

The Proposed Constitution of 1893

In 1891, Queen Lili'uokalani ascended the throne following her brother King Kalakaua's death in San Francisco.

Thousands petitioned the Queen to amend the Bayonet Constitution. The Queen drafted a new constitution seeking to restore the monarchy's power, reduce voting requirements and restrict voting to the citizens of the Kingdom of Hawai'i. The Proposed Constitution of 1893 is displayed below.

Now the sugar planters and business interests faced two dilemmas. First, under the proposed constitution they faced possible loss of control of the Kingdom's government, as well as loss of voting rights for non-citizen, foreign residents. Second, they faced the crippling effect of the 1891 McKinley Act, which removed foreign tariffs in the American sugar trade and thereby eliminated the favored status of Hawaiian sugar under the Reciprocity Treaty.

For the planters and business interests, if the Kingdom's government was overthrown and the monarchy abolished, then they could seek annexation by United States. Once annexed, Hawai'i sugar planters would enjoy the same status and benefits as domestic American sugar planters.

A link to the proposed constitution is provided below.

http://www.alohaquest.com/archive/constitution_1893.htm