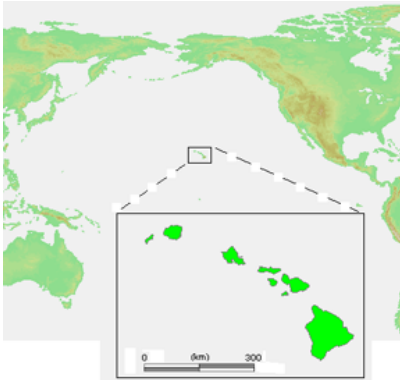
Media Stream



Kamehameha I

Image of Kamehameha I online, courtesy National Archives.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Kamehameha-I>



Kingdom of Hawaii

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Princess Pauahi Pahi

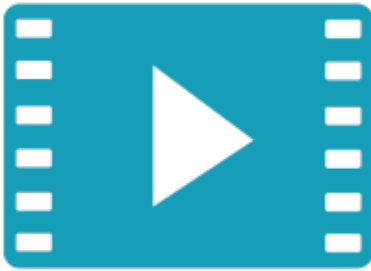
Image of Princess Bernice Bishop online, courtesy [Bishop Museum](#) (also known as Hawaii's State Museum of Natural and Cultural History in Honolulu).

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The Descendants

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The Descendants - Trailer (Short Version)

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