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## The Painted King: Art, Activism and Authenticity in Hawaii (Hardback)

By Glenn Wharton

University of Hawai i Press, United States, 2012. Hardback. Book Condition: New. New.. 257 x 183 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. The famous statue of Kamehameha I in downtown Honolulu is one of the state s most popular landmarks. Many tourists and residents however, are unaware that the statue is a replica; the original, cast in Paris in the 1880s and the first statue in the Islands, stands before the old courthouse in rural Kapa au, North Kohala, the legendary birthplace of Kamehameha I. In 1996 conservator Glenn Wharton was sent by public arts administrators to assess the statue s condition, and what he found startled him: A larger-than-life brass figure painted over in brown, black, and yellow with white toenails and fingernails and penetrating black eyes with small white brush strokes for highlights. It looked more like a piece of folk art than a nineteenth-century heroic monument. The Painted King is Wharton s account of his efforts to conserve the Kohala Kamehameha statue, but it is also the story of his journey to understand the statue s meaning for the residents of Kapa au. He learns that the townspeople prefer the more human (painted) Kamehameha, regaling him with...



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