

James Gay Sawkins (English, 1806–1878)

Hilo from the Bay, 1852

Oil on canvas

Purchase, 1992 (7065.1)

James Gay Sawkins was born in England and immigrated to the United States when he was at the age of fourteen. He traveled around the country United State and its territories, visited Mexico, and lived in Cuba. After being deported from From there, Cuba, he went on to South America, California, and Hawai'i.

Although Sawkins advertised himself as a portraitist and did a large number of fine watercolors, he devoted most of his energy Sawkins' main energies were devoted to mineralogical and agricultural pursuits. He made extensive geological investigations of Maui and Hawai'i Island, and he and painted many island landscapes, including views of Hilo and Kailua-, Kona. Sawkins executed Tthis painting of the village of Hilowork, in his executed in Sawkins' Honolulu studio, after watercolors he painteddone on the island of Hawai'i the previous year, shows the village of Hiloas was typical of the practice of landscape painting in the mid-19th century. The small community is set at the edge of the large crescent bay, as and backed by tthe

bold masses of Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea rise up in the background.

JAMES GAY SAWKINS

England, 1806–1878

Hilo from the Bay, 1852

Oil on canvas

Purchase, 1992 (7065.1)

British-born artist James Gay Sawkins emigrated to the United States when he was fourteen. As a young man, he traveled throughout the U.S. and visited Mexico before moving to Cuba. After being deported from Cuba, he traveled to Hawai'i via South America and California.

Although he advertised himself as a portrait painter in Hawai'i, Sawkins painted many landscapes including views of Hilo and Kailua-Kona.