

MAR 12 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY ON JUNE 19 OF EACH
YEAR.

1 WHEREAS, more than one hundred thirty years old, Juneteenth
2 National Freedom Day is the oldest and only African-American
3 holiday observance in the United States; and
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5 WHEREAS, also known as Emancipation Day, Emancipation
6 Celebration, Freedom Day, Jun-Jun, and Juneteenth, Juneteenth
7 National Freedom Day commemorates the strong survival instinct
8 of African-Americans who were first brought to this country
9 stacked in the bottom of slave ships in a month-long journey
10 across the Atlantic Ocean known as the Middle Passage; and
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12 WHEREAS, approximately eleven and one-half million African-
13 Americans survived the voyage to the New World - the number that
14 died is likely greater - only to be subjected to whipping,
15 castration, branding, and rape, and forced to submit to slavery
16 for more than two hundred years after arrival in the United
17 States; and
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19 WHEREAS, events in the history of the United States that
20 led to the Civil War of 1861 centered around sectional
21 differences between the North and South that were based on the
22 economic and social divergence caused by the existence of
23 slavery; and
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25 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as President of
26 the United States in 1861, and as President, Lincoln believed
27 and stated that the paramount object of the Civil War was to
28 save the Union rather than save or destroy slavery; and
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30 WHEREAS, Lincoln also stated his wish that all men
31 everywhere could be free, thus adding to a growing anticipation
32 by slaves that their ultimate liberation was at hand; and
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1 WHEREAS, in 1862, the first clear sign that the end of
2 slavery was imminent came when laws abolishing slavery in the
3 territories of Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Oklahoma were
4 passed; and

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6 WHEREAS, in September of that same year, President Lincoln
7 warned the eleven rebellious Confederate States that if they did
8 not return to the Union by January 1, 1863, he would declare
9 their slaves forever free via the celebrated Emancipated
10 Proclamation; and

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12 WHEREAS, enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation,
13 however, only occurred in Confederate States once under Union
14 Army control, and Congress subsequently passed the Thirteenth
15 Amendment to the Constitution on January 31, 1865, abolishing
16 slavery throughout the United States and its territories; and

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18 WHEREAS, news of this action reached the states at
19 different times, and it was not until June 19, 1865, that the
20 message of freedom reached the slaves in Arkansas, California,
21 Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas; and

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23 WHEREAS, spontaneous celebrations erupted throughout the
24 country when African-Americans learned of their freedom; and

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26 WHEREAS, Juneteenth National Freedom Day celebrates the
27 abolishment of slavery with excitement and great joy and is a
28 reminder to all Americans of the status and importance of
29 Americans of African descent as American citizens; now,
30 therefore,

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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
33 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the
34 House of Representatives concurring, that this body recognizes
35 Juneteenth National Freedom Day on June 19 of each year; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
38 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor.

39
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41 OFFERED BY:

Thannu Chun Wai
Will Tye



S.C.R. NO. 113

*With
Sincerely,
Dan*

*Randy R. Bell
Hans & Co.*

