The Petition Against the Annexation of Hawaii, 1987

When looking at the 1897 Petition Against the Annexation of Hawaii, it becomes glaringly obvious that annexation “in any form or shape” was against the people of Hawaii’s wishes. Written in both Hawaiian and English, the elegant yet strong language of the Hui Aloha Aina leagues showed that a united front against annexation existed. The delicate signatures that most likely belonged to well-educated and wealthy natives interestingly contrast against the more scratchy signatures that may have belonged to the poorer population of Hawaii, speaking to the class barriers that were being crossed in order to prevent annexation. The unified determination of the natives is palpable in this document.1 After annexation, the Hui Aloha Aina helped form the Home Rule Party and elected Robert Wilcox as their first delegate to Washington in 1900. 2

1. U.S. Senate, Records, ***The 1897 Petition Against the Annexation of Hawaii*,** 1897, Record Group 46, National Archives and Records Administration, <http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/hawaii-petition/images/hawaii-petition-01.jpg>.

2. Tom Coffman, *Island Edge of America: A Political History of Hawaii* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2003), 9.