

THE PREMIER VIRGINIA TECH MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

# Another Week in Paradise

FEBRUARY 2ND, 2024 - FEBRUARY 4TH, 2024  
CRISIS COMMITTEE | BLACKSBURG, VA





UNIVERSITY  
TECHNOLOGY  
INSTITUTE  
ONLINE

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## Dear Delegates of VTMUNC I,

We appreciate your participation and dedication to the premier Virginia Tech Model United Nations Conference's efforts to promote productive and civil discourse and conversation. Nevertheless, please be warned that some presentations, discussions, and or information found in the background guides may contain delicate or triggering material. At Virginia Tech, we prioritize fostering a safe and inclusive environment, so we want to ensure that you are prepared for the nature of the discussions to occur.

That being said, the following content areas may contain sensitive material:

1. **Conflict Zones & Human Rights Violations:** Some conversations may involve sensitive global problems including human rights violations, armed conflicts, and or other difficult themes.
2. **Sensitive Cultural or Religious Topics:** Some topics may raise sensitive cultural or religious issues for individuals.
3. **Violence and Trauma:** In their speeches or resolutions, delegates may reference incidents of violence, trauma, or abuse in real-world scenarios that may potentially be a sensitive topic to delegates in committee.
4. **Discussions about Discrimination and Marginalization:** Emotionally intense discussions concerning discrimination, marginalization, or inequity may arise during committee.

As you prepare for the conference, we encourage all of our delegates to approach these discussions with both respect and empathy for differing perspectives. If the content of these committees is something that you are uncomfortable with, we recommend that you take the appropriate steps to prioritize your well-being, such as seeking support from conference staff or Secretariat of VTMUNC I.

Bound by the motto Ut Prosim (That I May Serve), we serve to ensure that we will promote constructive and respectful dialogue during committee sessions. As you prepare and participate in the conference, we promise that VTMUNC I will stay committed to creating a space where all your voices are heard and are welcome.

Thank you for your compassion and cooperation to our goal of respectful and intellectual discourse for all. We hope that as you progress with our conference, you continue to bloom.

Sincerely,

**Aaryan Menon, Secretary General of VTMUNC I**

**Shriya Chemudupati, Under-Secretary General of General Assemblies of VTMUNC I**

**Madeline Pedersen, Under-Secretary General of Specialized Agencies of VTMUNC I**

**Juan Camilo Bonilla, Under-Secretary General of Crisis Committees of VTMUNC I**



## CONFERENCE GUIDELINES

The first iteration of the Virginia Tech Model United Nations Conference, otherwise known as VTMUNC I, is committed to providing a safe and pleasurable experience for all delegates, advisors, and individuals involved with VTMUNC I. Although participating in Model UN is being involved in competitive activity, its fundamental purpose is to uphold and put into practice both the principles of diplomacy, collaboration, and cooperation. Any individual that violates the policies and procedures of VTMUNC I and the ideals of an open and inclusive environment will be subject to disciplinary action from the staff of VTMUNC I; disciplinary action may include a warning or being disqualified from receiving awards. Promoting an environment that is open to all by being safe, equitable, and exhilarating is our utmost priority. In order to ensure this, the following are **prohibited**:

1. Any pre-writing or working on committee content outside of VTMUNC I committee sessions (as described by the Schedule of Program).
2. Any speeches, directives, crisis arcs, or actions in committee that intend to create violence or promote a violent environment to a specific group of people, including mentions of sexual violence, graphic violence, and other behavior that is beyond committee guidelines.
3. Any hate speech, written documents, or behavior that uses language that is discriminatory and disrespectful, including but not limited to any language that is racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, xenophobic, antisemitic, Islamophobic, or language harmful to any specific group.
4. Any actions that are deliberate, both knowingly and intentionally, to bully, harass, or otherwise harmful behavior that may or has hurt other delegates' physical and or mental health.

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## BRIEF OVERVIEW OF CRISIS COMMITTEES

As the wise and bright minds of the world engage with knowledge of the unknown, new and innovative ways of thinking start to dominate the world. Said ways of thinking make the world what it is today: a cocktail of organized chaos or, what we like to call it, organized crisis. Unlike any conventional committee in the Model UN Circuit, Crisis Committees are unique spaces of debate which consist of continuous cycles of debate filled with uncertainty and, in the process, crisis. Their procedure differs from the procedure that committees in the General Assembly manage, having no formal motions to open debate nor speaker's lists to depend on. This causes crisis committees to resort to 3 styles of debate, which are:

1. Round Robins are a style of debate in which each delegate has a stipulated amount of time to express their opinions/thoughts with respect to the current crisis situation. The delegate proposing the motion to round robin will have the right to stipulate the amount of time each delegate has to speak (equally). It is recommended that round robins be executed at the beginning of the committee or when there are major crisis updates throughout the committee.
2. Moderated Caucuses consist of a specific topic of discussion, a duration, and a speaking time per delegate. These will have chairs individually calling delegates to speak in the debate, be a default if the chair doesn't exercise a round robin motion, and managed in continuous rolling cycles throughout the debate.
3. Unmoderated Caucuses, on the other hand, are a style of debate which focuses more on free discussion and flow of debate between delegates without a necessity to conduct a motion to structure speech. Delegates will have full autonomy of how much times they speak in the unmoderated caucus and will be able to chat with other delegates relative to the topic being discussed.

# CHAIR'S LETTER

Hello Delegates,

My name is William Letvin, though you can just call me Will, and I'm so happy to have you all at Virginia Tech's first very own Model United Nations Conference. I am a second year studying Urban Planning with minors in GIS and Landscape Architecture. In high school, I was involved in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program, and I graduated from the Anglican International School of Jerusalem. As a place, Hawai'i has always intrigued me. A picturesque set of tropical isles in the middle of the Pacific with nothing but the Pacific for 1000s of miles presents quite the conundrum in governance and living, yet nonetheless it continues to thrive in many ways. Hawai'i in the past was a place of stark contrasts, a small island nation surrounded by big empires each of which was more determined to annex the isles than the last. To maintain its independence Hawai'i had to play all sides and be incredibly creative about its development causing Hawaiian history to be filled with odd events and peculiar occurrences. Throughout this committee, you will similarly get to use your creativity, intelligence, and wit to see through your plans and arcs. I'm so excited to meet all of you on the committee and see you all in action. If you have any questions regarding the committee or its material, please feel free to email me ([wletvin03@vt.edu](mailto:wletvin03@vt.edu)).

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Hawaii was first populated sometime between 300 and 900 CE(FGSP, 2022). Utilizing advanced agriculture, aquaculture, and the abundance of sea life, native Hawaiians prospered on the island. The islands were governed by a system of chiefs known as the ali'i, but in the late 18th century a series of wars broke out between rival ali'i(FGSP, 2022). Kamehameha, one of the ali'i, unified the islands under his rule in 1795. Kamehameha consolidated his rule, creating the Kingdom of Hawaii in 1810(FGSP, 2022), named after his home island, Hawaii, often referred to as 'The Big Island'.

Kamehameha died in 1819, however, during his reign a European missionary population developed, to be supplemented by the arrival of American missionaries in 1820(UH Manoa, 2023). Kamehameha II was fiercely adherent to the Christian population and began abolishing many aspects of traditional Hawaiian society and government. Kamehameha III would take over after his brother died on a voyage to the United Kingdom. Under Kamehameha III's reign, Hawaii developed a high literacy rate and secured international recognition from several European powers in the 1840s including France and the United Kingdom(FGSP, 2022). Since European contact was first initiated with Hawaii, it has caused immense problems for the Hawaiian state. Beyond the depopulation due to disease and other causes affecting native Hawaiians in this period, and amidst a rising population of white and Christian peoples on the Hawaiian Isles(FGSP, 2022); European empires were developing their machinations for the island chain.

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The British(UH Manoa, 2023) and French(UH Manoa, 2018) both had affairs in which they temporarily gained control over the islands before returning them to the monarchy, essentially bullying the small government into submission. The Monarchs were therefore tasked with maintaining some sense of rights and properties for native Hawaiians all while maintaining a careful balancing act. The 1840 constitution 1840 and 1852 constitutions empowered the missionary class by ensuring their rights in the former and creating a legislative organ in the latter(FGSP, 2022). Following the substantial European involvement in Hawaii in the 1840s including two invasions, the Hawaiian government created a uniform system of land ownership recognizing any land holdings of native Hawaiians who could afford to survey the land and prove a claim, known as the Great Mahele(UH Manoa, 2023). Many low-income Hawaiians lost their land, while nobles retained it, but in the event of European or American conquest of the islands, the Hawaiians who could prove their land ownership now had a legal means of preserving it. Meanwhile, European interest in the isles died down as the view that a neutral kingdom was best began to trump European academic circles. Economically, the Hawaiian Kingdom became quite prosperous. Trading in sugarcane and sandalwood was a very profitable and important activity(HDoA, 2013). Sugar was highly prized by Americans who wanted sources of sugar bereft of European involvement, meanwhile the British sought sandalwood for its importance in the Asian trading market so as to avert an excess inflow of gold to the Asian market for goods such as Tea. Hawaii's importance as a refueling stop for both the whaling industry and transpacific shipping was also important to its economy, and a partial reason why Pearl Harbor and Honolulu became such a dominant center of commerce over the rest of the island chain. The sugar industry came to be controlled in large part by white missionaries who utilized cheap imported labor, largely from China and Japan, to work their plantations(HDoA, 2013). Royal succession struggles caused periods of instability on the island as several successive monarchs failed to bear heirs. This resulted in the election of multiple monarchs including King Lunalilo in 1873, Kalakaua in 1874, and Liliuokalani in 1891(UH Manoa, 2023).

American influence in Hawaii had been steadily building since the 1840s, but in 1875 under the reign of Kalakaua, the reciprocity treaty was signed with the US(UH Manoa, 2023). The treaty resulted in tariff-free import of listed goods between Hawaii and the US, however, the treaty heavily favored US imports and, in part, led to Hawaii becoming dependent on the US for several goods. Kalakaua's reign continued to be tumultuous as he, an ardent monarchist, came to a head with the now dominant power of the white Christian class of Hawaii. In 1887 under threat of violent force against the crown, Kalakaua signed into law the 1887 constitution, barring the monarch from largely any independent actions (requiring a co-signer from their cabinet to any decrees)(UH Manoa, 2023). Kalakaua would die while on a trip to the US in 1891 and he was succeeded by Queen Liliuokalani.



# TIMELINE

**1820:** First American missionaries arrive in Hawai'i, beginning spreading Christianity and purchasing land to build sugar plantations.

**1825:** Hereditary land ownership introduced in Hawaiian.

1826: First US/Hawaiian Treaty of Friendship.

**1840:** First Constitution of the Hawaiian Kingdom confirms rights for foreign Christians and missionaries.

**1842:** US Secretary of State Daniel Webster affirms US interests in Hawai'i in a statement to the Hawaiian government, opposing any foreign attempts at annexation, known as the "Tyler Doctrine."

**1843:** "Paulet Episode" British naval officer Lord George Paulet takes control of the islands for a temporary period before reinstating the Hawaiian monarchy.

**1849:** French Invade Hawaii to protect catholic interests on the Island (UH Manoa, 2018).

**1849:** Treaty of Friendship signed between Hawaii and the United States.

**1852:** Second constitution limits royal powers and liberalizes government and judiciary.

**1864:** Kamehameha dissolved the constitution, instating a new constitution reasserting royal power and limiting voting with literacy tests.

**1875:** The Reciprocity Treaty of 1875; declares that Hawaiian goods will enter the US tariff-free and US goods will enter Hawaii tariff-free, effectively giving the US trade primacy in the region and creating a Hawaiian dependency on American trade.

**1887:** The Hawaiian League, a group of White Hawaiians and American missionaries, drafts a new constitution and forces King Kalakaua to sign it under force of arms. Known as the "1887 Bayonet Constitution", the document outlines a severe restriction of royal powers requiring the cabinet to permit any royal actions, and ensuring voting rights for White Hawaiians.



**1891:** King Kalakaua died heirless, replaced through legislative election by Queen Liliuokalani. Secretary of State James Blaine and President Benjamin Harrison came to an understanding that Hawaii along with Cuba and Puerto Rico were key targets for annexation by the United States in the ensuing years.

**1892:** Liliuokalani passes laws creating permits for the sale of opium and a franchise to establish a lottery, both heavily opposed by the Christian white population of the islands. Under heavy demands from the Native Hawaiian population, Liliuokalani also began the drafting of a new constitution re-establishing royal and native rights on the islands. The Committee of Thirteen was established by a group of White Hawaiians and American settlers, to plan and execute a coup d'etat. Anti-imperialist Grover Cleveland was elected president of the United States.

**1893:** The Committee of Thirteen is reorganized into the Committee of Safety led by Henry Ernest Cooper. (**The Crisis begins in the early hours of the 16th of January**). The Committee of Safety with the help of the US Navy overthrew the Hawaiian Monarchy placing the Queen under house arrest. The new government is organized under Sanford Dole, who attempts to organize an annexation treaty by the Harrison Administration before it leaves office on inauguration; this fails and new president Grover Cleveland demands the restoration of the Hawaiian monarchy.

**1894:** The Hawaiian Republic is declared with Sanford Dole as its president.

**1896:** William McKinley wins the presidential election and is open to annexation of Hawaii.

**1898:** Hawaii is annexed by the United States government under the McKinley administration.



# CHARACTER DOSSIER

## Royalist Faction

Consisting of Liliuokalani and her cabinet of supporters, the royalist faction is seeking to maintain power over the Hawaiian state and pass through a new constitution returning authority to the monarchy(Liliuokalani, 1898).

### Liliuokalani, Queen of Hawaii

The sister of former king Kalakaua, Liliuokalani was elected to the position of monarch in 1891 following her brother's death in California in 1891(Liliuokalani, 1898). Lili'uokalani is the Queen of Hawaii, as head of state she has de jure power over the state, however, following the bayonet constitution much of the actual power lies with her ministers and the legislature. Lili'uokalani broadly is opposed to the reform faction and is in the weeks before the coup began the process of mustering support for a new constitution that would revoke the bayonet constitution and return Hawai'i to a more monarchical state with full native rule.

### William H Cornwell, Minister of Finance

Born in Brooklyn, New York in the 1850s, Cornwell and his family moved to Hawaii for economic opportunity(Honolulu Star, 1903). His father began a sugar plantation shortly after their move, which Cornwell inherited in the 1880s, and is valued at around \$250,000 (\$8.5 million in 2023). Cornwell is an avid supporter of the monarchy, having served as a close friend of former King Kalakaua(Honolulu Star 1903), and now a close friend and political supporter of Lili'uokalani. He serves as the minister of finance giving him jurisdiction to draw and issue debt on behalf of the Hawaiian kingdom as well as giving him dominion over the treasury. Cornwell is an important member of the cabinet and has retained his position due to both his friendship with the Queen and support for her new constitution.

### “Samuel” Kamuela Parker, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Kamuela Parker, often referred to as Samuel, was the Minister of Foreign Affairs during the Coup d'Etat. One of the wealthiest businessmen on the island and a member of the illustrious Boston Parker Family, a family of wealthy business moguls and hoteliers, Kamuela Parker owned and operated a larger business estate on the islands valued at around \$2.7 million (\$92.3 million in 2023) (New York Times, 1920). Parker had two wives, the first was a Hawaiian princess who died of illness but gave him a close relationship with the royal family; the second, Harriet Napela, was a prominent Mormon and the daughter of Johnathan Napela(Fred E. Woods), the central figure of the Hawaiian Mormon community. Parker was supportive of Queen Liliuokalani but had reservations about her new constitution(Blount, 1894, 905).

### **John Colburn, Minister of the Interior**

From much more humble origins, Colburn was born in 1859 to an auctioneer in Honolulu. John Colburn served as Minister of the Interior, before which he served on the board of health(Maui News, 1920). The Minister of the Interior is in charge of all infrastructure and the contract system of Hawaii, including the Port of Hawaii, the road system, and the telegraph system(Newbury, 2001). He was made minister because of his close relationship with Lili'uokalani. He is highly supportive of the monarchy and the constitution.

### **Arthur P Peterson, Attorney General**

Born in New Bedford, Massachusetts; Peterson and his family moved to Hawaii when he was 11 years old where he attended a private school. On graduation, he returned to America where he earned a law degree from the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, before returning to Hawaii after first establishing himself on the Boston legal scene(San Francisco Call, 1895). Arthur gained a reputation as the best lawyer in Hawaii and earned significant commendation from the Hawaiian Bar. He was named Deputy Attorney-General twice and Attorney General twice, with his current post being his second tenure. As Attorney-General, Peterson can bring legal charges against any member of the government(Newbury, 2001). Also notable is Peterson's close relationship with the local Japanese immigrant population, for which his work with them and the Japanese government earned him the Imperial Order of the Sacred Treasure of Japan by the Japanese Emperor(San Francisco Call, 1895).

### **Charles B Wilson, Marshall of Hawaii**

Wilson is the appointed Marshall of the Kingdom and retains control over 242 soldiers armed with Springfield rifles, one Gatling gun, and 74 repeater rifles(Blount, 1893, 643-644). As Marshall, Wilson has the power to command any of his troops and all police officers in the Kingdom and make any arrests he believes necessary unless contested by a member of the cabinet. Wilson is an avid supporter of the queen and her constitution.

### **Samuel Nowlein, Captain of the Household Guard**

Nowlein is a native Hawaiian and commander of the Household Guard, the military unit separate from the Hawaiian police which specifically adheres to the wishes of the Queen and Attorney General(Liliuokalani, 1898). The unit likely consists of around 50 troops. Nowlein is personal friends with both the Queen and Wilson and supports both their actions(Blount, 1893, 502).



## **Reform Party**

Consisting largely of white Hawaiians and conservative Christian missionaries, the reform party sees the monarchy as a threat and has long made attempts to arrange a US takeover of the islands. Their goal was to overthrow the Hawaiian monarchy, install a government under their rule, and see to it that the islands were eventually annexed by the United States(Liliuokalani, 1898).

### **Sanford Ballard Dole**

A wealthy lawyer, popular socialite, and powerful political figure, Sanford Dole is a leading figure of the Reform Party and the favorite to become president of Hawai'i should the coup succeed. He was born in Hawai'i and grew up attending his father's school before attending Williams College in Massachusetts(The Star Press, 1926). He returned after practicing in Boston for a year to become a prominent lawyer in Hawai'i, he would win election to the legislature multiple times, becoming an influential member of Hawaiian society(The Star Press, 1926). Opposed to the monarchy he would take leadership of the Reform Party in early January of 1893.

### **Joseph B. Atherton**

Atherton was a prominent industrialist and businessman, and an important member of the Committee of Safety. Born and raised in Boston, he would arrive on the islands in 1858, where he would come to join the illustrious Castle & Cooke company which would grow to be one of the largest sugarcane producers on the island(Nellist, 1925). He took over daily operations as a senior partner of the firm in 1865 and continues to run much of the firm's operations while also collecting heavy paychecks making him one of the wealthiest men on the island(Nellist, 1925). In addition, Atherton was a founder of the Bank of Hawaii and the Mutual Telephone Co.; and a director of the Oahu Railway & Land Co. and the Honolulu Rapid Transit & Land Co.. He founded the

Hawaiian Chapter of the YMCA and holds considerable influence among the missionary population, additionally, he serves as a member of the board of Oahu College and Kawaiaho Seminary(Nellist, 1925). Atherton is heavily pro-Christian and pro-Annexation.

### **William O Smith**

A prominent lawyer in Hawaii and influential politician, Smith's importance in Hawaiian politics began in the 1880s. When he was young he worked on sugar plantations between schooling sessions and came to be a close ally of many prominent figures in the sugar industry when he established himself as a lawyer in Hawaii(Honolulu Advertiser, 1929). He would rise to become a senior partner at a legal firm and take up a position in the legislature during which he was an important actor in pushing the 1887 bayonet constitution(KHS, 2). Smith is an important figure on the Committee of Safety for his legal expertise and knowledge of the industries of Hawai'i through his trust and agency business.



## **Henry Ernest Cooper**

Cooper spent the entirety of his childhood and a large portion of his young adulthood in Indiana where he became a lawyer(NYT, 1929). He moved to Hawaii in 1890 just three years before the events of this committee, however, he inserted himself into Hawaiian politics quickly and competently(NYT, 1929). Cooper became the head of the committee of safety and was largely the one initiating contact with the American military and diplomats in the build-up to the Coup d'Etat(Blount, 1893, 584). He is vehemently opposed to the monarchy and Hawaiian independence, instead believing that the islands should be under the rule of the American government. Given his relationships with many of the diplomats to Hawai'i, Cooper would likely be made Minister of Foreign Affairs if the coup succeeds.

## **James A King**

Born in Scotland, King arrived on the islands just after the end of the American Civil War(Hawaiian Gazette, 1899). He began captaining trading schooners for the Williams & Co. shipping firm before taking on a job at the Wilder & Co. shipping firm where he frequented Alaska, the Russian Far East, and Japan(Hawaiian Gazette, 1899). King rose to the ranks of his company before taking over as wharf superintendent. He joined the ranks of the Reform Party and supported the American annexation of the islands. Due to his familiarity with Hawaiian infrastructure, he'd likely be made minister of the interior if the coup were a success.

## **Pacific Powers**

The key powers in the Pacific, particularly those interested in Hawai'i, were the United States of America, the British Empire, The French Republic and its Empire, and the Empire of Japan.

### **United States of America**

The USA is at a crossroads, with the annexation of the islands being politically unpopular in most American circles. The president himself, Grover Cleveland, is vehemently opposed to annexation.

However, the Department of State and many Americans in the Pacific feel that the US would benefit heavily from the annexation of the islands(Devine, 1977, 29), and given significant leeway by the federal government, they have the means to execute their vision.

### **Captain Gilbert Cornwall Wiltse of the USS Boston**

Born in Binghamton, NY in 1838, at the age of 17 Wiltse entered the Naval Academy graduating in 1859(NYT, 1893). Wiltse served his first post immediately after protecting the shipping trade to Brazil, however, his ship was recalled in 1861 at the outbreak of the US Civil War(NYT, 1893). Wiltse stayed in the Federal Navy and was assigned to various commands in the South Atlantic and West Indies, engaging several times with Confederate ships(NYT, 1893).



Following the war, Wiltse was posted to several commands across the East Coast until he was finally made captain in 1887 when he was made captain of the training ship Minnesota. Wiltse was made captain of the USS Boston in 1889 when it joined the prestigious White Fleet in its tour of

Europe before being dispatched to the Pacific in the summer of 1882 due to a war on South America's Pacific coast, where it has remained in the port of Honolulu since(NYT, 1893). The USS Boston is a large cruiser with several large artillery pieces and hundreds of armed sailors including a company of marines(Mann, 2005). Wiltse himself is an avid American nationalist, who believes in protecting American citizens and interests.

### **John L Stevens, US Minister Plenipotentiary to the Hawaiian Kingdom**

Born in Mount Vernon, Maine in 1820, Stevens attended seminary for schooling before gaining considerable influence as a journalist(NYT, 1895). Through his newspaper, Stevens accrued significant political clout in Maine and founded the Maine chapter of the Republican Party. Following repeated stints in the state legislature and senate, he was made US Minister to Uruguay and Paraguay by President Ulysses S. Grant(NYT, 1895). Following his first diplomatic position, he held several positions at the top of the Republican Party earning him a second diplomatic position as Minister to Sweden and Norway in 1877. Stevens was made US Minister to Hawaii in 1889 earning the honorific title Envoy Extraordinaire(NYT, 1895). Stevens believes highly in the Department of State's plans to annex the islands and has worked closely with members of the Reform Party to set in motion the events of the coup. Stevens wields considerable political clout in the United States and has the complete support of the Department of State to take whatever actions he deems necessary to annex the islands, permitted he causes no undue distress to the USA.

### **The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and its Empire**

The United Kingdom has a long history in the Hawaiian islands being the first European empire to establish contact with the Kingdom of Hawaii(UH Manoa, 2023). The Vancouver-Australia problem represents a weakness in the Pacific sector of the British empire as the ships of the 1800s struggled to make such a long journey without stopping. The Hawaiian isles are, thus, an important waypoint for British transpacific infrastructure. The British Empire seeks to maintain the Isles as a stopping ground for British shipping across the Pacific. Currently, it supports the independence of the Isles with the understanding that no major foreign power should have such control over its vital marine infrastructure.

### **James Hay Wodehouse, British Commissioner to Hawaii**

Wodehouse has been the British minister to Hawaii for over 22 years and has a close relationship with Queen Liliuokalani and her supporters(Liliuokalani, 1898).



He is vehemently opposed to the annexation of the islands by the United States as well as the overthrow, in any capacity, of the Hawaiian monarchy(San Francisco Call, 1895). He maintains an even higher appreciation for the independence of the islands than most British foreign policy experts and maintains regular communication with the Queen of Hawaii. Wodehouse has the

power to request military action to the extent that it protects endangered British lives and commerce, the nearest significant military port is likely in Vancouver, Canada. Wodehouse further has the power to make agreements and represent the interests of the British government in Hawaii.

### **The Empire of Japan**

The Japanese Empire has had a historically close relationship with the Hawaiian islands. As two indigenous states in a world of European imperialism, the two empires view each other with a certain sense of camaraderie, and the Empire of Japan has typically been the nation of preference when the Hawaiian Kingdom needs aid. Japan has a tricky role to play in Hawaii's future, including its relationship with a large population of Japanese and Chinese foreign laborers in Hawaii, largely dependent on the Japanese diplomatic mission for support(Sato, 2017). Japan must also protect its interests in the islands, like the British. Honolulu is an important stopping point for Japanese transpacific trade, and the Japanese will seek to protect the islands from foreign empires. Japan, however, is still in a period of transition, and considerably less capable of projecting military and diplomatic power than the US or European empires.

### **Taro Ando, Japanese Ambassador to the Kingdom of Hawai'i**

Part of the storied Gannenmono(Sato, 2017), the first group of Japanese settlers in Hawaii from the year 1868, Taro Ando holds an almost mythic standing among the Japanese and Chinese laborer communities. In 1885, Taro Ando established the Japanese Embassy to the Hawaiian Kingdom in Honolulu and served as the first ambassador of the Japanese Empire to Hawaii(CGJH, 2008). Due to the relationship between the Japanese and Hawaiian nations, Taro Ando has a close relationship with the Hawaiian government and the Queen and has a vested interest in protecting the Asian community in Hawaii. Considering the history of Asian treatment in the US(Sato, 2017), Ando has an unfavorable opinion of the American annexation of the islands and would likely work to ensure Hawaiian independence while maintaining Japanese foreign policy objectives in the Pacific. The nearest major military port in Japan is Tokyo, a six-day sail at top speed by steamers. Similar to Wodehouse, Taro Ando represents the Japanese government's interests, citizens, and commerce in Hawaii which include a rather large population of plantation laborers, should Taro Ando see a threat to such laborers, he can request military intervention from the Japanese government.



## The French Republic and its Empire

Like other empires, the French viewed Hawaii as an important waypoint in Transpacific trade and would prefer if other foreign powers did not control it. France has on several occasions negotiated treaties with the Hawaiian state(UH Manoa, 2023), and on one occasion invaded the islands in 1849 to protect the Catholic church(UH Manoa, 2018). Though considerably less interested in the Pacific than the other powers, the French still have significant influence and military power in the region from their bases in Polynesia and East Asia. Furthermore, the French have an interest in protecting Catholic rights and missionaries who often are at odds with American protestants, whereas treaties with the Hawaiian state have ensured their protection. As such the French Empire is vested in keeping American control of the Hawaiian islands a non-reality.

### **Jean Antoine Vizzanova, Chargé d'Affaires of the French Mission to Hawaii**

A representative of the French government, Vizzanova has the responsibility to command French interests in the Hawaiian Isles(USDS, 1903, 84). Vizzanova can request French military intervention and other actions from the French government which might further the French state in Hawaii.

## **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

Why is Hawai'i where it is today?

What factors have influenced Hawaii's present and the beliefs of what the islands' future should be?

Why does Hawaii hold such importance among foreign powers? How can this importance and the reasoning behind it impact Hawaii's future?

## **RESOURCES FOR FURTHER RESEARCH**

The United States Congressional Investigation into the Hawaiian Coup D'etat, also known as the Blount Report

<https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.wdl/wdl.7767>

At over 1400 pages, you are by no means expected to read the whole or even part of this report, however, command searching the document may provide insight into specific characters' involvements in the coup.

Hawaii's Story by Hawaii's Queen

<https://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/liliuokalani/hawaii/hawaii.html>

A recounting of the history of Hawaii and the reign of Liliuokalani specifically, through her own words.



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