TODAY THE FLEET SAILS WAY FOR SOUTHERN CROSS AND THE COLONIES

Today Wednesday's adventure.

This afternoon the three great liners will begin their swift retreat from Hilo to the open sea, where they will have a final farewell to the Hawaiian Islands before continuing their voyage to the South Pacific. For weeks past the people of Hilo have been eagerly awaiting this event, and now that the day has come, the town is bursting with excitement and anticipation.

The liners, the Mokapu, the Hilo, and the Kauai, will leave Hilo Harbor at noon, and sail southward towards the Molokai Channel. From there they will proceed westward to the Great Barrier Reef, where they will rendezvous with the rest of the fleet. The journey will take several days, during which time the liners will stop at various points along the way to refuel and take on supplies.

The fleet will then proceed to the South Pacific, where it will spend several weeks exploring the islands and coral reefs. The sailors will have the opportunity to visit many of the beautiful seascapes and waterfalls that are so characteristic of the region.

The fleet is expected to return to Hilo in about six weeks, and the people of the islands are eagerly looking forward to their arrival. The liners will be met with great fanfare as they come into port, and the townsfolk will be sure to greet them with open arms.

Hawaiian Gazette, Friday, July 31, 1896.