
A BILL FOR AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION TO COMMEMORATE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF
HAWAII'S RANCHING COMMUNITY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Hawaii ranching
2 community has made significant and substantial contributions to
3 Hawaii's economic and cultural vitality. Since the arrival of
4 cattle and horses in 1793 and 1803, respectively, the
5 multiethnic culture and proud heritage of the livestock industry
6 has been, and will continue to be, a positive influence upon
7 life in Hawaii. Until 1908, when the territory of Hawaii had
8 been in existence for only eight years, Hawaii was virtually
9 unknown to the American ranching industry. A few American
10 ranchers had sold livestock to buyers who said they were taking
11 them to Hawaii, a destination known to most Americans only as an
12 island kingdom consisting of grass shacks and some sugar cane
13 producers.

14 In July 1908, however, a particular event changed these
15 perceptions of Hawaii. The Cheyenne, Wyoming ("Waiomina" in the
16 Hawaiian language), Frontier Days Rodeo, then in its eleventh
17 year of existence, was known as the greatest and grandest



1 western rodeo. A winner in the Cheyenne competition was
2 acknowledged in American ranching circles as a true champion.
3 In 1908, Eben Low, a Hawaii rancher, picked three of the best
4 Hawaiian cowboy ropers, known as paniolo, that he could find and
5 entered them in the rodeo at Cheyenne. They took first, third,
6 and sixth places in steer roping, and the cowboy world on the
7 continental United States was stunned. It became obvious that
8 the Hawaii men who could win using borrowed horses were expert
9 horsemen and could use well-trained horses that they had trained
10 themselves. Within a year or so, the horses of Hawaii had
11 attracted the critical eyes of the United States military, when
12 the cavalry at that time rode horses and mules instead of
13 four-wheel-drive cargo trucks. By World War II, Hawaii horses
14 were considered better for military purposes than those raised
15 and trained in the continental United States. General George
16 Patton, who later led the United States tank cavalry in World
17 War II, came to Hawaii as a major and bought, trained, and rode
18 Hawaii's excellent horses.

19 During the kingdom of Hawaii and the territory of Hawaii,
20 as well as during the two world wars, the Hawaii ranching
21 industry supplied the beef and mutton needs of both the civilian
22 and military populations of Hawaii. Today, the continental



1 United States beef industry favors Hawaii-raised cattle because
2 they are hardy, noted for rapid weight gain, and have an
3 excellent reputation with consumers.

4 The purpose of this Act is to establish a commission to
5 develop a centennial celebration commemorating the recognition
6 of Hawaii's ranching community by the American government and
7 agribusiness sectors.

8 SECTION 2. There is established a temporary commission to
9 be known as the Waiomina centennial celebration commission,
10 which shall have charge of all arrangements for the
11 commemoration of the centennial anniversary of the Cheyenne
12 Frontier Days Championship of 1908. The commission shall be
13 placed within the office of the governor for administrative
14 purposes and shall cease to operate after December 31, 2008.

15 SECTION 3. The commission shall consist of nine members to
16 be appointed by the governor without regard to section 26-34,
17 Hawaii Revised Statutes. The members shall represent
18 government, ranching, agribusiness, tourism, culture and the
19 arts, and the community at large. The governor shall designate
20 the chair of the commission from among the appointed members.
21 An individual appointed to another commission is eligible to be
22 appointed as a member of this commission.



1 The members shall not receive compensation for their
2 services but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses,
3 including travel expenses, incurred in the performance of their
4 duties under this Act.

5 Any member of the commission shall be immune from civil
6 liability as provided for under section 26-35.5, Hawaii Revised
7 Statutes.

8 SECTION 4. The Waiomina centennial celebration commission
9 shall:

- 10 (1) Prepare an overall program to celebrate the centennial
11 anniversary of the Wyoming championship by
12 commemorating the multicultural contributions of both
13 ranchers and cowboys to the development of this state;
- 14 (2) Identify a nonprofit organization that will be
15 responsible for any moneys received or expended for
16 the centennial anniversary celebration; and
- 17 (3) Develop, plan, and coordinate the various program
18 activities to be scheduled throughout the year of the
19 celebration and encourage the participation of all
20 segments of the tourism, agricultural, and ranching
21 communities.



1 In fulfilling its responsibilities, the Waiomina centennial
2 celebration commission shall consult, cooperate with, and seek
3 advice from appropriate organizations and agencies.

4 SECTION 5. The Waiomina centennial celebration commission
5 may seek grants from public and private sources and may accept
6 donations to finance the projects, programs, and activities of
7 the centennial anniversary celebration. Any funds received by
8 the commission shall be submitted to the nonprofit organization
9 responsible for any moneys received or expended for the
10 centennial anniversary celebration.

11 Chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall not apply to
12 any grant or subsidy made pursuant to this Act by the
13 legislature. All property acquired by the commission shall be
14 deposited for preservation in the Hawaii state public library
15 system, museums, and public archives or shall otherwise be
16 disposed of as directed by the commission.

17 SECTION 6. Prior to the convening of the regular session
18 of 2008, the Waiomina centennial celebration commission shall
19 submit to the governor and the legislature a status report of
20 its activities, including:

21 (1) Documentation of the activities planned or implemented
22 for the centennial anniversary celebration; and



1 (2) An accounting of all moneys received and disbursed by
2 the nonprofit organization responsible for the
3 financial management of funds appropriated to the
4 commission.

5 SECTION 7. At the end of its term, the Waiomina centennial
6 celebration commission shall submit to the governor and the
7 legislature a final report of its activities, including:

8 (1) Documentation of the activities implemented for the
9 centennial anniversary celebration; and

10 (2) An accounting of all moneys received and disbursed by
11 the nonprofit organization responsible for the
12 financial management of funds appropriated to the
13 commission.

14 SECTION 8. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000, or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, to be
17 used by the Waiomina centennial commission as matching funds for
18 the commemoration of the contributions of the ranching industry
19 to Hawaii.

20 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of the
21 governor for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
2 provided that section 8 shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



Report Title:

Commission; Waiomina Centennial Celebration Commission

Description:

Establishes the Waiomina centennial celebration commission to commemorate the contributions of Hawaii's ranching community. Appropriates funds (HB1735 HD1).

