

JOINT RESOLUTION

TO PROVIDE FOR ANNEXING THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS TO THE
UNITED STATES.

PUBLIC RESOLUTION NO. 51, 55TH CONGRESS, 2ND SESSION.

Whereas the Government of the Republic of Hawaii having, in due form, signified its consent, in the manner provided by its constitution, to cede absolutely and without reserve to the United States of America all rights of sovereignty of whatsoever kind in and over the Hawaiian Islands and their dependencies, and also to cede and transfer to the United States the absolute fee and ownership of all public, Government or Crown lands, public buildings or edifices, ports, harbors, military equipment, and all other public property of every kind and description belonging to the Government of the Hawaiian Islands, together with every right and appurtenance thereunto appertaining: Therefore

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, That said cession is accepted, ratified, and confirmed, and that the said Hawaiian Islands and their dependencies be, and they are hereby, annexed as a part of the territory of the United States, and are subject to the sovereign dominion thereof, and that all and singular the property and rights hereinbefore mentioned are vested in the United States of America.

The existing laws of the United States relative to public lands shall not apply to such lands in the Hawaiian Islands; but the Congress of the United States shall enact special laws for their management and disposition: PROVIDED, That all revenue from or proceeds of the same, except as regards such part thereof as may be used or occupied for the civil, military, or naval purposes of the United States, or may be assigned for the use of the local government, shall be used solely for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Hawaiian Islands for educational and other public purposes.

Until Congress shall provide for the government of such islands all the civil, judicial, and military powers exercised by the officers of the existing government in said islands shall be vested in such person or persons and shall be exercised in such manner as the President of the United States shall direct; and the President shall have the power to remove said officers and fill the vacancies so occasioned.

The existing treaties of the Hawaiian Islands with foreign nations shall forthwith cease and determine, being replaced by such treaties as may exist, or as may be hereafter concluded, between the United States and such foreign nations. The municipal legislation of the Hawaiian Islands, not enacted for the fulfillment of the treaties so extinguished, and not inconsistent with this joint resolution nor contrary to the Constitution of the United States nor to any existing treaty of the United States, shall remain in force until the Congress of the United States shall otherwise determine.

Until legislation shall be enacted extending the United States customs laws and regulations to the Hawaiian Islands the existing customs relations of the Hawaiian Islands with the United States and other countries shall remain unchanged.

The public debt of the Republic of Hawaii, lawfully existing at the date of the passage of this joint resolution, including the amounts due to depositors in the Hawaiian Postal Savings Bank, is hereby assumed by the Government of the United States; but the liability of the United States in this regard shall in no case exceed four million dollars. So long, however, as the existing Government and the present commercial relations of the Hawaiian Islands are continued as hereinbefore provided said Government shall continue to pay the interest on said debt.

There shall be no further immigration of Chinese into the Hawaiian Islands, except upon such conditions as are now or may hereafter be allowed by the laws of the United States; no Chinese, by reason of anything herein contained, shall be allowed to enter the United States from the Hawaiian Islands.

The President shall appoint five commissioners, at least two of whom shall be residents of the Hawaiian Islands, who shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, recommend to Congress such legislation concerning the Hawaiian Islands as they shall deem necessary or proper.

Sec. 2. That the commissioners hereinbefore provided for shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Sec. 3. That the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and to be immediately available, to be expended at the discretion of the President of the United States of America, for the purpose of carrying this joint resolution into effect.

SERENO E. PAYNE,

Speaker of the House of Representatives Pro Tempore.

GARRET A. HOBART,

Vice-President of the United States and President of the Senate.

Approved July 7th, 1898.

WILLIAM McKINLEY.

PROCEDURE INCIDENTAL TO THE TRANSFER OF
SOVEREIGNTY FROM THE REPUBLIC OF
HAWAII TO THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA,

August 12th, 1898.

The transfer of sovereignty took place on a platform erected in front of the Executive Building. Harold M. Sewall, Minister of the United States to the Republic of Hawaii, addressing Sanford B. Dole, President of the Republic of Hawaii, said:

"Mr. President, I present you a certified copy of a joint resolution of the Congress of the United States, approved by the President on July 7th, 1898, entitled 'Joint Resolution to provide for annexing the Hawaiian Islands to the United States.'

"This joint resolution accepts, ratifies and confirms, on the part of the United States, the cession formally consented to and approved by the Republic of Hawaii."

Sanford B. Dole, President of the Republic of Hawaii, addressing Harold M. Sewall, Minister of the United States to the Republic of Hawaii, replied:

"A treaty of political union having been made, and the cession formally consented to and approved by the Republic of Hawaii, having been accepted by the United States of America, I now, in the interest of the Hawaiian body politic, and with full confidence in the honor, justice and friendship of the American people yield up to you as the representative of the Government of the United States, the sovereignty and public property of the Hawaiian Islands."

Minister Sewall, replying to President Dole, then said:

"Mr. President: In the name of the United States, I accept the transfer of the sovereignty and property of the Hawaiian Government.

"The Admiral commanding the United States naval forces in these waters will proceed to perform the duty entrusted to him."

(This duty was to raise the American flag over the Executive Building.)

The Hawaiian flag was then lowered from the central staff on the Executive Building by a representative of the Hawaiian National Guard; and, by order of Admiral Miller, the American flag was raised in its place, by a representative of the United States Navy.

The following proclamation was then read by Minister Sewall:

"To the Government and the People of the Hawaiian Islands:

"By the terms of the Joint Resolution by which the cession of the Hawaiian Islands and their dependencies to the United States is concluded, it is provided that until Congress shall provide for the Government of Hawaii, all the civil, judicial, and military powers exercised by the officers of the existing Government are to be vested in such person or persons, and to be exercised in such manner, as the President of the United States shall direct.

"In the exercise of the power thus conferred on him by the Joint Resolution, the President hereby directs that the civil, judicial, and military powers in question shall be exercised by the Officers of the Republic of Hawaii, as it existed just prior to the transfer of sovereignty, subject to his power to remove such officers and to fill vacancies.

"All such officers will be required at once to take an oath of allegiance to the United States, and all military forces shall be required to take a similar oath, and all bonded officers will be required to renew their bonds to the Government of the United States.

"The powers of the Minister of Foreign Affairs will, upon the transfer of the sovereignty and property of Hawaii to the United States, necessarily cease, so far as they relate to the conduct of diplomatic intercourse between Hawaii and foreign powers.

"The municipal legislation of Hawaii, except such as was enacted for the fulfilment of the treaties between that country and foreign nations, and except such as is inconsistent with the Joint Resolution, or contrary to the Constitution of the United States, or to any existing treaty of the United States, is to remain in force till the Congress of the United States shall otherwise determine.

"The existing customs relations of Hawaii with the United States and with other countries are to remain unchanged till Congress shall have extended the customs laws and regulations of the United States to the Islands.

"Under these various provisions, the Government of the Islands will proceed without interruption."

HAROLD M. SEWALL,

Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the
United States of America.

Honolulu, H. I., August 12, 1898.