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From the Plantations They Grew: Japanese Arrival and Prosperity in Hawai‘i

Hawai‘i—the Hawaiian Dictionary explains that in Hawai‘i, this term has no meaning (citation). But for many Americans, it is a tropical paradise that one can escape to, without having to deal with troublesome visas and not having to worry about communicating in a different language. For people visiting from the western direction, Hawai‘i is getting the best of America with sunshine all year around and at the same time, experiencing that same “tropical paradise” that the Americans also dream about. For fellow Pacific Islanders, it is also about getting to the States, however, without having to travel such a lengthy distance from home. However, for locals, Hawai‘i is a place that is not only called “home,” but of a land and a people that had gone through many drastic changes, mostly not for the better. These locals, or “Hawaiians,” are indigenous people of Hawai‘i, but can also refer to Filipino, Chinese, and Japanese Hawaiians—those of whom had immigrated to the land of Aloha during the plantation years to find better lives for themselves. What they found however, were many years of hard work and little pay, discrimination, and disappointment. Particularly, the Japanese who arrived in Hawai‘i, although expected to be a humble and loyal people, went through a century of rising through the ranks through protests, strikes, and oppression.
Outline:

1. Introduction
2. History:
3. Colonialism and its effects on Hawai'i's economics and demographics
4. Why did the Japanese come to Hawai'i? What events occurred in Japan? Why did the Japanese stay?
5. Plantation life
6. Conflicts with other Immigrants (wages, racial discriminations)
7. A changing culture (Japanese culture and it's evolution throughout the original immigrants, the first generation and second generation)
8. Americanization
9. Strikes
10. WWII
11. Breakthrough
12. Breakthrough continued
13. How do the Japanese view themselves today?
14. Racial tensions that exist
15. Conclusion

This is the basic outline for my paper. As mentioned before, I wanted to talk about the history of the Japanese in Hawai'i while also talking about present day Japanese throughout the paper. I plan to do this by utilizing the center for oral histories, as the elderly Japanese Hawaiians recall life on the plantations. I also plan to use present-day companies run by Japanese depicting the success of their ancestors' struggle. However, although I believe I will find a lot of information on the topics given, I wonder if I need a more solid introduction. For instance, I am used to instructors telling me I need three points to focus on for research papers which I need to elaborate on throughout the paper. Will it be the same for this paper?