

Constitutional Convention

1864

Numerous attempts had been made by Kamehameha IV to have the Constitution of 1852 amended; the right of the king to recall the constitution had been discussed in the Privy Council. Upon his accession in 1863, Kamehameha V did not take the oath to maintain the Constitution of 1852. After discussions in the cabinet, the king issued a royal proclamation on May 5, 1864 summoning the nobles and delegates of the people for "the purpose of consulting on the revision of the Constitution."

On July 7th fifteen nobles and twenty-six delegates convened with the king, but the business of the convention was the enactment of a new constitution. The convention reached an impasse over the issue of a property qualification of voters, and was dissolved by the king on August 18th. On the twentieth the king proclaimed a new constitution.

The records of the Constitutional Convention of 1864 consist of a folder of miscellaneous documents in English and Hawaiian and a bound volume of the convention proceedings with prints of related speeches and proclamations by the king.

SEE ALSO: Publications: Kuykendall, R. S., The Hawaiian Kingdom, Twenty Critical Years
Lydecker, R. C., Roster, Legislatures of Hawaii 1841-1918
Newspapers

Other Documents: FO & Ex, 1864, Local Officials, July, August
Privy Council
Cabinet Council Minute Books

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