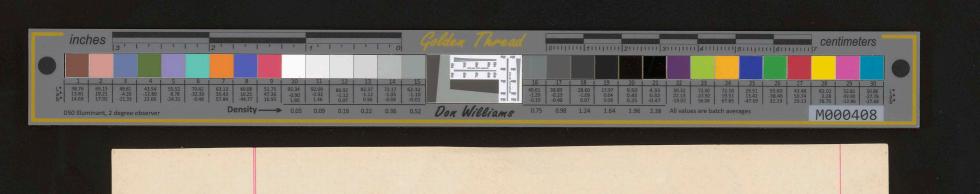


Petition for Chinese Rights

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Dr. C. T. RODGERS,

Secretary,

Constitutional Convention.

Sir:-

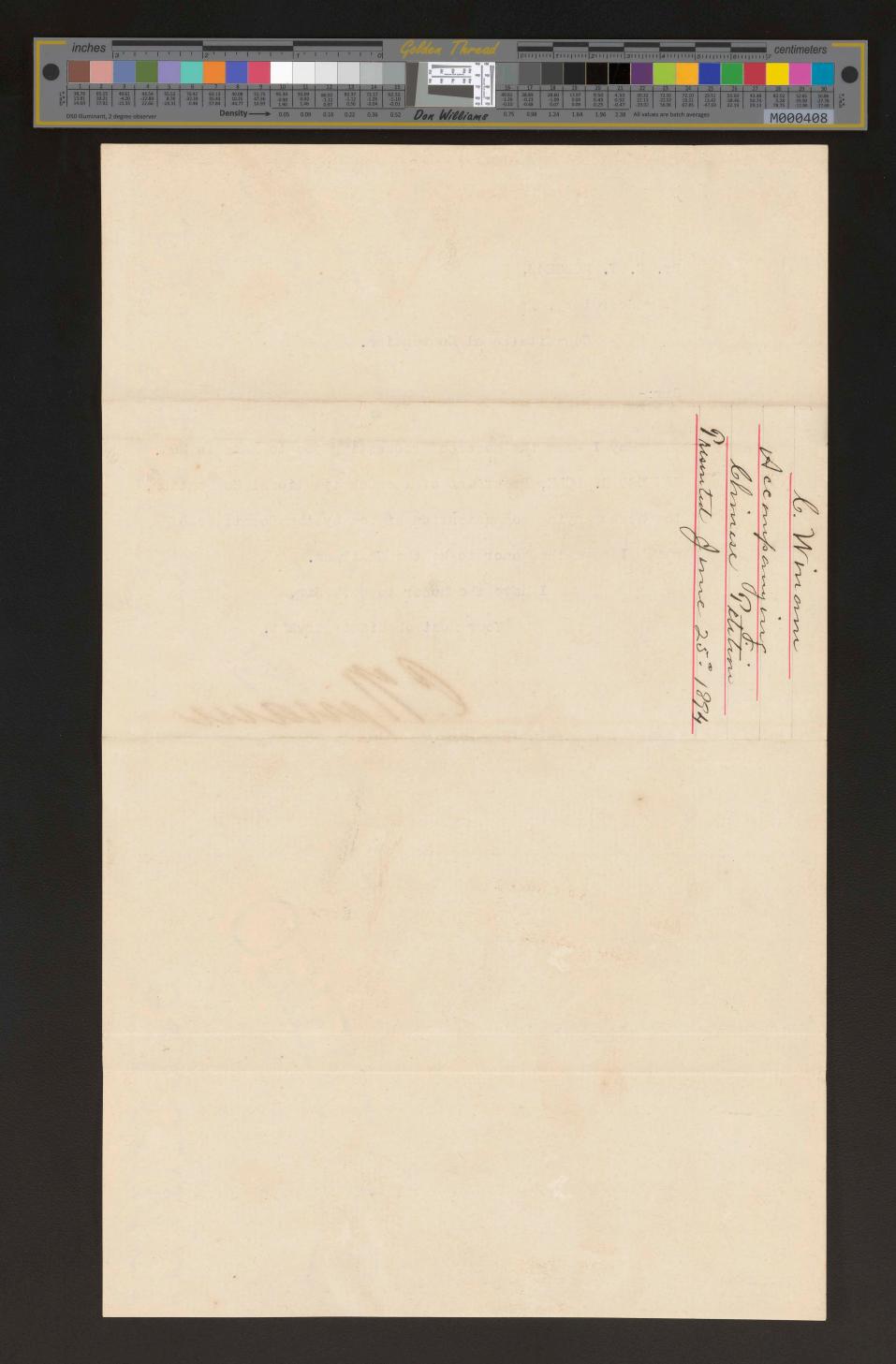
May I have the honor of requesting you to hand to HON.

SANFORD B. DOLE, President of the Constitutional Convention,
the accompanying communication signed by the Committee of
which I have the honor to be the Chairman.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

Minan



To the President and the Executive and Advisory Councils

of the Provisional Government of the

Hawaiian Islands.

We, the undersigned most respectfully request your permission to present to your Excellencies and the Honorable Councillors the following statement and petition and ask of you to give it most careful consideration.

While the right of petition is denied by you to no one, we are, in this instance, constrained to address you directly, instead of through the customary Diplomatic Channels inasmuch as our Commercial Agents possess in the absence of a treaty between China and Hawaii, insufficient diplomatic authority to call your attention to the matters we most respectfully desire to present to you.

We wish to be fair and frank and prefer in the first place to invite your assistance in the interests of the adopted country of many of us, rather than to communicate with His Excellency, His Imperial Majesty's Representative at Washington before so doing.

We are also induced to take this informal manner of approaching you as a result of the recent elections conclusively show that a Constitutional Convention will shortly be held to removed the constitution and the form of the Hawaiian Government.

We feel assured that your Honorable Councils will not controvert the statement that the Chinese possess very large and important vested interests in this country, and that they may justly claim to be considered among the heaviest payers of taxes, duties and other contributions to the revenues of the state in comparison with the people of all other nations. It is not deemed advisable to encumber this petition with statistics to prove this assertion.

It is known to you that the Chinese merchants and planters have always been firm supporters of the Constitutional Gowernment of Hawaii. Our Societies have endeavored and are endeavoring to support our sick and poor and to send park out of the country the criminals and vagrants, without cost to the Government, if the Covernment will only strenghten our hands so that we can appeal to our Minister at Washington, and through him to the Imperial Authorities, we can and will do much more.

While we are thoroughly conversant with the fact that no Treaty exists between Hawaii and China we are also fully aware that negotiations for a Treaty have, in the past, been under consideration by the Representative Ministers of both countries and have failed.

It is our opinion that if, when the Constitutional Convention meets, it will not regard the Chinese residing in the Hawaiian Islands as a proscribed race, but will accord to them the privileges due to them by their influence, standing and wealth, that a Treaty of reciprosal benefit to Hawaii and China might result.

We who have made these Islands our home for many years

have increased the value of your lands from nominal prices to high ones, say from \$5. to \$250. an acre, thus increasing the revenue of the country, have inter married with Hawaiians who have given to us children born in this land, educated in your own schools, and inter warried with your own race.

married with your own race.

Many of us have become naturalized citizens of this
country and have by our efforts brought to you considerable trade

have increased the value of your lands from nominal prices to high ones, say from \$5. to \$250. an acre, thus increasing the revenue of the country, have inter married with Hawaiians who have given to us children born in this land, educated in your own schools, and inter married with your own race.

Many of us have become naturalized citizens of this

Many of us have become naturalized citizens of this country and have by our efforts brought to you considerable trade and commerce. It has been alike beneficial to you as to us.

Therefore we think that we are entitled to some greater respect from the Government than has heitherto been politically accorded to us. We do not think that we should be regarded in the same light as our fellow-countrymen in the United States of America.

We have been associated withmyou so long commercially, financially, and socially, have learned your language, manners and customs, and have endeavored to assist you in every legitimate manner. Many of us in the early days received the encouragement of the Hawaiian Governments to assist in building up the commerce of the Islands. In the matter of trade alone we are not selfish, for we purchase many of our goods from the Importers of your own race.

Your experience and your interests tell you that the plantations sugar, rice and fruit, are almost "the life of the land". Laborers are required to cultivate these plantations, and for a certain class of work, especially on rice and banana plantations, the Chinese labor is the only one perfectly adapted to that work while in many other kinds of labor they are unequaled.

It seems to us doubtful if, under the existing circumstan-

ces, and to the what we regard as unjust restrictions placed upon our countrymen by the government, whether, if Chinese laborers are required here by the planters, directly or indirectly through the government or otherwise they can be obtained unless some privileges are accorded to us and to them. It stands to reason that we cannot be expected to assist others if injustice is done to us.

Before presenting the following petition to you we hereby guarantee that if our prayer meets with your respectful and favorable consideration to take such action by petition, or otherwise, as may influence the Imperial Chinese Government Officials to endeavor to obtain a more beneficial understanding between Hawaii and China, by Treaty or otherwise, than at present exists.

We therefore humbly pray that your Excellencies and the Honorable Councillors will place before the Constitutional Convention, when it meets, the following suggestions on our behalf.

First. A negociation either of a Treaty of friendship, commerce, and navigation, or a labor convention, between the Hawaiian and Imperial Chinese Governments.

Second. The granting of a franchise to all Chinese who have become naturalized subjects or citizens of the Hawaiian Islands, or who have been born therein, or born of Hawaiian wives.

Third. A Representative in the Advisory Council or such body as may succeed it.

Fourth. That the right of franchise be granted to all such Chinese as may be competent to qualify under the electoral provisions of the new constitution.

Fifth. Reciprocity of treatment as under the most favored nation

clause " of Treaties with other powers, pending the consumation of a Treaty between Hawaii and The Imperial Chinese Government; or in other words equal rights with those of all other alien residents, subjects or citizens.

And your Petitioners will ever humbly pray, etc.

Konolulu, May 9 1894.



Fifth. Reciprocity of treatment as under the most favored nation

clause " of Treaties with other powers, pending the consumation of a Treaty between Hawaii and The Imperial Chinese Government; or in other words equal rights with those of all other alien residents, subjects or citizens.

And your Petitioners will ever humbly pray, etc.

Honolulu, May 9 1894.

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To the HONORABLE SANFORD B. DOLE,

President of the Constitutional Convention of the Hawaiian Islands.

Sir:-

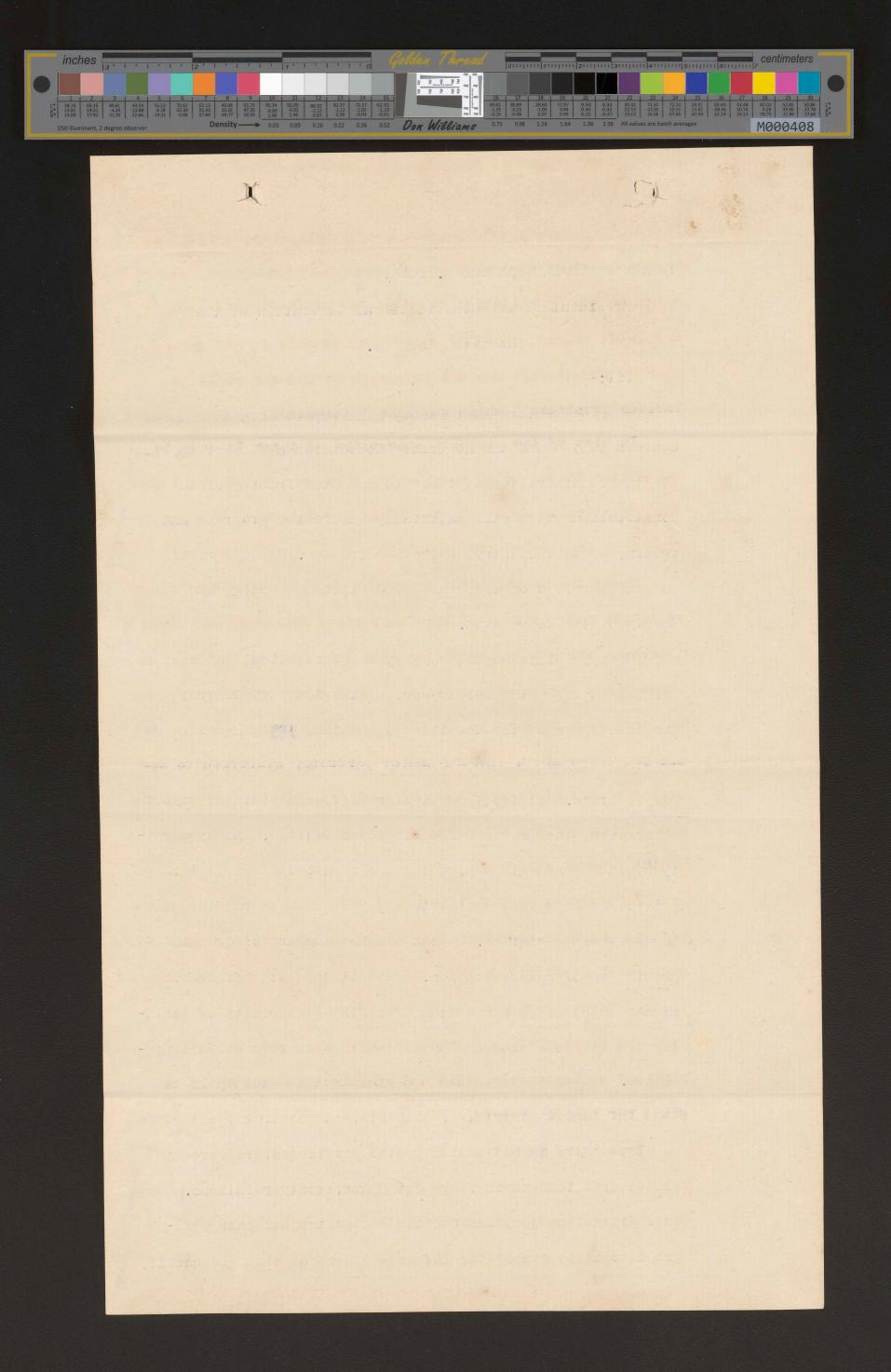
We venture most humbly and respectfully to again address to you and the Honorable Convention a further appeal for the consideration of those to whom the framing of the constitution which will materially ensure the progress and destiny of this country has been entrusted. We have relied and still rely upon the sense of Justice and dictates of Equity of the Convention.

We appreciate most throughly the theoretical concessions granted to us by the able report of the Attorney General and his colleagues of the Committee on Legislature and we are pleased that we have received such recognition as that report has accorded. But from practical relief or assistance we are debarred by the provisions of the Constitution, and apparently by the amendment adopted to Paragraph 5 of article I8, such privileges as we have hitherto enjoyed may be hereafter held to have been curtailed. On the one hand we are offered the privileges of naturalization, denization and the franchise if we can qualify, and on the other the possibility of qualification is so surrounded by limitations as to be almost precluded.

The fact that we have, hitherto, had no treaty with this country debars us but admits to the privileges, referred to all other aliens having, or having had, treaty relations.

Would it not be just and equitable to eliminate this paragraph so as to enable such of us who are competent to qualify

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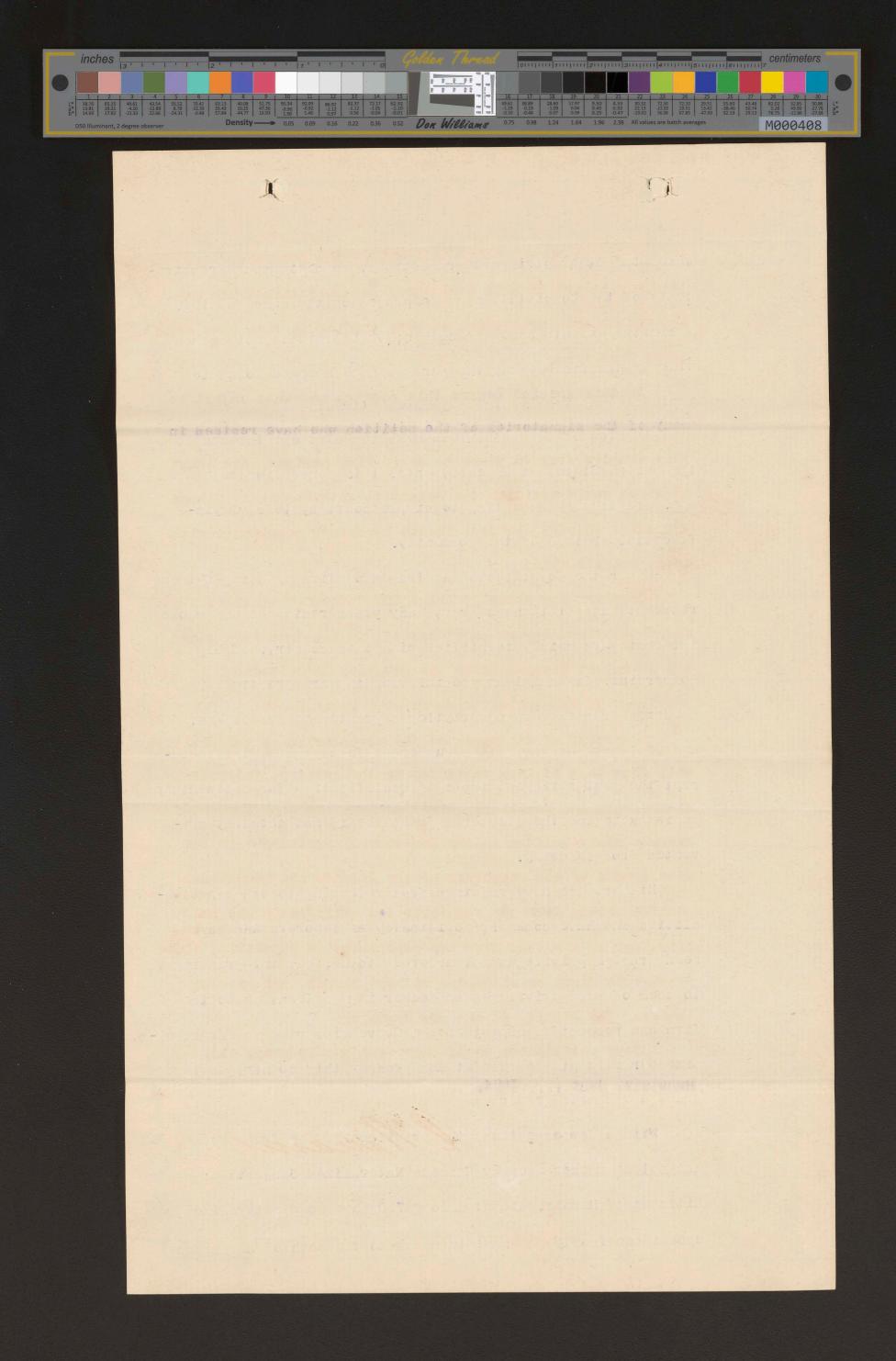
under the other stringent precautions, conditions and requirements of the Constitution to be placed on the same footing, a limited extent, as other aliens; or if this is not deemed wise or practicable may the paragraph be amended so as to include countries " which may have " (treaties)

In view of the probable annexation of these Islands to the United States at an early date, this concession would be one, practically amounting to simple courtesy to a veryinfluential section of the community.

Under the Comstitution as framed on first reading Chinese residents and citizens of very many years residence and whose interests are mainly identified with this country, of high commercial, financial and social standing are practically debarred from exercising privileges granted to all others, and yet there are a limited number perfectly qualified to accept the most stringent tests of qualification for citizenship denizenship and the electoral franchise if not actually prevented from so doing.

Hitherto we have refained from referring to other nationalities who have come here originally as laborers and have been granted privileges not accorded to us, but the granting to them of such privileges and debarring us leads us to the firm and respectful hope that the Convention will so far recognize our attempts to benefit and prosper this country as to grant our humble prayers.

With a few exceptions the privilege of the franchise has not been exercised by Chinese Naturalized Subjects or Citizens of Hawaii, although some 750 have been naturalized upon indentically the same terms as to the oath of allegiance



as the aliens of all other nations. By the proposed constitution may it not be said that these naturalizations are annulled and such privileges as were granted to them have been taken from them.

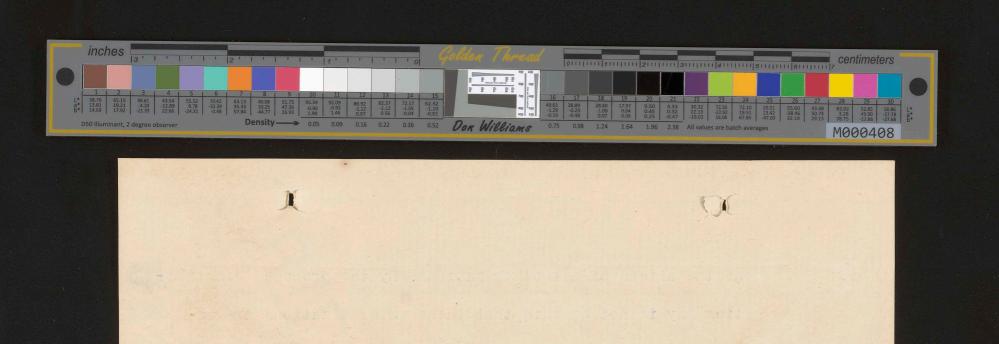
In this special regard this appears somewhat unjust to many of the signatories of the petition who have resided in this country from 43 years to decreasing periods, the least of which would entitle the holder to citizenship in almost any other country, subject to the necessary compliance with legal requirements.

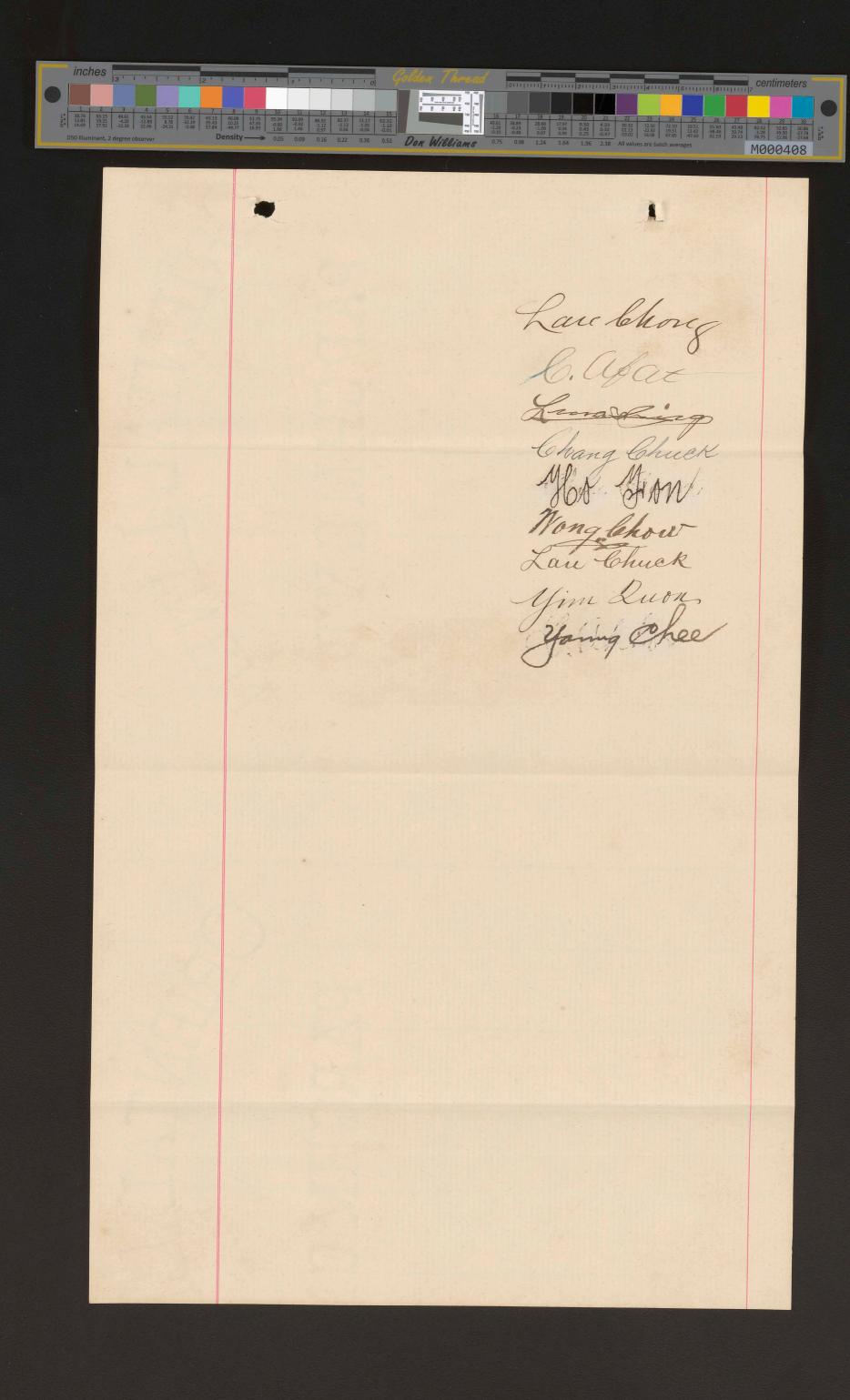
There are now probably about 200 Chinese, naturalized under former Governments, who could qualify as electors even under the stringent provisions of the proposed Constitution, if the privilege of attempting to do so were accorded.

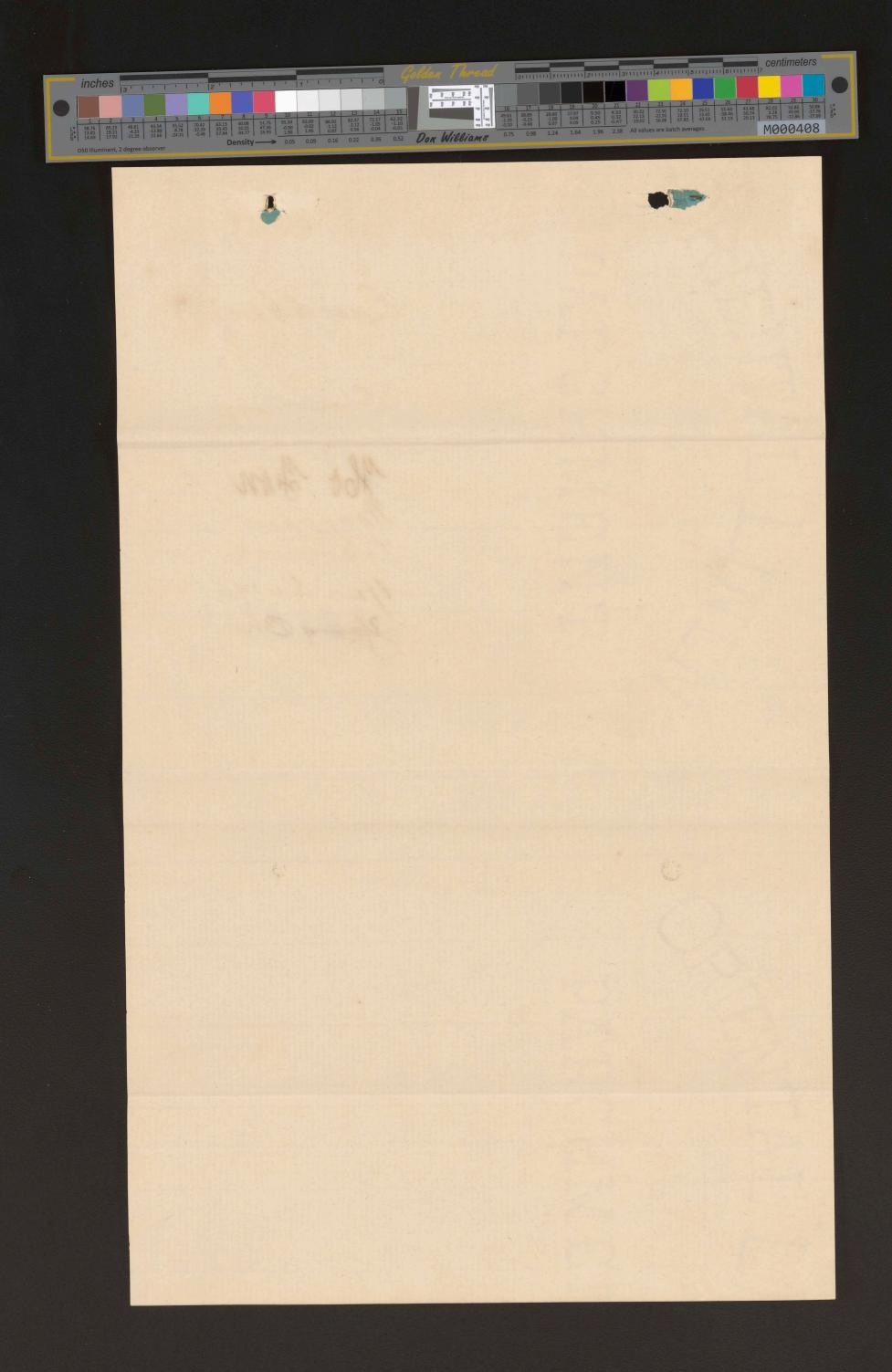
A perusal of the names of the signatories to the petition will show that if long residence in the country, intermarriages with the Hawaiians, civilization, material interests revenue contributions to the Government, assistance in the development of the resources of the Islands and educational qualifications form the requisite for citizenship and the privilege of the franchise the experiment of permitting those privileges might be attempted without danger, and without lowering the dignity of the new Republic.

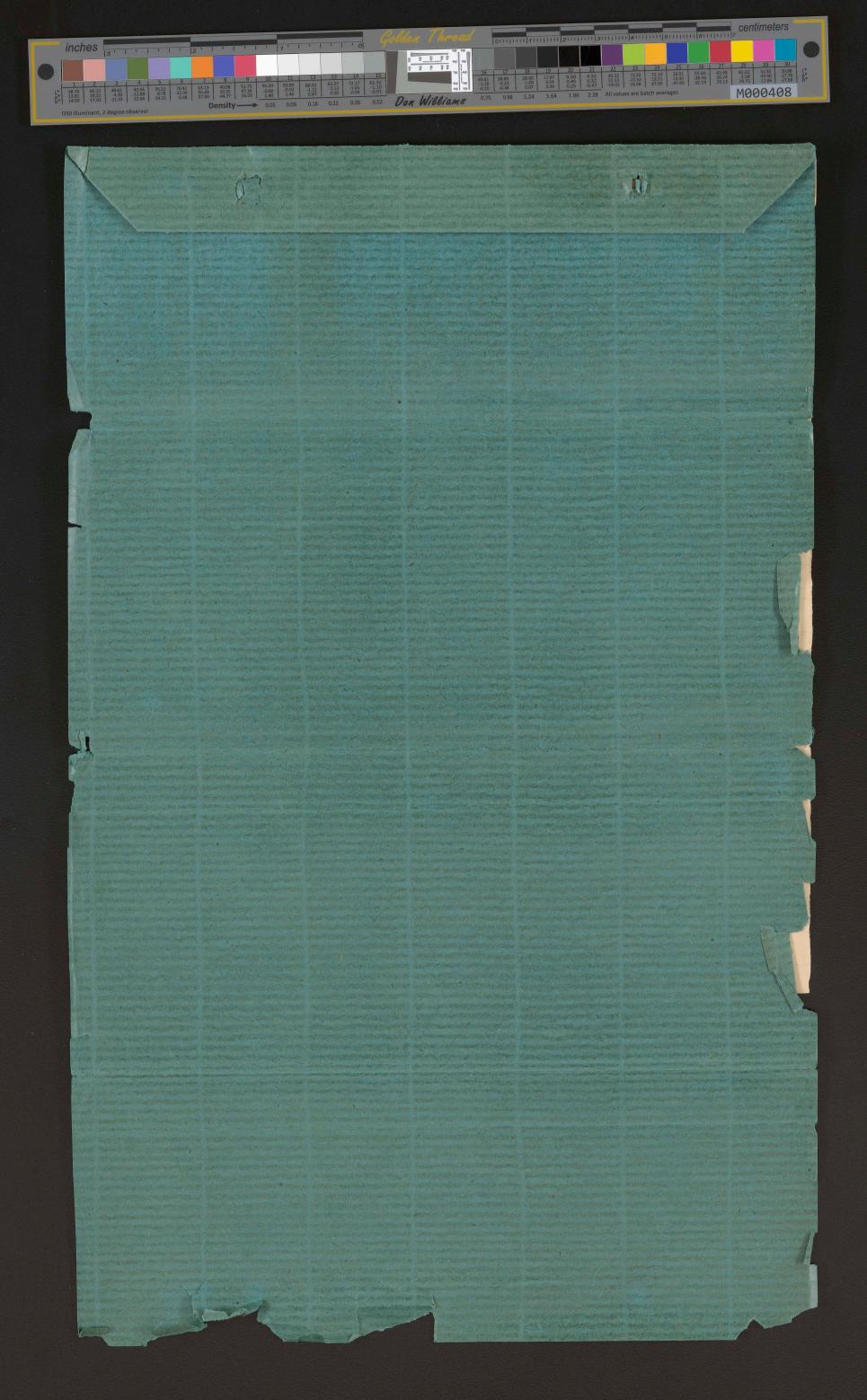
Your petitioners would therefore humbly pray, etc. Honolulu, June 2.3.71894.

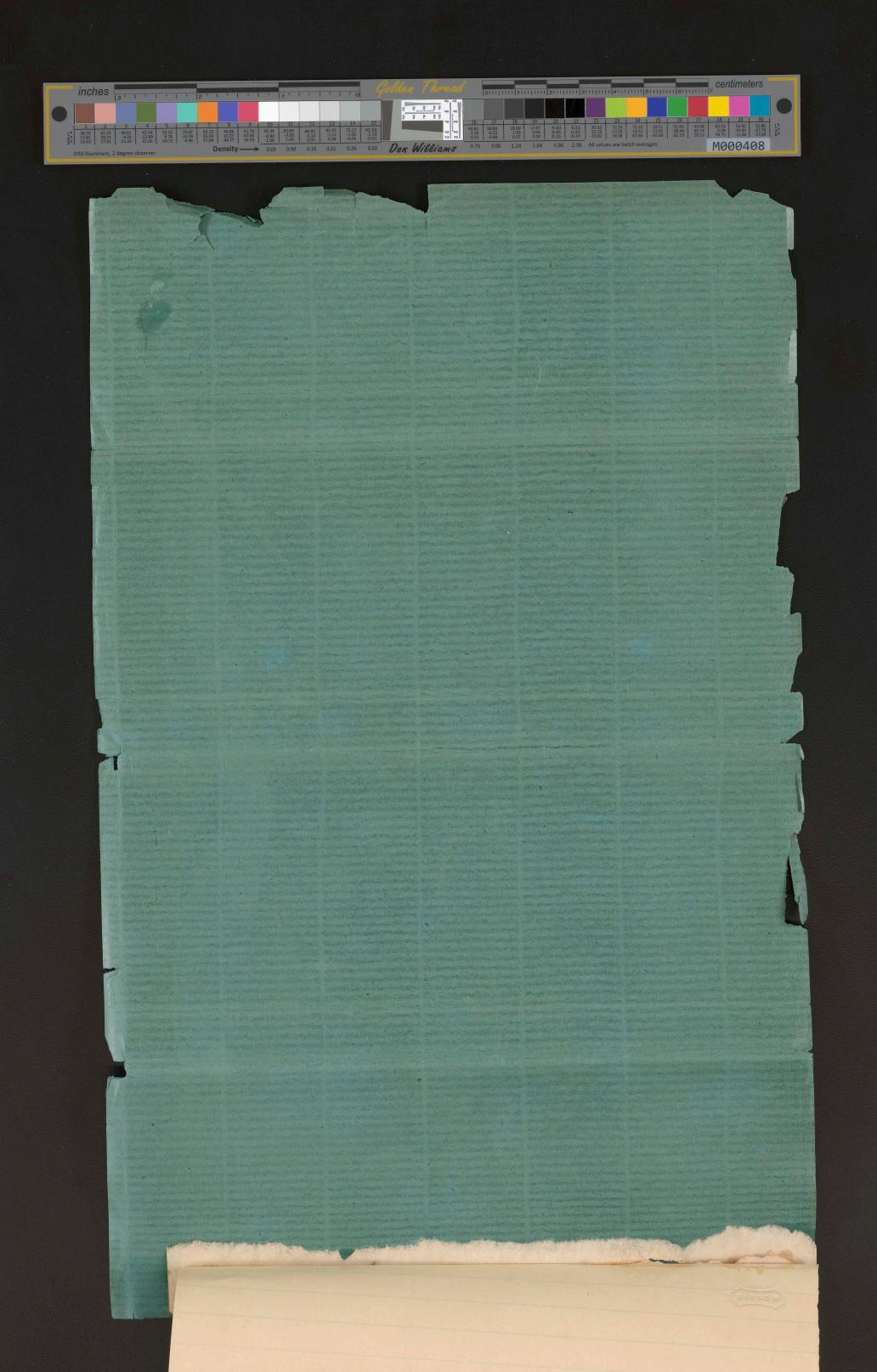
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Chrise Ridner Petition on Electric Franchis (1:2)

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