

Hawaiian-Japanese Executive Agreement through Exchange of Notes
(January 18, 1893 & April 10, 1894)

Hawaiian Minister to Japan to the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs

Hawaiian Legation, Tokio, January 18, 1893

Sir,

Her Hawaiian Majesty's Government reposing entire confidence in the laws of Japan and the administration of justice in the Empire, and desiring to testify anew their sentiments of cordial goodwill and friendship towards the Government of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, have resolved to abandon the jurisdiction hitherto exercised by them in Japan.

It therefore becomes my agreeable duty to announce to your Excellency, in pursuance of instructions from Her Majesty's Government, and I now have the honour formally to announce, that the Hawaiian Government do fully, completely, and finally abandon and relinquish the jurisdiction acquired by them in respect of Hawaiian subjects and property in Japan, under the Treaty of the 19th August, 1871.

There are at present from fifteen to twenty Hawaiian subjects residing in this Empire, and in addition about twenty-five subjects of Her Majesty visit Japan annually. Any information in my possession regarding these persons, or any of them, is at all times at your Excellency's disposal.

While this action is taken spontaneously and without condition, as a measure demanded by the situation, I permit myself to express the confident hope entertained by Her Majesty's Government that this step will remove the chief if not the only obstacle standing in the way of the free circulation of Her Majesty's subjects throughout the Empire, for the purposes of business and pleasure in the same manner as is permitted to foreigners in other countries where Consular jurisdiction does not prevail. But in the accomplishment of this logical result of the extinction of Consular jurisdiction, whether by the conclusion of a new Treaty or otherwise, Her Majesty's Government are most happy to consult the convenience and pleasure of His Imperial Majesty's Government."

I avail, &c.,

Mutsu Munemitsu

R.W. IRWIN

Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Hawaiian Minister to Japan

Department of Foreign Affairs, Tokio, April 10, 1894

Sir,

The note which your Excellency did me the honour of addressing to me on the 18th of January of last year, in which you announced on behalf of the Hawaiian Government the abandonment of Hawaiian Consular jurisdiction in Japan, was duly received.

The sentiments of goodwill and friendship which inspired the act of abandonment are highly appreciated by the Imperial Government, but circumstances which it is now unnecessary to recapitulate have prevented an earlier acknowledgment of your Excellency's note.

Taking note of your Excellency's remark at our recent interview that the present Government of Hawaii regard the act of abandonment of jurisdiction as final, I now beg to announce that in consideration of such abandonment, and having in view as well the fact that the Treaty at present subsisting between our respective Governments guarantees to Japanese subjects in Hawaii the most-favoured-nation treatment, the Imperial Government will in the near future be prepared, in connection with the assumption of jurisdiction, to declare the entire Empire open to the trade, travel, and residence of Hawaiians.

I avail, &c.,

R. W. Irwin, Esq.

MUTSU MUNEMISTU