

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 peaceably together.

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Amanare

No 12



Matangi

Tara

Toumuri

ed in the presence of the Committee of
aries at Newkeri. Oct 5. - 1831.

William Gate
Secretary.

Signed 5 October 1831.