

AM. SAMOA HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD

DIGITAL IMAGES FINDING GUIDE 4 -2026

c1885-87(91) SAMOA PAPERS OF HAWAIIAN GOVT SECRETARY ESQ. HENRY F. POOR.

Provenance:

King Kalakaua of Hawaii government papers of Secretary Henry French Poor c1885-1887(91). (Papers of the Hawaiian Historical Society).

Title: (per HHS catalog)

Hawaiian Embassy to Samoa 1887. Drafts, ltrs & papers re. 1887 Embassy to Samoa. MS 327.H31

Subtitle: (this Finding Guide): Samoan papers of Hawaii Govt. Sec. Henry F. Poor.

Authors, Records Origin:

1. Esq. Henry F. Poor. Secretary of Hawaiian Government. c1887-1891.
2. Samoan Civil War Government of Taimua/Faipule Parliament and Kings M. Laupepa and T. Tamasese 1885-1887.

Subject topics: 19th Century Polynesian politics, land, history, culture, Hawaiian-Samoan Treaty

Content Description:

Folder of Hawaiian Government Secretary Henry F. Poor papers regarding Samoan Islands before, during and after a visit to Samoa in 1887. Content range: 1722-1887. Ltrs, rpts. and clippings (1891).

Secretary Poor was a member of the 1887 Hawaiian Legation that visited Samoa aboard the Hawaiian Ship Kamiloa. The Legation visited the Tutuila and Upolu Islands of Samoa. Papers include or mention Samoan Paramount Chiefs Malietoa Laupepa; Mataafa Iosefo; and Tuiaana Tamasese. Other notables are German Consul Theodore Weber, Hawaiian Ambassador John Edward Bush and/or Walter Murray Gibson Consists of letters, corres, draft writings, essay reports. With some news clippings and genealogies also. This guide was made possible via a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission of the U.S. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Documents:

1. 6/4/1885. Prohibition of Land Sales document and other ltr. of King Tuiaana Tamasese.
Chief Secretary: Tiai.
2. James E. Nevile ltr. to Henry F. Poor Esq.: Re: Mission House Doctor. Apia, Samoa. 1887.
3. Ltr from Savaii. c1887.
4. Chronology of Samoan history. 1875-1886. 20 pgs. c1886.

5. Description of Samoan culture, geography, history. c1722-1830. c1886.
6. Letter re. Hawaii Ambassador Bush and the Hawaiian Kamiloa ship departure c1887.
7. Description of Samoa, Samoans. c1887.
8. Hawaiian – Samoan Treaty of Friendship draft? Articles I – XIII. c1886-87.
9. Ambassador John E. Bush Report on Samoa. c1887.
10. Other digital image material yet to identify/add as of 2026.