

02/09/2020

1831 letter to King William IV - He Whakaputanga - Declaration of Independence - Te Ara Encyclopedia of New Zealand

Story: He Whakaputanga – Declaration of Independence

1831 letter to King William IV



This letter was sent to King William IV by 13 Māori chiefs from the Bay of Islands in 1831. Its main aim was to seek the king's protection against the French, who had recently sent a naval vessel to New Zealand. The chiefs were also concerned about inter-tribal conflict and the misconduct of British subjects, and wanted the king to defend them against lawlessness so everyone could live peacefully together.

Using this item

United Kingdom National Archives

Reference: CO201/221 Enclosure 8, no. 4

This item has been provided for private study purposes (such as school projects, family and local history research) and any published reproduction (print or electronic) may infringe copyright law. It is the responsibility of the user to obtain clearance from the copyright holder.

How to cite this page:

Basil Keane, 'He Whakaputanga - Declaration of Independence - Background to the declaration', Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/zoomify/35114/1831-letter-to-king-william-iv> (accessed 2 September 2020)
Story by Basil Keane, published 20 Jun 2012





Signed 5 October 1831.