

As an example of the irresponsible signing of petitions, which have come to my personal knowledge, I was a member of the Hawaiian Legislature in 1886, and noticing a native member sitting at my side, writing at the top of a document which contained a number of signatures, I asked him what he was doing.

He replied that he was preparing a petition in support of a Bill which he had introduced.

I said, "Why you don't mean to say that you get your petition signed first, and write in the heading afterwards, do you?"

"Why certainly I do", he replied. "Its too much bother to send clear to my district to get a petition, so I had a lot of blank sheets signed up in advance, and every time I want a petition to back up one of my measures, I fill in a heading on one of these sheets". He thereupon pulled open the drawer of his desk and showed me some 20 or 30 sheets all signed in blank with a space at the top in which to insert the object of the petition.

Another member of the Hawaiian Legislature once made a wager that within a given time he could secure a hundred signatures to a petition praying the Legislature to make an appropriation to move one of the Islands so that it would be nearer to headquarters and easier to get at. He got the signatures within the time named.

Lorrin A. Thurston

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