HIS 949

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Timeline Elements

9/20/12

The Petition Against the Annexation of Hawaii, 1897

In response to President McKinley’s initiative to annex the island of Hawaii, the Hui Aloha Aina organized a five hundred and fifty six page petition containing 21,269 local signatures. The Hui Aloha Aina, or the Hawaiian Patriot Leauge, in coalition with the Hui Aloha Aina o Na Wahine, or the Hawaiian Patriot League for women, were organizations of native Hawaiians against annexation. Presented by visiting delegates from Hawaii, William Auld, David Kalauokalani, James Kaulia, and John Richardson, along with Queen Lili’uokalani, the petition won over the Senate. They accomplished this through many meetings and speeches, ultimately leaving only 46 senators willing to vote for annexation in year 1898. However, with the start of the Spanish American War, the need for a tactical location in the Pacific Ocean became a more powerful argument in the House of Representatives. To the dismay of the local petitioners, Hawaii was annexed by President McKinley in 1898.1

1. “Teaching With Documents: The 1897 Petition Against the Annexation of Hawaii,” National Archives, Accessed September 11, 2012,

<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/hawaii-petition/#documents>.