



His Majesty
The King of the Hawaiian Islands.

Sire,

During Your Majesty's
visit to this country last Spring
I have enjoyed the honor of several
audiences and also of receiving
your warm and gracious utterances,
all of which I consider to be a
great honor conferred upon myself.
I have heard that Your Majesty,
after leaving this country and
visiting famous districts and interest-
ing places of Asia, Europe, and



relating to this question of immigration, which I deem to be the best course being calculated as it is to estop all future misunderstanding respecting the matter. If Your Majesty will instruct your Minister for Foreign Affairs in reference to this matter, I shall not fail to confer with His Excellency of the method of concluding such a treaty, always taking into consideration the interest of both countries as much as possible. For the details bearing upon the point Mr. Magasaki may have further to say, and I pray Your Majesty's wisdom and foresight may cause the circumstances in which this government is placed rightly to be con-

precluded.

4. — With reference to the Revision of the existing treaty between Japan and Hawaii, Your Majesty, while staying in this country, being animated with cordial and friendly spirit, gave special instructions to Mr. William H. Armstrong, and after His Imperial Majesty's Cabinet had discussed the several articles and had arrived at a perfect understanding a new treaty was drafted which has received the approval of Your Majesty. Under this state of things, it does not seem proper for His Imperial Majesty's Government now to ask for a post-ponement for carrying it into effect, yet it is compelled

to do so, inasmuch as there is a few of
its being entangled with the most-favored-
nation clause existing in the treaties
of Japan with the powers of Europe
and America. As to the further
details connected with this question, I
have addressed a communication to
His Excellency W. L. Green Your Majesty's
Minister for Foreign Affairs, and also
to Mr. Armstrong to whose report I pray
Your Majesty will listen.


Praying for the happiness of the
Royal Family and prosperity of Your
Majesty's nation

I respectfully remain
Your Majesty's
Most Obedient Humble Servant

Inouye Kaoru

Foreign Office Tokio, February 10th 1882.

2



America, has last Autumn safely returned to your capital, for which I tender you my sincere congratulations.

With reference to the matter upon which Your Majesty has had a direct and private conversation with my August Sovereign, while you were sojourning in this country, I desire to state that a direct reply from my Sovereign is to be handed to you by Mr. Nagasaki Heigo.

I have with a profound respect received Your Majesty's words upon those matters which you have conveyed to me through Mr. Nagasaki after you left

this country, and now respectfully state to you the following replies.

1. — In proposing the marriage of His Highness the Prince Yamashina No Miya to the Royal Princess of Hawaii, Your Majesty has been animated by a desire to show to the Imperial Court a special mark of your friendship and also to express an earnest desire to promote the friendly relations existing between Japan and Hawaii.

This has been duly and circumstantially reported to my August Sovereign who, deeply appreciating your cordial dispositions, has been led to say that your sincere desire to bring the relations of the Imperial

and the Royal Courts to one of a close friendship has deeply moved his heart. Although in the face of such cordial disposition of Your Majesty it gives me a great pain, yet it is my duty to state, that, it is the custom of this country, especially prevailing among the members of the Imperial and the noble families, to be betrothed, and in accordance to this custom, His Highness the Prince, while he was yet very young, has made a promise for marriage which a few years hence is decided to be publicly celebrated. Such being the case, though the proposal is one emanat-

Letter from Inouye Kaoru to King Kalākaua; February 2, 1882

MS KC Letters !-K Box 3.36

Bishop Museum Archives; No Reproduction Without Permission



ing from such a source as Your Majesty, the circumstance thus attended with a keen sense of regret renders the Imperial Court unable to accept it. In thus being compelled to decline your proposition my Sovereign has experienced a very great pain, and it is His Majesty's especial wish to explain minutely the above circumstances.

2. — As to the construction of the submarine cable across the Pacific Ocean upon which Your Majesty was pleased privately to call Mr. Nagasaki's attention, I desire to say that I have as carefully and minutely consulted with my colleagues of the Cabinet

Letter from Inouye Kaoru to King Kalākaua; February 2, 1882
MS KC Letters I-K Box 3.36



as its possessing a close and im-
 portant connection with both your
 country and this justly demanded.
 While arriving at an unanimity
 of understanding as to the desira-
 bility of an assistance that ought
 to be given by His Imperial Maj-
 esty's government to the end that
 the project may be realized, my
 colleagues cannot shut their eyes to
 the multifarious character of the
 internal affairs of this country,
 which Your Majesty is to some
 extent aware of. Especially the
 condition of finance is such an
 embarrassing nature that, at pre-
 sent, it is difficult for His Imperial
 Majesty's government to contribute

7

money so as to give to the work
an immediate start. Moreover
when Mr. Cyrus Field, a citizen of
the United States of America,
visited this country some years ago,
he having had a similar project
of laying the submarine cable
across the Pacific Ocean, request-
ed this government, through the
United States Minister, to give cer-
tain assistance to the undertak-
ing, saying that the government
of the United States was also
to render him some help.

After a careful examination of
the nature of the request, as it
appeared to this government that
it is not only not improper but

Letter from Inouye Kaoru to King Kalākaua; February 2, 1882

MS KC Letters !-K Box 3.36

Bishop Museum Archives; No Reproduction Without Permission

8

also the work itself must prove to be useful to this country. This government favorably entertained the request, and in a measure promised Mr. Field, that, in case there should be any deficiency in the interest money to be paid out, this government shall guarantee to pay an interest not more than four per cent upon a certain proportion of the Capital stock. Under such circumstances there is no way open for this government to undertake the work in the manner pointed out by Your Majesty. I pray Your Majesty will comprehend the situation in which this question is now placed.



3. — I am advised by Your Majesty, that, in conformity to the policy of your government to increase population by inviting immigrations from other nations, you permit the people of this country to settle within the dominion of Your Majesty, if they were those who may desire to do so. I attach a great value to this policy of your government, as I am fully persuaded that this course cannot fail to become a source of great benefit to both your Majesty's country and this. When the existing treaty between your government and this is to be revised, I propose to enter in the new treaty a special provision