

## **RED RIBBONS**

And so it was a woman's love did save us from the fire  
Told her people standing down would mean their survival  
Climbing down from her throne -- Aloha 'Oe to the choir  
Took a train across America where she laid our story down

For the people of America, she prayed that they would find  
Inspiration and heart's compassion, for the peace of all mankind  
To lift the curse that's held us under – the wars of wanting, profit and plunder  
Behind the truth, and clouds thereunder  
And prisons full of sons and daughters

**Red ribbons, dangling from her hair  
Red ribbons, I see them everywhere  
Red ribbons, won't you take me there  
Red ribbons everywhere**

Now here I stand upon this land, at home on the range  
Where few have heard her prophetic words, and message that she laid  
That one day we will rise again, sons and daughters of Hawai'i nei  
And there'll be red ribbons everywhere

**Red ribbons, dangling from her hair  
Red ribbons, I see them everywhere  
Red ribbons, wont you take me there  
Oh, Red ribbons everywhere**

She wanted safety for her people, shelter from the storm  
Wanted to protect the land from the hands of the greedy horde  
Through the snow and icy embers, up the stairs to see if justice lived there  
For red ribbons that she wore

**Red ribbons, dangling from her hair  
Red ribbons, I see them everywhere  
Red ribbons, won't you take me there  
Red ribbons everywhere**

# LILIUOKALANI'S LETTER OF PROTEST TO US ANNEXATION AKA THE RED RIBBON LETTER

*What follows is Queen Lili'uokalani's letter of protest to US Annexation, which she traveled to Washington DC to deliver in June of 1897. The verification and authenticity of the letter was marked with the attachment of a red ribbon, which could only be given if the Queen delivered her letter in person. The letter of protest has, in recent times, been nicknamed the "Red Ribbon Letter" and is not only a record of her protest and her commitment to her people, the chiefs and the land but also her steadfastness, her long journey to submit her protest which could now never be delegitimized. For us, the red ribbon, then is a symbol of our own commitment to the Queen, our continued resistance to US take-over and our ongoing commitment to our country and our lands. Please do share.*

## QUEEN LILIUOKALANI'S LETTER OF PROTEST TO THE TREATY OF ANNEXATION IN 1897 IN FULL:

I, Liliuokalani of Hawaii, by the will of God named heir apparent on the tenth day of April, A.D. 1877, and by the grace of God Queen of the Hawaiian Islands on the seventeenth day of January, A.D. 1893, do hereby protest against the ratification of a certain treaty, which, so I am informed, has been signed at Washington by Messrs. Hatch, Thurston, and Kinney, purporting to cede those Islands to the territory and dominion of the United States. I declare such a treaty to be an act of wrong toward the native and part-native people of Hawaii, an innovation of the rights of the ruling chiefs, in violation of international rights both toward my people and toward friendly nations with whom they have made treaties, the perpetuation of the fraud whereby the constitutional government was overthrown, and, finally, an act of gross injustice to me.

Because the official protests made by me on the seventeenth day of January, 1893, to the so-called Provisional Government was signed by me, and received by said government with the assurance that the case was referred to the United States of America for arbitrations. Because that protest and my communications to the United States Government immediately thereafter expressly declare that I yielded my authority to the forces of the United States in order to avoid bloodshed, and because I recognized the futility of a conflict with so formidable a power.

Because the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, and an envoy commissioned by them reported in official documents that my government was unlawfully coerced by the forces, diplomatic and naval, of the United States; that I was at the date of their investigations the constitutional ruler of my people.

Because such decision of the recognized magistrates of the United States was officially communicated to me and to Sanford B. Dole, and said Dole's resignation requested by Albert S. Willis, the recognized agent and minister of the Government of the United States.

Because neither the above-named commission nor the government which sends it has ever received any such authority from the registered voters of Hawaii, but derives its assumed powers from the so-called committee of public safety, organized on or about the seventeenth day of January, 1893, said committee being composed largely of persons claiming American citizenship, and not one single Hawaiian was a member thereof, or in any way participated in the demonstration leading to its existence.

Because my people, about forty thousand in number, have in no way been consulted by those, three thousand in number, who claim the right to destroy the independence of Hawaii. My people constitute four-fifths of the legally qualified voters of Hawaii, and excluding this imported for the demands of labor, about the same proportion of the inhabitants.

Because said treaty ignores, not only the civic rights of my people, but, further, the hereditary property of their chiefs. Of the 4,000,000 acres composing the territory said treaty offers to annex, 1,000,000 or 915,000 acres has in no way been heretofore recognized as other than the private property of the constitutional monarch, subject to a control in no way differing from other items of a private estate.

Because it is proposed by said treaty to confiscate said property, technically called the crown lands, those legally entitled thereto, either now or in succession, receiving no consideration whatever for estates, their title to which has been always undisputed, and which is legitimately in my name at this date.

Because said treaty ignores, not only all professions of perpetual amity and good faith made by the United States in former treaties with the sovereigns representing the Hawaiian People, but all treaties made by those sovereigns representing the Hawaiian people, but all treaties made by those sovereigns with other and friendly peers, and it is thereby in violation of international law.

Because, by treating with the parties claiming at this time the right to cede said territory of Hawaii, the Government of the United States receives such territory from the hands of those whom its own magistrates (legally elected by the people of the United States, in an office in 1893) pronounced fraudulently in power and unconstitutionally ruling Hawaii.

Therefore I, Liliuokalani of Hawaii, do hereby call upon the President of that nation, to whom alone I yielded my property and my authority, to withdraw said treaty (ceding said Islands) from further consideration. I ask the honorable Senate of the United States to decline to ratify said treaty, and I implore the people of this great and good nation, from whom my ancestors learned the Christian religion, to sustain their representatives in such acts of justice and equity as may be in accord with the principles of their fathers, and to the Almighty Ruler of the universe, to him who judgeth righteously, I commit my cause.

Done at Washington, District of Columbia, United States of America, this seventeenth day of June, in the year eighteen hundred and ninety-seven.

**Liliuokalani**

*Joseph Heleluhe, Wokeki Heleluhe, Julius A. Palmer.....Witnesses to Signature*