

Before closing this lengthy letter, the  
question of a Reciprocity treaty, a subject  
frequently discussed by us, would, if  
agitated at this moment be impracticable.  
For the reason that the revenue <sup>from</sup> of our Sugars  
to the United States during and after the  
Civil war, amounted nearly to one half a  
million dollars. A neat little sum for the  
reduction of the interest of the national debt,  
and as the United States has already made  
a reduction of one third percent duties on  
our sugars of higher grade and a reduction  
of one half percent on our lower grades, it  
would be greatly to her loss. The reduction  
of duties on our sugars now is a profit al-  
ready accruing to our planters. It would  
be a bad policy to agitate this matter

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Letter from King Kalākaua to "My Dear Friend" regarding the Reciprocity Treaty.  
September 28, 1872, MS Kapi'olani-Kalaniana'ole Collection Kalākaua 1.3.

for, were we to admit American goods free  
of duty, the consequence of ~~which~~ would  
be a loss to our revenue to the amount of  
a hundred thousand dollars. Of course  
it would be to our advantage if the whole  
of the duties were removed, but the question  
would be whether the United States Govern-  
-ment would undertake, under the present  
circumstances <sup>to</sup> sacrifice a ~~profit~~ where he  
on the other hand loses but a little. So  
we will let that matter rest for ~~a~~ <sup>the future.</sup> ~~while.~~

I shall wait for an ~~favorable~~  
answer, and for the present say, Aloha.

Truly Yours,

Kala Pong

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Translation of Letter from King Kalākaua to “My Dear Friend” regarding the Reciprocity Treaty. September 28, 1872, MS Kapi‘olani-Kalaniana‘ole Collection Kalakaua 1.3.

Before closing this lengthy letter, the questions of a Reciprocity Treaty, a subject frequently discussed by us, would, if agitated at this moment be impracticable. For the reason that the revenue from our Sugars to the United States during and after the Civil war, amounted nearly to one half of a million dollars. A neat little sum for the reduction of the interest of the national debt, and as the United States has already made a reduction of one third percent duties on out sugars of higher grade and a reduction of one half percent on our lower grades, it would be greatly to her loss. The reduction of duties on our sugars now is a profit already accruing to our Planters. It would be a bad policy to agitate this matter

for, were we to admit American goods free of duty, the consequence would be a loss to our revenue to the amount of a hundred thousand dollars. Of course it would be to our advantage if the whole of the duties were removed, but the question would be whether the United States government would undertake, and under the present circumstances to sacrifice a profit where she on the other hand loses but a little. So we will let that matter rest for the future.

I shall write for an  
Answer, and for the present say, aloha.

Truly Yours,  
Kalakaua