

# THE FRIEND

AUGUST 1845

*Translated from the Elele, for the Friend*

## A PETITION TO YOUR GRACIOUS MAJESTY, KAMEHAMEHA III, AND THE PREMIER KEKAULUOHI, AND ALL THE HAWAIIAN CHIEFS IN COUNCIL ASSEMBLED

To His Majesty Kamehameha III, and the Premier Kekauluohi, and all the Hawaiian Chiefs in council assembled; on account of our anxiety, we petition you, the father of the Hawaiian kingdom, and the following is our petition.

1. *Concerning the independence of your kingdom.*
2. *That you dismiss the foreign officers whom you have appointed to be Hawaiian officers.*
3. *We do not wish foreigners to take the oath of allegiance and become Hawaiian subjects.*
4. *We do not wish you to sell any more land pertaining to your Kingdom to foreigners.*
5. *We do not wish taxes in a confused, obscure manner to be imposed in your Kingdom.*
6. *This is the cause of our wishing to dismiss these foreign officers. On account of difficulties and apprehensions of burdens that will come upon us. There are your chiefs, who may be officers under you, like as their fathers were under your father, Kamehameha I, and good and intelligent men, in whom you have confidence; let these be officers.*

Therefore, we make known unto your most gracious Majesty, the Premier Kekauluohi, and to all the chiefs of the

Hawaiian Kingdom, some of our thoughts relative to the above named articles.

### *1. Concerning the independence of the Hawaiian Kingdom.*

We assure your majesty, and the Premier Kekauluohi, and the Chiefs and all your common people that we understand your kingdom to be independent. You and your chiefs perceived the perilous situation of the Hawaiian kingdom in reference to foreigners. Therefore you sent one of your own men and a foreigner, viz: T. Haalilio and Mr. Richards, respectfully to beseech large independent nations that your nation might be independent. These large nations, viz: the United States, Great Britain France and Belgium, have declared your kingdom to be independent. By this distinct expression, that these large nations have declared the independence of the Hawaiian kingdom, therefore it is very clear to us that it is not proper that any foreigner should come in and be promoted in your kingdom, among your chiefs, and your people. But that is to be according to the petition of the ministers, whom you sent to these large nations, praying that the Hawaiian kingdom might be independent by itself.

This is independence; that your gracious majesty, Kamehameha III is King, and the Chiefs of your kingdom are your assistants, and also your own people.

Thus may you and your Chiefs act, that your kingdom and all your people may be blessed.

On account of these our thoughts, we petition and beseech you and your Chiefs

We the common people of your kingdom do hereby subscribe our names.

[It is said that over 1,600 names were subscribed to this petition]

**REPLY OF THE COUNCIL ASSEMBLED TO THE  
PETITION                      JULY 3<sup>RD</sup>, 1845**

To His Majesty and to the Nobles of the Council assembled, and to the delegates of the common people.

This is our reply to the petition of the common people of Lahaina, and Wailuku and Kailua, and it is submitted for your approbation or disapprobation.

*1. "Concerning the independence of the kingdom"*

This is the meaning of independence; that Kamehameha III be King of the Hawaiian Islands, and there be no other King over him. This is the reason of the independence: Great Britain and France, America and Belgium say "the Hawaiian government are qualified to transact business with foreigners."

How can they transact business with foreigners? In this way only; let His Majesty select persons skillful like those from other lands to transact business from them.

*2. "That you dismiss the foreign officers whom you have chosen to be Hawaiian officers."*

If these shall be dismissed, where is there a man who is qualified to transact business with foreigners? There is no one to be found at the present time; hereafter perhaps the young chiefs will be qualified, when they have grown up to manhood, and shall have completed their education.

*3. "We do not wish foreigners to take the oath of allegiance and become Hawaiian subjects."*

Shall foreigners who become officers take the oath? If not, then they have a chief in another land, and Kamehameha

III is not their proper sovereign, and they will not act righteously between the King and their own countrymen. But if they take the oath of allegiance to Kamehameha III, will they not be faithful to him? And will they not cease to have regard for the chief they have forsaken?

Shall the foreigners take the oath of allegiance? This is a land that lies where ships in the Pacific Ocean often come. Shall not foreigners come on shore? Can they not be permitted to live on shore? According to the treaties they can. Who shall be their proper sovereign? Will not difficulties arise between some of them and the Hawaiians? Difficulties will arise, for formerly there were many difficulties, and the land was taken; it was not taken because the government was really in the wrong, but because evil was sought. Here is the difficulty, which ruins the government, viz: the complaint of foreign governments followed by the infliction of punishment. Foreigners who take the oath of allegiance can apply to only one sovereign, viz: Kamehameha III; he will adjust their difficulties in a proper manner, and they will render important services to Hawai'i, their land.

Some say, let none but good foreigners take the oath of allegiance. How then shall it be for those who are not good? Shall they not live on shore? How can they be driven off? Shall they be put aboard another man's ship? If so, the owner will forsake the ship, and the government must pay the damages. Messrs. Bachelot and Snort were thus treated and the result was a fine of \$20,000.

Let no one have apprehensions concerning those who take the oath of allegiance. If they conduct properly, then the land is blessed by them. If they transgress, here are laws that to punish them, and there is no other nation, which will interfere in behalf of wicked foreigners, when we punish them. Here is wherein other nations will favour us; they will not take

the part of their people, who transgress our laws, neither will they punish us without a cause, as they did formerly.

4. *“We do not wish you to sell any more land pertaining to your kingdom to foreigners.”*

This is our opinion; is by no means proper to sell land to aliens, nor is it proper to give them land, for the land belongs to Kamehameha III; there is no chief over him. But we think it is proper to sell land to his Majesty's people, that they may have a home. But if these persons wish to sell their lands again, they cannot sell to aliens, for there is only one sovereign over those who hold lands; but if the people wish to sell to those who have taken the oath of allegiance, they can do so, for Kamehameha III is King over them. If his Majesty thinks it expedient to sell lands to his own people, is it proper for him to refuse another, who has forsaken the land of his birth, and his first chief and become a Hawaiian subject? By no means, for this would be using partiality. There has not been much land sold, but foreigners have heretofore occupied lands through favor, without purchasing. It is better to sell. The people have not thought much about purchasing lands; but those who have been to the Columbia River, see the advantage of purchasing land, and they will hereafter wish to purchase lands.

If the common people had petitioned that land should not be sold to sailors, would not the petition be unjust? It is proper to sell small farms to natives and also to foreign subjects, and let them cultivate alike, that the skillful may instruct the ignorant in the work.

5. *“We do not wish taxes in a confused obscure manner to be imposed in your kingdom.”*

That is right, they are not thus imposed. They were so indeed, formerly, to the injury of the common people; but now

this matter is regulate by law, and so it will be hereafter should new laws be enacted.

This is our reply to the petition laid before you with due reverence.

John Young  
John Ii

This reply was corrected and approved by the assembly of chiefs and delegates of the common people in the hall of legislation, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July, 1845, with no dissenting voice.

KAMEHAMEHA

## CONCERNING FOREIGNERS TAKING THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE, THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE OF OPINION

Is it proper for foreigners to take the oath of allegiance? There is perhaps a difference of opinion among foreigners on the subject; but among us, the common people, there is no difference of opinion. If it is proper for foreigners to become Chiefs, and the greater part of the wealth of the nation is to become theirs; it is proper for foreigners to take the oath of allegiance under them (i.e. under foreigners) and let the nation become a nation of foreigners. But, if the nation is ours, what good can result from filling the land with foreigners? Let us consider, lest the land pass entirely into the hands of foreigners.

The following are our thoughts:

*1. Good foreigners will become no better by taking the oath of allegiance under our Chiefs.*

Good people are not opposed to us; they do not evade the laws of the Chiefs; they do not wish this kingdom to be sold to others. What good can result from their taking the oath? We do not see any good reason why they should take the oath of allegiance.

*2. Taking the oath of allegiance to this government will be the cause of greatly increasing wicked men in this land.*

Foreigners will come in who are covetous, lovers of pleasure and skillful in deeds of wickedness, they will at once take the oath for their own personal benefit. If any one wishes a good piece of land, or a wife, then he will at once take the oath, that he may immediately obtain his wishes. On account of this taking the oath, many foreigners stop on shore, and many also marry Hawaiian women.

*3. Foreigners taking the oath of allegiance will be the cause of wicked men waxing worse and worse*

Formerly, foreigners could not marry till they had lived on shore two years. Now, they take the oath and marry immediately the women whom they entice. Some foreigners, who have wives in America or England, marry immediately here, not having heard that they have wives in another land. Instances of this kind have occurred here at Lahaina. It is our opinion that wicked men taking the oath of allegiance with no delay, will be immediately detrimental to this kingdom.

*4. It is not to benefit this people, but for their own personal interests that foreigners suddenly take the oath of allegiance to this government.*

Who are they who take the oath suddenly? These are the persons. Those who want a building spot, or a large piece of land for themselves; those who wish to become Chiefs, or head men upon the lands, and those who wish to marry wives immediately. These are the persons who are quick to take the oath of allegiance under this government. Do they desire this people to become enlightened? It is not clear to us that they do. If any one of us becomes assistants of the Chiefs, his pay for the most part is in goods; the most of the dollars are for the foreign chiefs. The following is what school teachers get for their services, property which cannot be sold for cash, that which it is very difficult to dispose of; but property which can be converted into cash is forbidden to us. From whence this regulation? From the foreign chiefs, not from Kauikeaouli (Kamehameha III), for he desires us to be properly remunerated.

*5. What is to be the result of so many foreigners taking the oath of allegiance?*

This is it, in our opinion; this kingdom will pass into their hands, and that too very soon.

Foreigners came on shore with cash, ready to purchase land; but we have not the means to purchase lands; the native is disabled like one who has been long afflicted with a disease upon his back. We have lived under the Chiefs, thinking to do whatever they desired but not according to what we thought; hence we are not prepared to compete with foreigners. If you, the Chiefs, decide immediately to sell land to foreigners, we shall immediately be overcome. If a large number of foreigners dwell in this kingdom, some [other] kingdom will increase in strength upon these islands; but our happiness will not increase; we, to whom the land has belonged from the beginning, shall all dwindle away. If we had not been loitering around after the Chiefs, thinking to accustom ourselves with that mode of life, then perhaps we should be prepared to compete with foreigners. But now, where are our oxen and carts, ploughs and shovels, and other tools for cultivation? In the years, which have past, we desired to pasture cattle, that we might have some property, but most of us were forbidden to pasture cattle; therefore, we have no cattle, nor anything with which to purchase cattle. And now the chiefs are admitting foreigners into the country to possess the good lands of Hawai'i, and to deprive us of the same, with the exception perhaps of our small, cultivated patches.

Foreigners will say to us perhaps, purchase according to your ability to purchase and husband well.

Very well; but why are we poor at this time? Because we have been subject to the ancient laws, till within these few years. Is it proper at this crisis that we should be turned in [into] wealthy foreigners to purchase ourselves lands? This is equivalent to the land with the life of the kingdom passing into the possession of foreigners.

If this kingdom had passed into the possession of the British, then we should have mourned with regret and love for the chiefs, who had been made destitute. But if the kingdom is now given to foreigners on account of their intrigue, who will pity us? The former would have been our guiltless misfortune; the latter is our mistaken policy.

Our King and Sovereign Kamehameha, have compassion upon us, and deliver your people from this approaching perilous condition, if many foreigners shall be introduced into this kingdom. If the introduction of foreigners into this kingdom could be deferred for ten years perhaps, and we could have places given to us suitable for cultivations and pasturing cattle, by that time some of our embarrassments might be removed, and it might be proper to introduce foreigners into the kingdom.

But if many foreigners are introduced into the kingdom at this time, this will be our end; we shall become the servants of foreigners.

Love to you our Sovereign; our concluding remarks are recorded in Ester 13, 14. "Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the King's house more than all the Jews. For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall these enlargements and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place, but thou and thy fathers house shall be destroyed; and who knoweth whether art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

From us whose names are here subscribed; Mt Kenui, Tiona, Nawa'ako, Kiliipina, Paele, Hare, Kaiali'i'i'i, Nehmia, Kiha, Bai, Kaia, Ki, Kuaha, Es. Kana, Nahimalau, Kuameo, Kaheonionio, Laukua.

Lahaina, Maui, June 12, 1845.