

CONSTITUTION, LAWS, ETC.

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS, BOTH OF THE PEOPLE AND CHIEFS.

“God hath made of one blood all nations of men, to dwell on the earth” in unity and blessedness. God has also bestowed certain rights alike on all men, and all chiefs, and all people of all lands.

These are some of the rights which he has given alike to every man and every chief of correct deportment: life, limb, liberty, freedom from oppression, the earnings of his hands and the productions of his mind; not, however, to those who act in violation of the laws.

God has also established governments, and rule, for the purpose of peace; but, in making laws for the nation, it is by no means proper to enact laws for the protection of the rulers only, without also providing protection for their subjects; neither is it proper to enact laws to enrich the chiefs only, without regard to enriching their subjects also; and hereafter there shall, by no means, be any laws enacted which are at variance with what is above expressed, neither shall any tax be assessed, nor any service or labour required of any man, in a manner which is at all at variance with the above sentiments.

PROTECTION FOR THE PEOPLE DECLARED.

The above sentiments are hereby published for the purpose of protecting alike both the people and the chiefs of all these islands, while they maintain a correct deportment; that no chief may be able to oppress any subject, but that chiefs and people may enjoy the same protection, under one and the same law.

Protection is hereby secured to the persons of all the people, together with their lands, their building-lots, and all their property, while they conform to the laws of the kingdom; and nothing whatever shall be taken from any individual except by express provision of the laws. Whatever chief shall act perseveringly in violation of the constitution, shall no longer remain a chief of the Hawaiian Islands, and the same shall be true of the governors, officers, and all land agents.

But if any one who is deposed should change his course and regulate his conduct by law, it shall then be in the power of the chiefs to reinstate him in the place he occupied previous to his being deposed.