## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION REGARDING THE EARLY SETTLERS OF AFRICAN ANCESTRY AND THEIR HAWAIIAN AFRICAN DESCENDANTS.

WHEREAS, people of African ancestry made numerous significant contributions to all phases of Hawaii's development and history since their arrival in the eighteenth century; and

WHEREAS, combined with the rich culture of Native Hawaiians, people of African ancestry continue to impact and influence life in Hawaii, particularly with the President of the United States, Barack Obama, being a Hawaii born person of African ancestry; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii can no longer ignore the early settlers' history which was embedded in the fabric of these islands long before the missionaries arrived in 1820, with the descendants of these settlers still living among us today; and

WHEREAS, to recognize the history of the early settlers of African ancestry and Hawaiian African descendants, acknowledging their many contributions and common threads within Hawaii's society, and to educate local residents and young people about the diverse culture and roots within our islands' multicultural society; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that the Governor is urged to establish a commission regarding the early settlers of African ancestry and their Hawaiian African descendants to educate residents, young people, and visitors to Hawaii about the significance and impact of the early settlers of African

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ancestry and their Hawaiian African descendants' experiences in Hawaii; and

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

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OFFERED BY:

JAN 25 2016