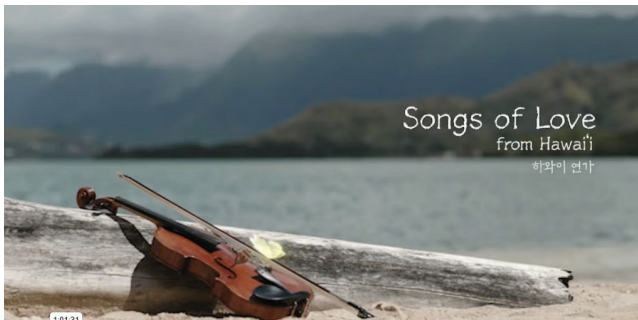


Songs of Love from Hawaii

From grandfather to father, and mother to daughter, we embark on a journey to rediscover the traces of their love.



About the Immigrants

Korean migration can be categorized into three main phases: the first from 1903 to 1949, the second from 1950 to 1964, and the third as the contemporary period.

During the first phase of Korean migration, 121 Koreans, full of hope, gathered at Jemulpo Port in Incheon and set out on a long voyage. After 22 days, only 102 of them arrived in Hawaii, marking the beginning of the Korean American diaspora. Korean immigration began in 1903 when workers arrived in Hawaii. They lived on plantations alongside workers from other countries. Starting in 1910, approximately 700 Korean 'picture brides' traveled to Hawaii for marriages arranged through photographs. By the time Korea was liberated from Japan in 1945, about 7,000 Koreans lived in isolation in Hawaii.

Historical Information



1. How did Korean immigrants in Hawaii continue their lives after their plantation labor contracts expired?

- Approximately 50% of the Korean workers relocated to the mainland, primarily to California, where they worked on farms or started their own businesses, such as laundry services and nail salons. Meanwhile, some stayed in Hawaii, and others returned to Korea for various reasons, including family matters and difficulties adapting to a new culture.

- Many chose to move to the mainland because grain-based agricultural labor in California was more bearable compared to the sugarcane plantations and offered higher wages.
- The first KoreaTown was established in the Riverside area.



2. How did Korean immigration progress after Korea was liberated from Japan in 1945, during the second phase of Korean migration?
- After Korea's liberation, Korean immigration focused on international marriages, adoptions, and educational opportunities. Subsequently, in 1965, amendments to U.S. immigration law led to over 30,000 Koreans moving to the U.S. in search of the American dream.



3. What is the current status of the Korean immigrant population in the U.S.?
- Today, 2.6 million Koreans in the U.S. foster a harmonious community with other immigrants. Although the first generation of Korean immigrants faced difficulties integrating into mainstream society due to language and cultural challenges, their children have emerged as leaders, thanks to the resilience and pioneering spirit of their predecessors. Currently, Korean political representation has surged, and Korean culture has gained global acclaim.