

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

SANFORD B. DOLE, President.

January 17, 1893—July 4, 1894.

PROCLAMATION

INCIDENT TO THE CHANGE FROM THE MONARCHY
TO THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.

PROCLAMATION OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY, JANUARY 17, 1893.

In its earlier history Hawaii possessed a Constitutional Government honestly and economically administered in the public interest.

The Crown called to its assistance as advisers able, honest and conservative men whose integrity was unquestioned even by their political opponents.

The stability of the Government was assured; armed resistance and revolution unthought of, popular rights were respected, and the privileges of the subject from time to time increased and the prerogatives of the Sovereign diminished by the voluntary acts of the successive Kings.

With very few exceptions this state of affairs continued until the expiration of the first few years of the reign of His late Majesty Kalakaua. At this time a change was discernible in the spirit animating the chief executive and in the influences surrounding the Throne. A steadily increasing disposition was manifested on the part of the King, to extend the Royal prerogatives; to favor adventurers and persons of no character or standing in the community; to encroach upon the rights and privileges of the people by steadily increasing corruption of electors, and by means of the power an influence of office holders and other corrupt means to illegitimately influence the elections, resulting in the final absolute control of not only the executive and legislative; but to a certain extent the judicial departments of the government, in the interest of absolutism.

This finally resulted in the revulsion of feeling and popular uprising of 1887, which wrested from the King a large portion of his ill-gotten powers.

The leaders of this movement were not seeking personal aggrandizement, political power or the suppression of the native government. If this had been their object it could easily have been accomplished, for they had the absolute control of the situation.

Their object was to secure responsible government through a representative Cabinet, supported by and responsible to the people's elected representatives. A clause to this effect was inserted in the Constitution and subsequently enacted by law by the Legislature, specifically covering the ground that, in all mat-

Republic of Hawaii

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ters concerning the State the Sovereign was to act by and with the advice of the Cabinet and only by and with such advice.

The King willingly agreed to such proposition, expressed regret for the past, and volunteered promises for the future.

Almost from the date of such agreement and promises, up to the time of his death, the history of the Government has been a continual struggle between the King on the one hand and the Cabinet and the Legislature on the other, the former constantly endeavoring by every available form of influence and evasion to ignore his promises and agreements and regain his lost powers.

This conflict upon several occasions came to a crisis, followed each time by submission on the part of His Majesty, by renewed expressions of regret and promises to abide by the constitutional and legal restrictions in the future. In each instance such promise was kept until a further opportunity presented itself, when the conflict was renewed in defiance and regardless of all previous pledges.

Upon the accession of Her Majesty Liliuokalani, for a brief period the hope prevailed that a new policy would be adopted. This hope was soon blasted by her immediately entering into conflict with the existing Cabinet, who held office with the approval of a large majority of the Legislature, resulting in the triumph of the Queen and the removal of the Cabinet. The appointment of a new Cabinet subservient to her wishes and their continuance in office until a recent date gave no opportunity for further indication of the policy which would be pursued by Her Majesty until the opening of the Legislature in May of 1892.

The recent history of that session has shown a stubborn determination on the part of Her Majesty to follow the tactics of her late brother, and in all possible ways to secure an extension of the royal prerogatives and an abridgment of popular rights.

During the latter part of the session, the Legislature was replete with corruption; bribery and other illegitimate influences were openly utilized to secure the desired end, resulting in the final complete overthrow of all opposition and the inauguration of a Cabinet arbitrarily selected by Her Majesty in complete defiance of constitutional principles and popular representation.

Notwithstanding such result, the defeated party peacefully submitted to the situation.

Not content with her victory, Her Majesty proceeded on the last day of the session to arbitrarily arrogate to herself the right to promulgate a new Constitution, which proposed among other things to disfranchise over one-fourth of the voters and the owners of nine-tenths of the private property of the Kingdom, to abolish the elected upper House of the Legislature and to substitute in place thereof an appointive one to be appointed by the Sovereign.

The detailed history of this attempt and the succeeding events

in connection therewith is given in the report of the Committee of Public Safety to the citizens of Honolulu, and the Resolution adopted at the Mass Meeting held on the 16th inst., the correctness of which report and the propriety of which resolution are hereby specifically affirmed.

The constitutional evolution indicated has slowly and steadily, though reluctantly, and regretfully, convinced an overwhelming majority of the conservative and responsible members of the community that independent, constitutional, representative and responsible government, able to protect itself from revolutionary uprisings and royal aggression is no longer possible in Hawaii under the existing system of Government.

Five uprisings or conspiracies against the Government have occurred within five years and seven months. It is firmly believed that the culminating revolutionary attempt of last Saturday will, unless radical measures are taken, wreck our already damaged credit abroad and precipitate to final ruin our already overstrained financial condition; and the guarantees of protection to life, liberty and property will steadily decrease and the political situation rapidly grow worse.

In this belief, and also in the firm belief that the action hereby taken is, and will be for the best personal, political and property interests of every citizen of the land:

We, citizens and residents of the Hawaiian Islands, organized and acting for the public safety and the common good, hereby proclaim as follows:

1. The Hawaiian Monarchical system of Government is hereby abrogated.
2. A Provisional Government for the control and management of public affairs and the protection of the public peace is hereby established, to exist until terms of union with the United States of America have been negotiated and agreed upon.
3. Such Provisional Government shall consist of an Executive Council of Four Members, who are hereby declared to be

S. B. DOLE,
J. A. KING,
P. C. JONES,
W. O. SMITH,

Who shall administer the Executive Departments of the Government, the first named acting as President and Chairman of such Council and administering the Department of Foreign Affairs, and the others severally administering the Department of Interior, Finance and Attorney-General, respectively, in the order in which they are above enumerated, according to existing Hawaiian Law as far as may be consistent with this Proclamation; and also of an Advisory Council, which shall consist of fourteen members, who are hereby declared to be

S. M. DAMON,
 A. BROWN,
 L. A. THURSTON,
 J. F. MORGAN,
 J. EMMELUTH,
 H. WATERHOUSE,
 J. A. McCANDLESS,
 E. D. TENNEY,
 F. W. McCHESNEY,
 F. WILHELM,
 W. R. CASTLE,
 W. G. ASHLEY,
 W. C. WILDER,
 C. BOLTE.

Such Advisory Council shall also have general legislative authority.

Such Executive and Advisory Councils shall, acting jointly, have power to remove any member of either Council and to fill such or any other vacancy.

4. All officers under the existing Government are hereby requested to continue to exercise their functions and perform the duties of their respective offices, with the exception of the following named persons:

QUEEN LILIUOKALANI,
 CHARLES B. WILSON, Marshal,
 SAMUEL PARKER, Minister of Foreign Affairs,
 W. H. CORNWELL, Minister of Finance,
 JOHN F. COLBURN, Minister of the Interior,
 ARTHUR P. PETERSON, Attorney-General,

who are hereby removed from office.

5. All Hawaiian Laws and Constitutional principles not inconsistent herewith shall continue in force until further order of the Executive and Advisory Councils.

(Signed) HENRY E. COOPER, Chairman,
 ANDREW BROWN,
 THEODORE F. LANSING,
 JOHN EMMELUTH,
 C. BOLTE,
 ED. SUHR,
 HENRY WATERHOUSE,
 W. C. WILDER,
 F. W. McCHESNEY,
 WM. O. SMITH,
 LORRIN A. THURSTON,
 WM. R. CASTLE,
 J. A. McCANDLESS,
Committee of Safety.

HONOLULU, H. I., January 17th, 1893.

The Executive and Advisory Councils were named as the Legislative Power by a Proclamation of the Committee of Safety, issued January 17, 1893, and acted as such until May 22, 1895, on which date the last joint meeting was held. During this period the members of the respective councils were as follows:

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

SANFORD B. DOLE, January 17, 1893.
 JAMES A. KING, January 17, 1893.
 PETER C. JONES, January 17, 1893. Resigned March 15, 1893.
 WILLIAM O. SMITH, January 17, 1893.
 T. C. PORTER, March 15, 1893. Resigned May 29, 1893.
 SAMUEL M. DAMON, May 29, 1893.
 F. M. HATCH, February 15, 1894.

ADVISORY COUNCIL.

WILLIAM F. ALLEN, January 18, 1893-May 22, 1895.
 WM. GEORGE ASHLEY, January 17, 1893. Resigned January 23, 1893.
 C. BOLTE, January 17, 1893-May 22, 1895.
 ANDREW BROWN, January 17, 1893. Resigned February 27, 1893.
 CECIL BROWN, January 25, 1893. Resigned October 25, 1894.
 CHARLES L. CARTER, January 18, 1893. Resigned January 18, 1893.
 GEORGE P. CASTLE, January 16, 1893-May 22, 1895.
 WM. R. CASTLE, January 17, 1893. Resigned January 18, 1893.
 CHARLES M. COOKE, January 18, 1893. Resigned February 1, 1893.
 HENRY E. COOPER, January 18, 1893. Resigned March 7, 1893.
 SAMUEL C. DAMON, January 17, 1893. Resigned May 29, 1893.
 JOHN EMMELUTH, January 17, 1893-May 22, 1895.
 JOHN ENA, June 29, 1893-May 22, 1895.
 FRANCIS M. HATCH, March 7, 1893. Resigned February 15, 1894.
 FRANK A. HOSMER, January 16, 1893-May 22, 1895.
 JAMES A. KENNEDY, January 17, 1893-May 22, 1895.
 J. A. McCANDLESS, January 17, 1893. Resigned April 14, 1893.
 J. A. McCANDLESS, May 31, 1894. Resigned October 25, 1894.
 F. W. McCHESNEY, January 17, 1893. Resigned October 25, 1893.
 JOS. P. MENDONCA, June 5, 1893-May 22, 1895.
 JAMES F. MORGAN, January 17, 1893-May 22, 1895.
 JOHN NOTT, February 27, 1893-May 22, 1895.
 ED. SUHR, February 4, 1893. Resigned May 31, 1894.
 D. B. SMITH, March 8, 1894-May 22, 1895.
 EDW. D. TENNEY, January 17, 1893-May 22, 1895.
 L. A. THURSTON, January 17, 1893. Resigned January 18, 1893.
 HENRY WATERHOUSE, January 17, 1893. Resigned October 25, 1894.
 WM. C. WILDER, January 17, 1893. Resigned January 18, 1893.
 WM. C. WILDER, April 14, 1893. Resigned October 25, 1894.
 F. J. WILHELM, January 17, 1893. Resigned January 18, 1893.
 C. B. WOOD, January 16, 1893-May 22, 1895.
 ALEXANDER YOUNG, January 18, 1893-May 22, 1895.