

handed down from their ancestors. These men often prophesied that judgment would follow if these were neglected; but, notwithstanding, as may readily be supposed, bad rulers contrived to evade the taboos and rules, and the people had no means of redressing their grievances but by rebellion, and placing other chiefs in their stead.

There were means used to publish the laws. Kamehameha was very particular in this respect; and there appears to have been no complaint that he had ever violated them himself.

From the earliest periods of Hawaiian history, the tenure of lands has been, in most respects, feudal. The origin of the fiefs was the same as in the northern nations of Europe. Any chieftain who could collect a sufficient number of followers to conquer a district, or an island, and had succeeded in his object, proceeded to divide the spoils, or "cut up the land," as the natives termed it.

The king, or principal chief, made his choice from the best of the lands. Afterwards the remaining part of the conquered territory was distributed among the leaders, and these again subdivided their shares to others, who became vassals, owing fealty to the sovereigns of the fee.

The king placed some of his own particular servants on his portion as his agents, to superintend the cultivation. The original occupants who were on the land, usually remained under their new conqueror, and by them the lands were cultivated, and rent or taxes paid.

This division was often a work of great difficulty. In spite of any wisdom and skill that could be exercised, it was no easy matter to satisfy every one that the division had been fairly and equally made, and before the business was finished, difficulties often arose, which ended in some cases in rebellion, and in others in open war. When every thing could be settled amicably, the whole body of retainers became bound up with the interest of the king, having every inducement to support him, for their property became safe or uncertain in proportion as his authority was upheld. These landholders were the persons on whom the king could call and rely on to support him in his difficulties, aid him in his plans, or fight his battles.

The manner in which these divisions took place, shows more system than appears to have been practised in any other group in Polynesia.

An Island was divided	.	.	into Mokus.
Mokus	.	.	" Thalanas, or counties.
Thalanas	.	.	" Ahupnaas, or townships.
Ahupnaas	.	.	" Ilis, or plantations.
Ilis	.	.	" Moos, or small farms.

One of the latter divisions was frequently the property of a single