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C H A R T E R

I, W. L. Green, Minister of the Interior with the concurrence and approval of the King and Privy Council, by virtue of the power vested in me by Chapter 31 of the Civil Laws, hereby grant this Charter to K. Paele, Puaa, S. Kaainoa, S. Kipi, E. P. Hoani and others and their successors in office, to be elected and appointed as hereinafter provided, who are hereby made and constituted a Corporation and body politic in law and in fact; and shall have perpetual continuance by the name and style of "The Trustees of the First Hawaiian Church of Hilo and Congregation." or "The Trustees of the First Hawaiian Church and Society of Hilo."

Section 2. The Trustees aforesaid and their successors in office are hereby authorized and empowered to take into their possession and custody all real and personal estate belonging to the Church and Congregation; and also by their corporate name and title, to sue and be sued in all Courts of Law and Equity and to recover, hold and enjoy all debts, demands, rights and privileges and all lands, churches and meeting houses, parsonages and burying places, with their appurtenances and all other estates belonging to said church in whatsoever manner the same may have been acquired, or in whole name soever the same may be held as fully and as amply as if the right or title thereto, had originally been vested in said Trustees, and also to purchase and hold other real and personal estate, and to demise, lease, and improve, and sell the same for the benefit of the said Church, so long as the whole real and personal estate shall not exceed the annual value or income of Ten Thousand Dollars, and also to erect churches and also a dwelling house or parsonage and appurtenances for the use of the stationed minister or preacher of the same in accordance with the wish and demand of said Church and Congregation, and to repair or alter any and all of the said buildings, and to make rules and regulations governing their duties as such Trustees;

*Copy not brought
from original as shown
to the
Office*

The Trustees aforesaid shall elect each and every year a President, a Secretary and a Treasurer as officers for said Trustees.

The President shall be the Presiding Chairman; and he shall render an annual report of the activities of the Church and Congregation at the end of each year; and the Secretary shall write in a book provided for the purpose all rules and regulations made by the said Trustees and all expenditures approved by them; the Treasurer shall hold all funds belonging to the said Church; and he shall not pay any money without the order from the said Trustees and countersigned by the President and Secretary.

Section 3. In thirty days after the granting of this Charter the term of office of the Trustees aforesaid shall expire and election of their successors shall take place; and the Trustees aforesaid shall be divided into three divisions; Division Number 1, their term of office to expire one year from the date of election; Division Number 2, their term of office to expire two years from the date of election; and Division 3, their term of office to expire three years from the date of election; so that one-third of the said Trustees be elected each and every year as herein expressed.

The Trustees aforesaid holding office for the term of three years from the date of their election shall, when vacancy occurs by death or other cause of a Trustee or Trustees, elect a suitable person or persons to fill the place for the remaining term of office until the meeting of the Church and Congregation at the end of that year and at which time the regular election of Trustees and other Officers shall take place.

Fifteen days before the expiration of the term of any Division of Trustees each and every year, the Trustees by instrument signed by their President and Secretary, send to the Minister of said Church, and in his absence to any Officer

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in charge of the Church; the names of the Trustees whose term of office will expire; and the Minister or anyone of the said Trustees shall announce such fact to the congregation at the meeting house for two Sundays for the election of Officers for the year; and if there shall be no meeting at the meeting house; then notice of election of trustees prescribed by the said Trustees be published; and such election shall be held six days before the expiration of the term of office of the then Trustees.

Section IV. All those who are of the age of twenty years and over and who attend regularly the meetings of said Church; and support the maintenance of the stationed minister of said Church shall be eligible to vote by ballot or by show of hands at the meetings of the Congregation and the election of Trustees. Anyone who is not eligible to vote at the meetings of the Congregation cannot vote for the election of Trustees.

Section V. The Trustees aforesaid or a majority of said Trustees shall enter into an Agreement with the stationed Minister of said Church; said stationed Minister being elected by a two-thirds' vote or a majority vote of the members in good standing agreeing to pay the annual stipend for the support of said stationed Minister of said Church; and the amount of said annual stipend shall be agreed upon by the majority of those eligible to vote at meeting called by the Trustees for such purpose; the amount of the annual stipend be drawn from the fund of the said Church and Congregation.

The Trustees aforesaid or their successors in office cannot appoint a stationed Minister of said Church contrary to the rules and regulations as prescribed by this Charter.

This, however, does not affect the present stationed Minister, the Rev. Titus Coan, except he resigns his office or on his death then this clause will be in full force and effect.

Should there be a dispute or a division in the said Church or Congregation and the majority of the Officers

are with the opposition leaving a small minority of the members with the remaining Trustees who are faithful to the teachings of the Missionaries of the American Board of Missionaries; and the said majority cannot sell the real and personal estate of said Church.

VI. Two members of the Board of Trustees may call a meeting of said Trustees; and if a quorum is present they may transact business as prescribed in this Charter.

VII. The Trustees aforesaid cannot sell and convey any real estate in whole or a portion of said real estate in their possession without the written consent of five-sixths of all the Trustees; and the deed to said real estate shall be signed by the President and Secretary of said Board of Trustees.

VIII. The Corporation hereby granted shall not be dissolved for any neglect to fill vacancies in the Board of Trustees as provided in the Charter; provided all vacancies are filled within one year from and after the time when a vacancy may happen; and the Trustees in office until the vacancy is filled, shall be vested with all the rights and privileges of a full Board of Trustees, but in case any vacancy should not be filled within one year after it occurs, then the real and personal property of the said First Hawaiian Church of Hilo and Congregation shall revert to the Board of Hawaiian Mission.

IX. This Charter shall continue in force forever from the date of the signature, but may be annulled at any time for good and sufficient cause, as prescribed, in the Act to organize corporations.

Given under my hand and seal of the Interior Department
this 26th day of June, A. D. 1874.

W. L. Green,
Minister of Interior.