



Hawaiian Mission Houses  
Historic Site and Archives



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NEAL V. HITCH, Ph.D., NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
HAWAIIAN MISSION HOUSES HISTORIC SITE AND ARCHIVES

(HONOLULU, HI) Neal V. Hitch, Ph.D. has been named Executive Director of Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives beginning February 1, 2018.

A native of Columbus, Ohio, Dr. Hitch received his B.S. magna cum laude in Architecture, M Arch, and Ph.D. in American History from the Ohio State University. Hitch was a 2006 fellow at Attingham Trust for the Study of English Country Houses and Collections in London, England; and participated in the Poplar Forest Restoration Field School in Lynchburg, Virginia in 1995.

Dr. Hitch first worked for ten years with the Ohio History Connection restoring nineteenth-century historic sites. Using archival research at the Ohio History Connection, he developed and interpreted six historically accurate reproduction buildings and furnishings at the Ohio Village, restored and interpreted five presidential properties, and completed restoration at multiple house museums and historic sites.

Hitch is widely published and was awarded the 2002 Anne de Fort-Menares Award by the Association for Preservation Technology International for his scholarly work on the restoration of Adena, the home of Thomas Worthington. Hitch also published several public history articles in *Times of the Island* while director of the National Museum of the Turks and Caicos Islands including articles titled “Vanishing Culture: Turks and Caicos Government Archives” and “The Oldest Image: The Museum Acquires the Earliest Painting of Grand Turk.”

During his time from 2007 to 2010 at National Museum of the Turks and Caicos Islands, Hitch assumed full managerial responsibilities including staffing, collection preservation, public relations, strategic planning, program development, and fundraising. He also created engaging programs for the cruise ship industry and led the redevelopment of the museum following the devastation of Hurricane Ike in 2007.

Most recently, Hitch was director of the Imperial Valley Desert Museum in California a relatively new museum in the heart of the Yuha Desert housing Native American and historic artifacts collected from within the Imperial Valley. Prompted by the opening of a new building in 2011, The Imperial Valley Desert Museum engages and interacts as a 21st-century institution by creating innovative public programs and cultural projects. Hitch undertook active fundraising and grant preparation, design and development of a conservation lab, robust public programming, and training staff while designing, fabricating, and installing permanent exhibits by April 2015.

An explorer and adventurer, Hitch says “I have been traveling the world developing museums in remote and unique locations. I want to work where I can help build community with people living at the edge or on the margins. I promote the creation of art and artifacts as the core instinct which makes us human. And I believe that by celebrating, interpreting, and preserving art and artifacts we can build better societies.”

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Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives is located in Honolulu’s Historic Capitol District and is the leading authority on Protestant missionary history in Hawai’i. It is known worldwide as the place where the Hawaiian written language was developed through the collaborative efforts of the missionaries and the ali’i (the Hawaiian royalty) and the Hawaiian people. It preserves the two oldest documented houses in Hawai’i, which were built and used by missionaries in the early nineteenth century, and the largest collection of Hawaiian language books in the world.

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