frequent outbursts of applause and positive expressions from the audience. Half a
hundred of the leading Chinese had seats on the stage. A number of natives and a
few whites were present. A squad of police was in attendance. It is said that
nearly all the 800 vagrants of Chinatown were on hand.

The tenor of the meeting may be judged by the fact that the use of a man-of-war
was more than hinted at. The statement the Chinese paid more taxes than any
other class was made, also the claim that but for them Honolulu trade would die,
and that they had only to unite and stand firm to gain their ends.

Kam Chin, editor of one of the Chinese newspapers, called the meeting to order.
He named Lau Chung, of the Wing Wo Tai Company, as president. No one else was
mentioned. Lau Chung designated Chang Kim and Chang Den Sing as secretaries.
Next Lau Chung announced the objects of the meeting at length and read and com-
mented upon the license bill which has been placed before the councils by Attorney-
General Smith. They were gathered, Chung said, to ascertain the views of the
colony upon the proposed legislation. Chung had the act written on a sheet of
paper about as large as a page of this paper and occupied about a quarter of an hour
in placing it before the meeting.

Ing Chan, of the Tong On Jan Company, was presented as the first speaker, and
was greeted with great cheering. He made a salaam and launched out into an
impassioned tale of the wrongs of his race. When he asked: "Shall we put up with it?
" a storm of noes came from all over the house. After suggesting that they com-
unicate to the councils, he said: "If they will not listen to us, let us instruct our
representative to communicate with the Chinese minister at Washington and ask
him to write the home Government about our troubles." Chan said that up to ten
years ago the Chinese on the islands had been treated as men and as the equals of
all. They are law-abiding, but their treatment is getting worse all the time. They
do not meddle with the politics. They are now over 20,000 strong, and in varied
occupations do good for the country; and, like one big family, must unite their
forces. The white people are dissatisfied and want to impose laws that other coun-
tries would not think of passing.

The next speaker was Wong Wah Toy of the Wing Wo Tai Company, who said
they were assembled to see if all were of one mind respecting the situation.
Through their energy and industry they have made land more valuable. They
have been oppressed long enough. The Government wants to tie their hands still
more. Shall we allow it? [No, no, from the audience.] "These foreigners do not
remember their own scripture, which says 'Do unto others as you would they
should do unto you.' They claim to be an enlightened people, but I say they are not if
they act in this way. Unity is what we want and must have—unity in mind and
action. If we unite we will gain our point. [Cheers.] We must unite, but in a
peaceful way. There must be no talk yet of a man of war settling our troubles for
us. That may come later."

"I have been in the country for fifteen years," said Ching Ling Him, a clerk for
the Hawaiian Hardware Company, who says he hopes to become a merchant. "We
are not a better nor a worse class than any other. [Cheers.] If this bill passes no
man can do any business except the one allowed him by law. The Chinese pay
most of the taxes, and were it not for us the white merchants of Honolulu would be
ruined. I can not be a rich man if this law passes, and we are treated worse than
doors. We do not steal. Why do they want to make such laws against it? All we
must do is to stick together and we will come out all right."

Chung Kim, a lawyer's clerk, who brought his speech from C. W. Ashford's office,
said that the meeting was occasioned by the purpose of the Government to place
Chinese under the ban and favor Portuguese. The Chinese have been extremely
patient. They have borne oppression which would from almost any other race have
provoked revolution. The Government seems to have formed the opinion that no
injustice heaped upon the Chinese will be opposed or resented. That is a mistake.
Even a worm will turn when trodden upon, and so it may be with the despised Chi-
inese should the oppression be carried too far. Are we not all members of one great
family? Is there any reason why one of God's creatures should be trampled upon
by his brothers?

By what right do our white-skinned brothers lord it over us and to say that we
shall do business and trade and live and breathe only by their consent? Is it only
because our skins are brown and theirs are white? The Government is glad enough
to collect taxes from the Chinese, but when it comes to finding a class upon whom
the spite of all cranks shall be expended, they at once light upon the patient and
long-suffering Chinaman. The Geary Act in the United States is bad enough, but
this act proposed to be imposed upon us is even worse than that. The Hawaiian
constitution declares that the Government is established for the equal benefit of all
men and all classes, but if the Chinese license act shall pass it will show that the
Government intends to deny to us the equal benefit of the laws.