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## 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 four-  
13 wheel-drive cargo trucks. By World War II, Hawaii horses were  
14 considered better for military purposes than those raised and  
15 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 time of the kingdom of Hawaii and the territory  
20 of Hawaii, as well as during the two world wars, the Hawaii  
21 ranching industry helped to meet the beef and mutton needs of  
22 both the civilian and military populations of Hawaii. Today,



1 the continental United States beef industry favors Hawaii-raised  
2 cattle because they are hardy, noted for rapid weight gain, and  
3 have an 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 \$                    or so  
16          much 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.

22          SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



H.B. NO. 1735  
H.D. 2  
S.D. 1

**Report Title:**

Waiomina Centennial Celebration Commission

**Description:**

Establishes the Waiomina centennial celebration commission to commemorate the contributions of Hawaii's ranching community. Appropriates funds. Effective July 1, 2050. (SD1)

