

The Anti-Annexation Petitions & the Second Attempt at Annexation

On June 16, 1897, representatives of the self-proclaimed Republic of Hawai'i and newly elected President William McKinley signed a second proposed treaty of annexation in Washington, D.C. The treaty remained subject to ratification by the U.S. Senate.

On June 17, 1897, Queen Lili'uokalani personally filed in the U.S State Department, Washington, D.C., a formal protest against the proposed treaty of annexation that attempted to transfer the territory and sovereignty of the Kingdom of Hawai'i to the United States. She called the second annexation attempt a "...violation of international law..." She stated that by engaging "...with the parties claiming at this time the right to cede said territory of Hawai'i, the Government of the United States receives such territory from the hands of those whom its own magistrates (legally elected by the people of the United States, and in office in 1893) pronounced fraudulently in power and unconstitutionally ruling Hawai'i." She then called upon President McKinley "...to withdraw said treaty (ceding said Islands) from further consideration," and asked the "...Senate of the United States to decline to ratify said treaty..."

The Hawaiian Patriotic League (Hui Aloha 'Āina) and the Hawaiian Political Party (Hui Kālai'āina) gathered more than 38,000 signatures, combined, on petitions protesting the annexation treaty. These petitions fortified the Queen's protest. The two organizations selected four delegates who went to Washington, D.C., and filed the petitions with the U.S. State Department, and with the U.S. Senate before it convened in December of 1897.

As a result of the Queen's protest, the petitions and other legal questions surrounding the self-proclaimed Republic of Hawai'i, the annexationists failed to obtain the required two-thirds vote in the Senate to ratify the purported treaty of annexation, as mandated by the U.S. Constitution.

Reproduced below is one page from the 556-page petition against annexation gathered by Hui Aloha 'Āina, woman's branch. The men's and women's branches of Hui Aloha 'Āina gathered more than 21,000 signatures, representing more than half the 39,000 native Hawaiians and mixed-blood persons at the time.

PALAPALA HOOPU KUE HOOHUAIANA.		PETITION AGAINST ANNEXATION.	
<p>I ka Mea Mahaloa WILLIAM McKINLEY, Peresidena, a me ia Aia Senata, o Amerika Hui-puni.</p> <p>ME KA MAHALA:</p> <p>NO KA MEA, ua waihoia ake imua o ka Aha Senata o Amerika Hui-puni ke Kaula i ke Ikaika aia ia Hawai'i i ka Amerika Hui-puni i oleloa, no ka nohoia ma kona lāe mau āko o Dekemaba, M. H. 1897: nolāia.</p> <p>O KAUOI, na pae no lakou na lāe mau iho, na waiho Hawai'i oia, he pae mākaunani a pae toka hoi no ka Aha o ka Hui Kālai'āina, Mōkūpuni o...</p> <p>he pae lāa no ka ANAHIKI ALOHA AINA HAWAII O NA WAHENE O KO HAWAII PAU-ANA, a me na wahine a me ihe ka hui hui mākaunani me ko ka ANAHIKI I oleloa, he tūa ahi nei me ka mākaunani hōkai loa i ka hōkai ake o ka Hawai'i Paonina i oleloa ia Amerika Hui-puni i oleloa ma kekahi aia i lōna paha.</p> <p>IN KA MEA:</p> <p>Mrs. Lotis White Kaliakua, Hawaii</p>		<p>To His Excellency WILLIAM McKINLEY, President, and the Senate, of the United States of America.</p> <p>GREETING:—</p> <p>WHEREAS, there has been submitted to the Senate of the United States of America a Treaty for the Annexation of the Hawaiian Islands to the said United States of America, for consideration at its regular session in December, A. D. 1897; therefore,</p> <p>We, the undersigned, native Hawaiian women, citizens and residents of the District of Kauai, Hawaii, Island of...</p> <p>who are members of the WOMEN'S HAWAIIAN PATRIOTIC LEAGUE OF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS, and other women who are in sympathy with the said League, earnestly protest against the annexation of the said Hawaiian Islands to the said United States of America in any form or shape.</p> <p>Mrs. Kuahealani Campbell Pāhala, Hawaii</p>	
INOA—NAME.	AGE.	INOA—NAME.	AGE.
Mrs. Sarah K. Reed	53	Kakua	30
Mrs. Keliopi Lanole	64	mailekimi	15
A. Lihulihulua Keliokala	50	mile amoi	28
Mrs. C. Hileron	39	Malaea	42
Mrs. S. Kawakalili	30	Kalawaiia	37
Mrs. Louisa Puaiki	15	Keala	14
Mrs. Mary Puaiki	10	Kiki Lan	29
Ku. Kani	49	kaukai	20
Mrs. Mary Machado	19	Kekela	37
Mrs. Barbara Robinson	30	Mrs. Keliokala Keliokala	35
Mrs. Abigail Hopelie		Lily Malama	27
Mrs. Mary Frank	35	Mary Kama	25
Mrs. Kaulani Reeves	20	Anela Kalua	43
Anna Kapihanga	57	Malia Kina	26
Kini. Keliokala	62	Kaanoali	26
Mrs. C. G. Howe	52	Mary Malama	28
Kauaihomamame	16	Kilia	28
Kuamo Kamaopili	24	Ana Akana	20
Mamaia Ellis	21	Lila Akana	14
Kelamiki	19	Keliokala Keliokala	29
Mrs. K. Kamao	47	Mrs. Auli	26
Trifafa		Kana Kana	54
Mrs. K. Kamao	47	Mrs. Kana Kana	10
Kalamea Kamao	17		