

*Filed under Hawaiian Legation
June 17, 1897*

Secretary of State
JUN 18 1897



To Hon John Sherman ,

Secretary of State

United States of America, - |

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Patriotic League ,on behalf of the Hui Kalaiaina, organizations of the native and part native people of the Hawaiian Islands for the restoration of Constitutional Government ,and the perpetuation of the Independence under their own rulers of the Islands ,and by Commissions duly executed by such organizations conferring upon me authority , as well as in my own right as a representative of the people of Hawaii I herewith hand to you the duly executed protest of Her Majesty, Liliuokalani ,by the grace of God ,the reigning sovereign of those Islands on the seventeenth day of January, A. D. 1893 ,at which date she yielded her property and authority as our Queen to the forces ,diplomatic and naval of the United States of America.

In the name of said associations of the people ,and in the name of The majority of the voters registered at the date of such submission of our cause to the government of the United States ,I do hereby support and confirm each and every representation of the said protest of our said Queen Liliuokalani ,do add thereto the protest of the people I represent against the consideration ,ratification or enforcement of a certain treaty as therein stated which purports to cede the territory of the Hawaiian Islands to the United States of America ,and for the reasons stated to you in such protest made on our behalf by our aforesaid Queen Liliuokalani,

Done at Washington ,this 17th. day of June, 1897.

Joseph H. Hale

I, *LILIOUHALANI of HAWAII*, by the Will of God, named heir-apparent on the tenth day of April, A. D. 1877, and by the Grace of God, Queen of the Hawaiian Islands on the 17th. day of January, A. D. 1898, do hereby protest against the ratification of a certain treaty which so I am informed has been signed at Washington by Messrs. Hatch, Thurston and Kinney, purporting to cede these Islands to the territory and dominion of the United States. I declare such treaty to be an act of wrong towards the native and part-native people of Hawaii, an invasion of the rights of the ruling chiefs, in violation of international rights both towards my people and towards friendly nations with whom they have made treaties, the perpetuation of the fraud whereby the constitutional government was overthrown and finally an act of gross injustice to me :-

BECAUSE,- The official protest made by me on the 17th day of January, 1898, to the so-called Provisional Government was signed by me and received by said government with the assurance that the case was referred to the United States for arbitration.

BECAUSE,- That protest and my communications to the United States government immediately thereafter expressly declares that I yielded my authority to the forces of the United States, in order to avoid bloodshed, and because I recognized the futility of a conflict with so formidable a power.

BECAUSE,- The President of the United States, the Secretary of State, an envoy commissioned by them reported in official documents that my government was unlawfully coerced by the forces, diplomatic and naval, of the United States, that I was at the date of their investigations the constitutional ruler of my people.

BECAUSE,- Such decision of the recognized magistrates of the United States was officially communicated to me and to Sanford E. Dole, and said Dole's resignation requested by Albert S. Willis, the recognized agent and minister of the government of the United States.

BECAUSE,- Neither the above-named commission nor the government which send it has ever received any such authority from the registered voters of Hawaii but derives its assumed powers from the so-called Committee of Public Safety organized on or about said 17th. day of January, 1898, said committee being composed largely of persons claiming American citizenship, and not one single Hawaiian was a member thereof or in any way participated in the demonstration leading to its existence.

BECAUSE,- My people, about forty-thousand in number, have in no way been consulted by those, three-thousand in number, who claim the right to de-

stroy the independence of Hawaii My people constitute four-fifths of the legally qualified voters of Hawaii, and excluding those imported for the demands of labor, about the same proportion of the inhabitants.

BECAUSE, - Said treaty ignores not only the civic rights of my people, but further the hereditary property of their chiefs. Of the four million acres composing the territory said treaty offers to annex, one million or 915 000 acres has in no way been heretofore recognized as other than the private property of the constitutional monarch, subject to a control in no way differing from other items of a private estate.

BECAUSE, - It is proposed by said treaty to confiscate said property, technically called the Crown Lands, those legally entitled thereto, either now or in succession receiving no consideration whatever for estates their title to which has always been undisputed and which is legitimately in my name at this date.

BECAUSE, - Said treaty ignores not only all professions of perpetual amity and good faith made by the United States in former treaties with the sovereigns representing the Hawaiian people, but all treaties made by those sovereigns with other and friendly powers, and it is thereby in violation of international law.

BECAUSE, - By treating with the parties claiming at this time the right to cede said territory of Hawaii, the government of the United States receives such territory from the hands of those who by its own magistrates legally elected by the people of the United States and in office in 1898 pronounced fraudulently in power and unconstitutionally ruling Hawaii.

THEREFORE, I, LILIUOKALANI of HAWAII do hereby call upon the President of that nation to whom alone I yielded my property and my authority to withdraw said treaty (ceding said Islands) from further consideration. I ask the honorable Senate of the United States to decline to ratify said treaty and I implore the people of this great and good nation from whom my ancestors learned the Christian religion, to sustain their representatives in such acts of justice and equity as may be in accord with the principles of their fathers, and to the Almighty Ruler of the Universe, to Him who judgeth righteously I commit my cause.

DONE at Washington, District of Columbia, United States of America this Seventeenth Day of June in the year Eighteen Hundred and Ninety-seven.

Joseph Halehaha }
Wakiki Halehaha }
Julius A. Palmer }
Liliuokalani }
Witnesses }
to signature }