THE
HAWAIIAN REPUBLIC
(1894-98)
AND
ITS STRUGGLE
TO WIN
ANNEXATION

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Exhibit Q-18  p. 10 of 8
papers to residents who did not wish to give up their original allegiance. Damon and Hartwell, however, believed that such large groups of inhabitants as the Chinese and Japanese ought to have some way of making their desires heard. Armstrong likewise thought they were "too important to be left to themselves [and] they will be heard in some way." Robertson disagreed: "Asiatics must be shut out; [the] convention will shut them out; [it] must be done." Thurston suggested referring the matter to a committee, which at once proceeded to wrestle with the question. Then the problem of the Portuguese came up. Thurston wanted them to be enfranchised because they had supported the Provisional Government, and Hartwell thought that a government which excluded them would be "beneath contempt." McStocker, however, said they were ignorant and dangerous. Alexander answered: "I believe in the Portuguese. Their Consul has stood by us," Thurston summed up his feelings about who should vote in the following way: "We made a failure in 1887—We tried to do with low grade voters. Boards will be too lenient in examination, instead of being too strict. We should fix the qualifications high."*  

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During this time, registration and elections were taking place. All loyal supporters of the Provisional Government were registered if they showed their loyalty by taking the following oath:

I, _________, aged, _______ years, a native of ________, residing at ________, in said District, do solemnly swear in the presence of Almighty God, that I will support and bear true allegiance to the Provisional Government of the Hawaiian Islands, and will oppose any attempt to reestablish monarchical government in any form in the Hawaiian Islands.**

The oath thus required caused no little difficulty because there were so many noncitizens in the islands. For instance, what was the meaning of the word "oppose" in the oath?*1 So widespread was the objection to the wording that the Executive Council had

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*Minutes of the Executive Council, May 15, 1894.
**Enclosed in Willis to Gresham, No. 47, April 5, 1894, Despatches; printed in *Sen. Ex. Doc. 83* (53 Cong. 2 Sess.).
*Geo. C. Potter to J. A. Palmer, March 19, 1894, President's Files.

Establishment of official notice of the 1 no member of the Advisory C the national groups that took guese. The *Advertiser* mainta not naturalize a foreigner, as sure. Upon inquiry from the Council said that the oath we would not deprive the Portu Government. Consequently, informed the Councils that 1 delegates to the convention, it they were not abjuring their

The decision that the oath was questionable, considering the true allegiance to the Provi many Americans were not satisfaction of Americans because the ship if they accepted the oat an American national who su acceptance of such an oath with citizenship, because the Unite allegiance.** Annexationists w because it cut down the numb.

The oath also aroused the *i* declaring that a Kanaka mt *Starve!*", called registration ' *letin* divested itself of some "This is constitutional gove themselves, then they electe eighteen."** In a meeting ot

*Minutes of the Executive Council April 26, 1894, M&E.
*April 12, 1894.
*Minutes of the Executive Council
*EAC, April 25, 1894.
*Sen. Ex. Doc. 83 (53 Cong. Hatch, April 28, 1894, M&E.
*Advertiser, May 12, 1894.
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to take official notice of the matter, particularly when Emmeluth, 
a member of the Advisory Council, refused to register. One of 
the national groups that took a different attitude was the Portu-
guese. The Advertiser maintained that subscribing to the oath did 
not naturalize a foreigner, and yet the Portuguese wanted to be 
sure. Upon inquiry from the Portuguese League, the Executive 
Council said that the oath was not an oath of naturalization, and 
would not deprive the Portuguese of the protection of their own 
Government. Consequently, the Portuguese at a mass meeting 
inform the Councils that they would take the oath to vote for 
dlegates to the convention, with the understanding that in so doing 
they were not abjuring their Portuguese citizenship.

The decision that the oath did not naturalize the taker was very 
questionable, considering the fact that it included the words “bear 
true allegiance to the Provisional Government.” For that reason 
many Americans were not satisfied. Willis reported a thin registra-
tion of Americans because they were afraid of losing their citizen-
ship if they accepted the oath. He asked Gresham the status of 
an American national who subscribed to it. Gresham replied that 
acceptance of such an oath would cause an American to lose his 
citizenship, because the United States did not believe in perpetual 
allegiance. Annexationists were of course critical of this ruling 
because it cut down the number of desirable voters.

The oath also aroused the Royalists. The native sheet, Holomua, 
declaring that a Kanaka must “Register as a P.G. Voter, or 
Starve!” called registration “The Mammoth Fraud.” The 
Bulletin divested itself of some “Registry reflections” as follows: “This is constitutional government! First, the thirteen elected 
themselves, then they elected the electors, and then elect the 
eighteen.” In a meeting on April 9, between two and three

--- Minutes of the Executive Council, April 2, 1894; Thurston to Hastings, 
April 26, 1894, M&E. 
--- April 12, 1894. 
--- Minutes of the Executive Council, April 16, 1894. 
--- EAC, April 25, 1894. 
--- Sen. Ex. Doc. 85 (53 Cong. 2 Sess.); and enclosures in Hastings to 
Hatch, April 28, 1894, M&E. 
--- Advertiser, May 12, 1894. 
--- April 3 and 23, 1894. 
--- April 9, 1894.