

a large bundle of land claims from you.

I have the honor to remain

Your obed<sup>t</sup> Servant -

Wm<sup>g</sup> William L. Lee.

P.S. I passed your claim into the Board. There are about four thousand claims before it, but we will take it up out of its regular order, and hear it, whenever you may find it convenient to visit Honolulu.

Rev. R. A. Walsh  
Kohala  
Kauai.

Honolulu. Jan'y 12<sup>th</sup> 1845.

My dear Sir

Many thanks to you for your letter in answer to mine of the 13<sup>th</sup> ult. and the bundle of land claims accompanying it. I trust you have imbibed the true spirit in reference to the present landed system of Hawaii, and feel as I do, that these mixed and uncertain rights of Chiefs, Konohikis and Tenants are a curse to the land and the people. It weighs upon the poor mass of the natives like a mountain of lead crushing them to the very earth, nay, into the very earth. The common Kaimaka not knowing what, or how much to call his own has no incentive to raise anything beyond the immediate wants of himself and family. Oppressed by the Konohikis, the great mass toil on, as I learn, from year to year with

correct one viz; that most of the people hold their land as tenants under their respective Konohikis. Will they have tangible rights in ~~these~~ lands, and it is our object if possible to separate their rights from those of the Konohikis, and give them what they have as their own. My doctrine is; that so long as these mixed rights in land continue to exist, so long will a blight rest upon agriculture, and the people be oppressed by their Konohikis. In my humble opinion no greater evil exists at the present day in the Hawaiian Islands, than the ill defined and uncertain rights of the people to the land they till, and the fruits they produce. My heart, and I trust yours also, is enlisted in a reform of this evil, and though the work may be heavy and slow, let us not weary in well doing. I am convinced that the prosperity of this nation, and their mental, moral and physical improvement, require that Agriculture should be greatly protected.

Should the tenants neglect to send in their claims, they will not lose their rights if their Konohikis present claims; for no title will be granted to the Konohikis without a clause reserving the rights of tenants. - But to preserve the rights of ~~these~~ tenants in their lands is <sup>not</sup> all we seek - We seek not only to preserve their rights, but to measure them, and give them such form and shape that they may always know what they possess. Until this people can know the land they till is their own, and feel that they are sure to have what they raise as their own, they will never thrive, or till the soil to advantage.

Hoping to hear from you often, and to receive

bounds I am happy to acknowledge the receipt of a bundle of 200 claims from your district, which you sent me by the hands of Mr. Barker. If there are others having claims in your district tell them to send them in, without the fear of any man. The Law is with them, and the Law will protect them.

In answer to your question as to the cost of adjudicating their claims and giving them a title to their lands. I would say that I have consulted Mr. Smith, and he thinks it will cost at the least \$100. But I shall make an effort to reduce this; for I think Government is bound to furnish poor Natives with titles for little or nothing - They owe it to the people - to the prosperity of the Kingdom.

Remember me to Mrs Emerson, and believe me,

Sir,

Your most obedient  
serv<sup>t</sup>. William L. Lee.

Rev. J. P. Emerson  
Waiakua  
Oahu

Honolulu. Jan<sup>y</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1818.

My dear Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26 ult: in answer to mine of the 9<sup>th</sup> ult:

I feel greatly obliged to you, my dear Sir, for your prompt answer to my enquiries, and for the willingness you express to co-operat with me in every thing that will benefit the natives. - The reason you give for our receiving so few claims from Kanai I have no doubt is the