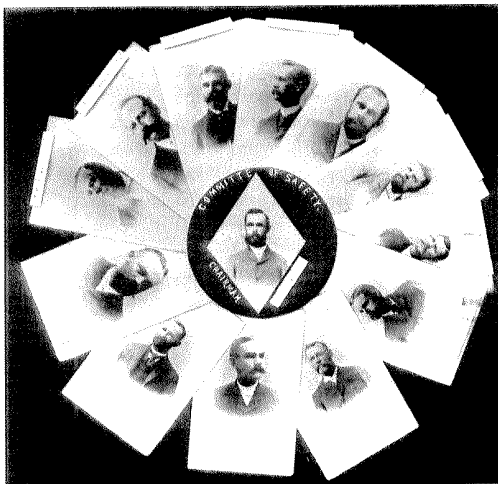


The Committee of Safety

In response to Queen Lili'uokalani's attempt to amend the Bayonet Constitution of 1887 the self-declared Committee of Safety, a 13-member organization comprised of five American citizens, one British subject, one German national and six Hawaiian subjects not of the aboriginal blood, planned to overthrow the Kingdom and seek annexation by the United States. In doing so they committed the crime of high treason as defined under § 1, Chapter VI of the Penal Code of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

The Committee of Safety was organized by the Hawaiian League, also known as the Annexation Club, a group of over 400 American businessmen, merchants, and planters residing in Hawai'i. The group's leaders were Sanford B Dole, the son of a missionary who spearheaded enactment of the Bayonet Constitution and who would become the president of the self-declared Republic of Hawai'i, and Lorrin A. Thurston, the grandson of a missionary and publisher of the Honolulu Advertiser, a newspaper that is still published today.



The Committee of Public Safety. Chairman Henry E. Cooper is pictured in the center. Hawai'i State Archives