LABOR CONDITIONS IN HAWAII

HEARINGS
BEFORE A
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
COMMITTEE ON THE TERRITORIES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SIXTY-FOURTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION
ON
LABOR CONDITIONS IN HAWAII

STATEMENT OF
W. H. HINDLE
AND PETITION FROM UNITED CHINESE SOCIETY
OF HAWAII

SUBCOMMITTEE PRINT

AUGUST 29, 1916

WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1916
LABOR CONDITIONS IN HAWAII.

SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Wednesday, August 30, 1916.

The subcommittee met at 10.30 o'clock a.m., Hon. William C. Houston (chairman) presiding.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I have appointed the members of the committee who are now present, namely, Messrs. Watkins, Brumbaugh, McLemore, and Dowell, in connection with myself, to act as a subcommittee for the purpose of hearing Mr. W. H. Hindle, of Honolulu; present a petition for the betterment of conditions in the commercial and industrial affairs of the Territory of Hawaii, relating especially to the conditions and admission of Chinese laborers in that Territory.

(Mr. Hindle presented a petition entitled "Petition to the administrators of the Government of the United States of America, for the betterment of conditions and admission of Chinese laborers to the Territory of the Hawaiian Islands: Presented by the United Chinese Society: Beneficial to all Chinese in Hawaii.")

STATEMENT OF MR. W. H. HINDLE, OF HONOLULU, HAWAII.

Mr. Hindle. Gentlemen, this proposition was gotten up a year ago when the congressional party came to Hawaii, for the purpose of the amelioration of the conditions of labor in Hawaii, especially in the rice fields. Many of the Congressmen—Mr. Burnett and others—gave us a hearing. Finally we took the Congressmen around and showed them what the conditions of the commercial interests in Hawaii were and what it meant in America, so far as Congress is concerned. When the Burnett immigration bill went through the House of Representatives and was voted on favorably in the Senate, the Japanese immediately got busy in Hawaii and they sent men over here at great expense, which had some effect on the proposed legislation, through Mr. Chinda. Now, the Chinese thought it was about time for them to get busy, and they wrote to the President. The President turned the matter over to Mr. Wilson, of the Department of Labor, but the result was not satisfactory to them. Then they got up a petition, and knowing that I was coming over here representing the Mercantile Reference Agency, they requested me to represent them. Now, you understand I am doing this without compensation from the Chinese, or anybody else. Knowing the Chinese as I have known them for 38 years in Hawaii, I am thoroughly familiar with conditions of labor there, and there is ample justification for this proposition so far as they are concerned. When this matter was first
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proposed there was a meeting of the United Chinese Society, with this result:

Honolulu, Hawaii, August 5, 1916.

At a meeting of the United Chinese Society, held in Honolulu, at their hall, Friday, August 4, 1916, it was unanimously decided that a petition for the betterment of the conditions of the Chinese in Hawaii be presented to the administration at Washington, D.C., and C. K. Ai and Lee Let were appointed as the committee in this matter. These gentlemen then requested the president, Mr. Yee Yap, that Mr. W. H. Hindle represent them for all the Chinese of Hawaii. Therefore, Mr. W. H. Hindle is herein given full power to act on our behalf in all matters appertaining to this petition.

(Signed) C. K. Ai.

Lee Let.

Now, I have here the original petition signed by Mr. Yee Yap, the president of the United Chinese Society of the Territory of Hawaii. I gave several copies to the Hon. Mr. Houston, the chairman of the Committee on the Territories. This petition first gives a history of the coming of the Chinese to Hawaii. As far as we can trace them, we know that there came in 1789 on a very small sailing ship about 65 Chinese. Anyone who understands anything about ships or shipping knows that a sailing vessel in those days did not carry more than 600 or 700 tons. While there is nothing authentic about the proposition that they remained there, yet in 1794, when Vancouver visited Hawaii, he found the Chinese established on a commercial basis between Hawaii and China.

That was in the early days of Kamehameha. The Chinese opened the very first foreign market ever opened between Hawaii and another country. This went on, and finally Kamehameha the First sent one of his high chiefs over to China for the purpose of cementing the commercial relations between the two nations, as well as for procuring arms and ammunition for the further conquest of the other islands in the group. After Kamehameha had conquered one after another, the chiefs of the islands of Oahu, Maui, Lanai, and Molokai, they became subject to him, and Kamehameha the First ruled the entire group.

The Chairman, Mr. Hindle, if you will just leave off the historical conditions and deal with present conditions in Hawaii, I think we can get nearer the real point of your statement, because we can get the historical matter afterwards anyhow.

Mr. Hindle. This is just to show that the Chinese were the pioneers in the great industries of Hawaii—rice, sugar, and pineapple.

Mr. Bremaugh. The same thing is true of the Philippines.

Mr. Hindle. Yes. In 1812 they brought from China a sugar mill; in 1856 the Hawaiian Agricultural Society was organized; and these are recorded in the Polynesian, the paper that was published in that day. Sugar was grown to such an extent that at that time that the annual production amounted to 6,000 tons. Now, Japan is nearer to Hawaii than China, but the Hawaiian producers knew the labor conditions too well, so they passed over Japan and sent to China for their laborers. Finally, in 1865 there was a royal commissioner appointed, and Dr. Hillebrand went to China and negotiated with the Chinese for labor. This shows that Chinese labor was sought after by the Royal Government, the provisional Government, and the Republic of Hawaii, and the Chinamen came and left at their will and without restriction.
Now, so far as the statistical proposition is concerned, the destruction of labor in consequence of annexation and the exclusion law has resulted in the abandonment of rice fields for want of labor. We know positively that 7,000 acres of rice land has been abandoned.

Mr. BRUMBAUGH. Why do not the native Hawaiians work their own rice fields?

Mr. HINDLE. The native Hawaiians do not like to work. They are a peace-loving, pleasure-loving people. In all Hawaii there are but two stores kept by Hawaiians. There are but two Filipinos stores. There are but 11 Koreans in business in Hawaii and they are all in the tailoring business. The Chinese and Japanese take up the merchandise stores in Hawaii. There were over 3,000 stores in Hawaii up to 1913, of which at least 75 per cent are conducted by Japanese.

Mr. BRUMBAUGH. There are a good many Chinese business men in Honolulu—tailors and such as that?

Mr. HINDLE. Yes; tailors and general merchandise men.

Mr. BRUMBAUGH. The Chinamen will not employ the Japanese?

Mr. HINDLE. Oh, yes; they will employ them. They will employ anybody if they will work.

Mr. BRUMBAUGH. Now, as I understand you want to modify our Chinese exclusion laws—

Mr. HINDLE. Yes; by a special agreement for the purpose of admitting Chinese labor to the Hawaiian Islands for work in the rice fields, without a recourse to this country now or at any future period. The Chinese will be bound by this agreement, if any of them come to Hawaii for the purpose of labor, never, under any circumstances, to enter the United States of America.

Mr. BRUMBAUGH. You are acquainted, of course, with the difficulties arising in the western part of this country in connection with Asians?

Mr. HINDLE. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. What we want is the actual condition in Hawaii now—your need for Chinamen, why you need them, why you prefer them to the Japanese, and what the Japanese are going to do in the way of overrunning the country and furnishing all the labor unless you can get labor from some other source.

Mr. HINDLE. All right. I have some figures and statistics here. For instance, there are 7,000 acres of abandoned land, a large part of which is only suitable for the cultivation of rice and taro, the native foods.

The CHAIRMAN. Why has that land been abandoned?

Mr. HINDLE. Chiefly for want of labor. The higher cost of living has made the raising of rice a loss under any circumstances.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, if you had Chinese labor there, could you make it profitable?

Mr. HINDLE. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. That is the question we want to hear you on.

Mr. BRUMBAUGH. Just a question right on that point. If all the bars were let down and they could have all the Chinese labor they desired, would not 99 per cent of it go to the big plantations that are not run by Chinamen?

Mr. HINDLE. No, sir; because the plantations do not go in for rice. They go in for sugar only.

Mr. BRUMBAUGH. Oh, you only want rice labor!
Mr. HINDLE. Yes, sir.

Mr. BRUMBAUGH. But how can you keep the Chinamen from other lines of labor?

Mr. HINDLE. Well, they will bring other lines of industry. They will bring trade to the storekeepers. They will want food and clothing, and that food and clothing will come from America, and not from China.

Mr. BRUMBAUGH. Of course we have a Chinese problem in the United States that we have to look out for.

Mr. HINDLE. Yes; but I have figures here to show the difference between the Chinese and the Japanese, and they will surely explain the necessity of importing Chinese labor against Japanese labor or any other oriental labor.

Mr. BRUMBAUGH. Do not the owners of these large plantations want Chinese labor, too?

Mr. HINDLE. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. I take it that every man who employs labor in Hawaii would welcome Chinese labor?

Mr. HINDLE. Every man, wholesalers, and retail storekeepers, clerks in the offices, salesmen for commission houses, or in any other branch of business, will prefer Chinese labor; and there is not a white man in Hawaii who will tell you differently.

The CHAIRMAN. Why is that?

Mr. HINDLE. Because of their honesty, integrity, and everything that goes to making up a good servant to an employer. They never attempt to strike.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Chinaman gets there and goes to work, what does he do with the earnings of his labor? Does he become a citizen? Does he make his home there?

Mr. HINDLE. He makes his home there; he raises a family; he buys property and becomes a real-estate taxpayer.

The CHAIRMAN. That is what I want to know. What is the course pursued by the Japanese laborer who comes to the Hawaiian Islands?

Mr. HINDLE. They do not become taxpayers and property owners as the Chinese do.

The CHAIRMAN. What do they do with their money?

Mr. HINDLE. Send it to Japan.

The CHAIRMAN. Is that the invariable rule?

Mr. HINDLE. Yes. In the last fiscal year $3,000,000 in gold (6,000,000 yen) was sent to Japan by the laboring class of Japanese.

Mr. BRUMBAUGH. There were not as many Japanese that went to the Philippines last year as the year before. They are not going there in such great numbers as they did some years ago. Is that true of Hawaii?

Mr. HINDLE. That is true of Hawaii, because of the gentleman's agreement with Japan not to permit too many laborers to come over. In 1910 there was a strike of Japanese laborers, but at that time we had not sufficient Chinese, and Filipinos were assisted by immigration. This year, however, when they again struck for higher wages, at a time when we were in need of labor, there was not sufficient labor to enable us to say: "We will not conform to your strike demands." They just sat down and paid them what they asked for, because they had to, so that the cane should not rot in the field. That would have made a difference to this country of $90,000,000.
Mr. Brumbaugh. The Filipinos make good laborers, do they not?
Mr. Hindle. They make fine laborers; they do not make the best laborers. We use them more in the pineapple fields to-day than anywhere else because they understand that class of culture better than the culture of cane.

The Chairman. You think the rice industry in the Hawaiian Islands is languishing, and, in fact, being destroyed, for want of laborers to cultivate the rice fields?
Mr. Hindle. Yes, sir, absolutely.

The Chairman. You think that Chinese labor will supply that want?
Mr. Hindle. Yes; because the Japanese do not supply that want. In 1910 the Japanese imported into Hawaii 30,995,000 pounds of ground rice; in 1914 over 38,000,000 pounds; and in 1915 over 40,000,000 pounds.

The Chairman. Where did it come from?
Mr. Hindle. From Japan.

The Chairman. Why do they do that?
Mr. Hindle. Because the Japanese prefer the sanefield labor, and for reasons best known to themselves and the Japanese Government, rice is imported from Japan to Hawaii.

Mr. Brumbaugh. Do you raise coffee there?
Mr. Hindle. Yes.

Mr. Brumbaugh. That used to be quite an industry.
Mr. Hindle. It is to-day. One man told me that he had to abandon his coffee plantation because he could not get Chinese labor.

The Chairman. Mr. Hindle, we will have to suspend here and go over to the House. It is nearly 11 o'clock.
(Thereupon the subcommittee adjourned.)
(The data and petition submitted by Mr. Hindle are as follows:)

I submit below figures in regard to the importations of rice to Hawaii from the official figures of the collector of customs in Honolulu:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Rice Importation to Hawaii</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>Japan 30,965,028 pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cleaned rice, nominal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>Japan 31,710,178 pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cleaned rice, nominal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>Japan 30,157,342 pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cleaned, China 5,466 pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>Japan 32,196,367 pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cleaned, none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>Japan 33,619,921 pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cleaned, none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>Japan 40,466,177 pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cleaned, China 88,751 pounds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Duty, 69 cents. Sacks average 110 pounds.
Present tariff in effect October 3, 1913.

CONSUMPTION PER MONTH PER PERSON.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>1914</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21,000</td>
<td>Chinese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>Filipinos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81,000</td>
<td>Japanese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>Koreans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>133,200</td>
<td>All others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rice grown in Hawaii, 1915.................................................................24,699,000
Imported from Japan, 1915.........................................................23,616,000
Exported to America..................................................................4,000,000

RICE LAND ABANDONED FOR WANT OF LABOR.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acres.</th>
<th>Pah Ou, Kauai</th>
<th>Kohala, Hawali</th>
<th>250</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C. Ako, Kauai</td>
<td>Waipio, Oahu</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hanalei, Kauai</td>
<td>Kainui, Hawali</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ching Shau, Oahu</td>
<td>Waino, Oahu</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wong Kwai, Oahu</td>
<td>Sing Chong Co., Oahu</td>
<td>1,223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kahana, Oahu</td>
<td>Y. Aino, Kahiwa, Mokuleia, Waialua, Waiakale, and Waialua, Oahu</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lelo, Oahu</td>
<td>300</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Molokaih (Y. Akin), Oahu</td>
<td>600</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anahola, Kauai</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kapaa, Kauai</td>
<td>70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7,086</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To cultivate this land needs 22,000 men, as labor required for every 100 acres is 40 men all the year round, from the time of plowing to milling and stacking, cleaning and marketing.

The above figures do not comprise all the land that has been abandoned, as it has been impossible to obtain from smaller original planters, but the total could be conservatively estimated at 7,080 acres.

For many reasons rice is grown at a loss, chiefly for want of labor, higher cost of living, advance in price of fertilizer, conservation for consumption to the Chinese population, and decrease in export, which in all constitutes the reason for abandoning the land on expiration of leases. Abandoned land, 7,080 acres, and a large quantity of this is only suitable for the cultivation of rice or taro, the land being waste and swampy. The amount of these leased lands are a conservative estimate of 225 per annum, or $17,500, exclusive of loss of taxation to the Territory.

Should there unfortunately arise a conflict of any country with the United States of America and the Islands of Hawaii placed under siege there would not be sufficient conservation of food to withstand a siege but a short time, but if rice was grown on the islands as before annexation then there would be rice not alone in storage but in the field, rice crops are harvested three times in two years, and the climate of Hawaii is such that the harvesting of rice occurs every month.

PETITION TO THE ADMINISTRATORS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR THE BETTERMENT CONDITIONS AND ADMISSION OF CHINESE LABORERS TO THE TERRITORY OF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

To the President; Cabinet Officers, Members of the Senate and Congress and the Committees on Immigration and Labor

GENTLEMEN: In presenting this petition for your personal, argument, discussion, and disposition, we are offering it for your consideration with the concurrence of the whole Chinese population of the Territory of Hawaii, and the desire that their prayer may be favorably granted.

Feeling assured of the spirit of Americanism for fair play, and equal rights to all men who obey the law, we now take these means to place before you the needs, requirements, and wants beneficial to our race, as well as the benefits which would accrue to the community at large, the Territory of Hawaii, and the Federal Government.

In all probability some of the earlier history of the Chinese in Hawaii may be unknown to you. We offer to you a review of the Chinese settlers, industries by them, immigration and commercial relations between China and these islands.

From written sources in Vancouver’s Book of Voyages, we learn that in the year 1786 a Capt. Metcalf had sailed from Macao, China, with a crew of ten Americans and 45 Chinese on the schooner Eleanor. This vessel was said to have called at the islands of Hawaii and Maui. Although no records can be found to substantiate the claim, it was commonly believed that a good number of these 45 Chinese, if not all, took up their residence in the islands. What helped to strengthen this belief was that the schooner Eleanor did not have enough work to go around even for one-third of the 45 Chinese. Further, when Vancouver himself returned to the islands in 1794, or thereabouts, he found Chinese settlers already here and that commercial relations had been established between these islands, then known as the Sandwich Islands, and China, through a high chief named Taiana who had been sent by King Kamehameha I.
for that purpose. This opened the first design market for the raw product the island had to export—sugar—and being the child of these, at that date (1854) Chinese immigration began and the first industry was rice, for they at once saw the land existed and were absolutely adapted for the cultivation of rice. The Chinese also found that sugar cane was indigenous and they were the founders of this industry, and the first sugar mill ever operated on these islands was brought by the Chinese from China in 1852 for establishing a sugar plantation—this industry is now controlled by the Anglo-Saxon race.

The rice industry is still to a large extent controlled by Chinese, but owing to the nonadmission of Chinese labor since annexation this industry has deteriorated, and it is principally for this industry we desire labor necessary to its cultivation. Hundreds of acres of waste, swampy land has been reclaimed for this purpose and there is still thousands of acres yet which could be reclaimed and made profitable, not only to the Chinese but also to private interests and the Territorial and Federal Governments. However, should our prayer not be granted no improvements would be made; in fact at the present time hundreds of acres of original land that was under cultivation for years has had to be abandoned, the land lying worthless on the hands of owners through lack of labor by the nonadmission of Chinese laborers. If returned to China. And if the laborers of China can not enjoy the same privileges as others of oriental race in these islands, then the present lands now under rice cultivation, and worked successfully by Chinese only, will again return to their original waste conditions, which would mean a loss to owners, a loss of taxes to the Territory, and also revenue to the Federal Government.

From the years 1850 to 1852 the immigration of Chinese to these islands was not extensive, for we learn in an article printed in the Polynesian, a Hawaiian paper published in the early days, under date of August 24, 1852, that owing to growing industry of sugar cane it was necessary that labor suitable for this work be encouraged from some other country. And after due deliberation China was the country selected in which to look for this class of labor. In further records of the Polynesian we learn that in August, 1851, the Hawaiian Agricultural and Historical Society sent the ship Thesis, Capt. Carson, to China for laborers. In a few months the ship returned to Honolulu with 196 Chinese as agricultural laborers and in addition 20 boys as house servants. The experiment proved to be so satisfactory, since the laborers turned out to be industrious, that Capt. Carson was again sent out with his ship to China in July, 1852, for an additional 100 laborers. From 1853 to 1864 Chinese immigration was encouraged, and during that period 704 Chinese landed at Honolulu. At that time many Chinese merchants in San Francisco began to establish their business here.

Until 1855 no assisted immigration had been made to Hawaii. In that year (1855), the sugar industry having passed to a large extent into the control of the Anglo-Saxon race, a dearth of labor was felt. As the sugar planters and the Hawaiian Government, from past years of experience, know the sterling worth of Chinese labor, we find that in 1855 Dr. William Hillebrand was appointed by the King royal commissioner of immigration and sent to China to procure labor for the plantations, and up to the time of annexation Chinese labor had the preference in cane field work and as house servants, and at no time from the first introduction into the islands to the present date can an employer of labor of any kind show where there has been a strike of Chinese laborers for any cause or where a loss has been sustained by their employers or other laborers.

Dr. Hillebrand lost no time in carrying out instructions to proceed to China for 500 laborers. He sailed from Honolulu April 27, 1855, and, meeting with success in China, he chartered two vessels. The Alberto left Hong Kong July 15, 1855, with 240 laborers and arrived at Honolulu September 25, while the Rano arrived here October 13, 1855, with 223 laborers, besides 22 women, the wives of the Chinese in the two vessels. They were under a five-year contract, after which time they could return or remain of their own will. This first immigration was succeeded by many others, and their service in the sugar fields gave that industry an immense impetus, and in these islands to-day it is an admitted fact that of all nationalities introduced as field hands, not only in sugar, but in rice, pineapples, coffee, and tobacco, the Chinese laborers are the best. So it is that the Chinese have been the introducer and leading factors in the development of the industries of the islands, and especially of the three great industries—sugar, rice, and pineapples.

Between 1852 and up to the time of annexation 37,817 Chinese arrived in Hawaii, and then not all by assisted immigration. Of this number 20,000 returned to their native land or died, which, being 50 per cent, should show conclusively that with the open door and unrestricted immigration to the islands they (the islands) would not be flooded with Chinese laborers.

During the periods above stated their labor was sought; the islands were ever open to them and they could arrive or depart without restriction or restraint.
LORD CONDITIONS IN HAWAII.

Under the monarchy, the provincial government, and the Republic of Hawaii the Chinese were well treated, enjoying the same freedom as all other nations, and many became citizens, the first instance of this of which we have record being in 1845, when one Ah Sing was admitted to citizenship. Hundreds of Chinese brought their wives and families to these islands with a view to permanent location, and many of the children born of Chinese parents are to-day filling important positions of trust and confidence in banks, wholesale and retail firms, and other branches of commercial life carried on in the islands.

The schools and colleges were never closed to, or segregation made of, any nation. Our race quick to perceive and seize opportunities for education and advancement, have risen to this occasion to such an extent that the highest honors have been divided with them in our schools and colleges. One of which, Punahou College, just recently celebrated its 75th year of foundation. That the young Hawaiian-born Chinese, as well as those who have adopted Hawaii as their permanent home, are truly patriotic to America since annexation can be faithfully attested in many ways. The love of the islands as their birthplace, the reverence for the Constitution and the flag of the United States of America, the national holidays, and the bulwark of America in times of trouble, "her militia." For, of their own violation there is to-day one company in the National Guard of Hawaii. Company H, which is composed (officers and men) entirely of Hawaiian-born Chinese young men who have sworn allegiance to the Constitution and flag of the United States of America. This company is the largest in number of any company of the National Guard of Hawaii, and should occasion require there are in the islands hundreds of other Chinese who would respond to the call to uphold the independence of the United States.

In the public schools on these islands 60 young ladies of Chinese parentage are engaged as teachers and perform the same duties as their Anglo-Saxon sisters—teaching the young minds of a cosmopolitan gathering in the love of country and reverence of the flag so dear to the hearts of all Americans.

In no State, Territory, or possession, over which the jurisdiction of the United States of America exists are conditions of commerce and labor the same as in the Hawaiian Islands. For here there is no competition between Chinese and white labor, therefore there can be no conflict. Chinese labor is needed for rice industry, and for assistants in stores, markets, and offices of Chinese merchants.

In these islands, with the exception of the sugar industry, the greater part of the commercial life is oriental; divided between Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, and others of Asiatic birth.

Chinese as sugar planters, rice planters, and as merchants are the largest importers and taxpayers of any other nation in the islands per capita.

As reality taxpayers, while the number of Chinese for 1915, is but 889—the least of any nationality—the assessed value of their real property was $2,084,350. The assessed value of personal taxes paid by our race is $2,224,847, almost equal to the assessed value of the Anglo-Saxons who are greater in number than the Chinese, and far above that paid by any oriental nation, in proportion, which far exceed them in population.

Notwithstanding the fact that the population of the Chinese is less than a fourth of the population of the Japanese, hundreds of our Chinese residents own their own places of business, sugar fields, pineapple plantations, rice paddies, stores, and homes, the latter of which are in conformity with all American ideas.

As business men our race is highly regarded, not only locally among the wholesale houses here, but also by firms on the mainland whose business is transacted for them between merchants, occidental and oriental—who represent the island representatives. Orders for American manufactured goods are eagerly sought for among Chinese merchants, because they know of the honesty, integrity, and faithfulness in meeting their obligations, as a majority, above that of all other oriental nations.

In the great conflagration of 1886, with a loss to our race of $1,000,000, and again in 1900, on an absolute loss by fire of $2,000,000 to Chinese merchants, with nothing to offer but their bare word that the obligations outstanding at those times would be met if given time, the wholesale and commission houses accepted these terms, and in no case was their confidence misplaced, notwithstanding the years of hard work, close economy, and privations of our merchants, every dollar and interest has been liquidated.

Instances can be cited where Chinese merchants have failed owing considerable sums, passed through bankruptcy, and been absolved by law. These men have uncomplainingly returned to mental labor, toiling for years to pay back their indebtedness, often with interest, to the last cent.

Comparing our imports from the United States in comparison to our race population and compared with that of other nations here, we are far in excess. However,
if the Chinese had been accorded the same privileges as other oriental nations, both
the importants and exports would to-day be the largest on those islands.

Our bank interest and dealings, deposits, exchange, sight drafts, letters of
credit, and all that goes to make up finance are all done under banks doing business
under the American Government.

The new Chinese-American Bank recently organized is incorporated under the laws
of the Territory of Hawaii and is in every phase of its business truly an American
institution.

Nearly 99 per cent of goods handled by our Chinese merchants, both wholesale and
retail, are of American production and manufacture—this being a marked difference
with the majority of goods handled by wholesale (especially) and retail merchants
of other Oriental nations, which are made and produced in the Far East, and for
which millions of American-earned money is sent yearly for their purchase, the gov-
ernment here and the revenue of import receiving but a small percentage—thus dem-
onstrating that the United States of America is vitally interested in merchandise
offered for sale by Chinese merchants, wholesale and retail. Therefore, if the same
conditions of labor were allowed the Chinese as other oriental nations on these islands
the imports of American goods would be far in excess of those of the present day;
by at least $10,000,000 a year to America, on purchase. And naturally would that
amount be a benefit to white labor on the mainland; an increase of revenue to the
manufacturer, railroads, steamship companies, taxes to the Territory, and revenue
to the Federal Government.

This matter alone is worthy of your consideration from a standpoint of financial
interest, an amelioration of the distinction now made between the Chinese and other
residents here of oriental birth or parentage.

The Chinese of Hawaii have always been a law-abiding race, no matter under what
government the Islands have been. Tong wars have never been nor do they exist
in Hawaii. Our Tong or societies are purely benevolent and eleemosynary institu-
tions, for without ever seeking aid beyond our own race we take care of our sick,
needy, and aged, never burdening or having recourse to the charities of other races.

We have always been willing contributors and subscribers to the great disasters of
the world—earthquakes, floods, disasters at sea, war-relief and Red Cross fund, etc.—
also lending our financial aid to the local charities of the islands as well as assisting in
matters of promotion, pageantry, etc.

Morally we point with justifiable pride to our men and women, especially the latter,
for we honestly say that 99 per cent are virtues and conduct themselves as patterns
of morality as wives, mothers, and daughters. And there can not be found in the
haunts of vice, segregated or otherwise, in the whole of the Territory of Hawaii a
Chinese woman who is an abject, resident, frequenter, or servant in any place or
district where prostitution is known to exist. This can not be said of the women of
other nations on these islands. Recently a canvas was made of the known residents
of the segregated district in Honolulu, and out of 107 of these unfortunate women 88
were of oriental birth, but not a single Chinese woman. The marriage law with our
race is sacred, whether the ceremony is performed under the old Chinese custom of
religion, the civil law of the Territory, or by those who have embraced Christianity,
and only in very rare and extreme cases is the law of divorce sought or yet desertion
of husband or wife.

As a strong and further reason for admission of Chinese labor to this Territory those
recently appeared through our local press a communication to the effect that President
Wilson appointed a commission to inquire into the means of food conservation in case
of war with any other nation. In Hawaii 136,000 people consume on an average 98
pounds of rice per month per person. In this commodity, in the vast quantity re-
quired, being grown on these islands to-day? No; hundreds of thousands of sacks are
imported from Japan yearly. Why? No Chinese laborers are admitted under the
exclusion laws. Rice to-day is raised at a loss. Hundreds of acres of rice land have
been abandoned for want of labor and other races find it more profitable to secure labor
in the cane fields than cultivate rice, thus making Japanese rice $1.75 a sack higher
to the consumer than Hawaiian grown rice.

The foregoing statements are made with a view to endeavor, if possible, that the
Government of the United States of America, and the Republic of China can enter
into a special agreement for the Territory of Hawaii; that Chinese laborers may be
admitted to the Islands; that the same privileges be accorded to the Chinese race as
to other nations of oriental race.

The Chinese are not the only Asiatic people here, there are Koreans, Siamese,
Burmese, Malays, and Japanese. The latter are the most numerous, having a pop-
ulation here of over 92,000. If none of these Orientals are interfered with, why
should the Chinese be? We are law-abiding and have no desire to enter into or
muddle with the affairs of the Government. All we ask is to be treated the same as people of other oriental nations. Is it justice to single out the Chinese for exclusion? We fear this has an effect of lowering China in the eyes of the world. We have endeavored to show that the Chinese are pioneers of the great industries of these islands; that it is not for the best interest of Hawaii to exclude Chinese from these islands where circumstances and all commercial life is totally different wherever the United States holds jurisdiction. And situated as these islands are, 2,000 miles from the American Continent there is not the slightest danger of competing or conflicting with white labor, and where there need not be and discrimination of nations of oriental birth or origin, but on the contrary by the admission of Chinese laborers the rice industry will again take its place of culture and progress. Land once under cultivation will again be put to its former use. Other lands now wastes and swamps will be acquired, and for this imports and exports beneficial to the Federal Government. Taxes in greater proportion to the Territory, as well as banking business and increase of sales, for commodities and necessities of life to the wholesale dealers and manufacturers agents in Hawaii.

These facts now placed before you are not intended as asking for privileges for the Chinese to the whole of the United States but for the benefit of the Territory of Hawaii only.

Trusting that American justice will be accorded to us. The Constitution and flag of the United States are sure to live under, respect, and obey; to you we look for protection; to the United States we give our loyalty.

That all men be equal under the law is the petition of all the Chinese of Hawaii.

THE UNITED CHINESE SOCIETY.

YEE YAP, President.