

JAN 23 2020

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO THE 1924 HANAPEPE MASSACRE.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that on September 9,  
2   1924, there occurred a tragic event that has come to be known as  
3   the Hanapepe Massacre. The massacre involved the killing of  
4   sixteen sugar plantation workers of Filipino descent in  
5   Hanapepe, Kauai. The workers are said to have been shot and  
6   killed by deputy sheriffs in the context of an ongoing labor  
7   strike. It appears that no law enforcement officers connected  
8   to the incident were investigated or charged with criminal  
9   offenses.

10       The legislature also finds that according to an oral  
11   history project published by the university of Hawaii at Manoa's  
12   ethnic studies program in 1979, newspapers of the day carried  
13   stories of the event sympathetic to the perspective of  
14   plantation managers and owners. The strikers were characterized  
15   as malcontents led by self-serving outside agitators who would  
16   use whatever means necessary, including threats and violence, to  
17   accomplish their ends. The massacre was blamed entirely on the



1 strikers, some of whom were imprisoned or deported. Further, a  
2 2010 article in Honolulu Magazine reported that in response to  
3 the deaths of plantation workers and law enforcement officers,  
4 the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association "gave each of the four  
5 sheriffs' families \$500 (\$6,300 in 2009 dollars), while the  
6 families of the 16 strikers had to split about \$75 (\$947 in 2009  
7 dollars), barely \$5 per dead striker."

8 The legislature further finds that a grave injustice was  
9 committed in 1924, and that the hard work and sacrifices of the  
10 slaughtered Filipino sugar plantation workers, and the  
11 contributions of Kauai sugar plantation laborers as a whole,  
12 should be memorialized in permanent monuments throughout the  
13 island of Kauai.

14 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 15 (1) Require the state foundation on culture and the arts  
16 to erect monuments and displays on Kauai in accordance  
17 with this Act; and  
18 (2) Appropriate funds for this purpose.

19 SECTION 2. (a) The state foundation on culture and the  
20 arts shall erect multiple, life-size, permanent monuments at  
21 appropriate locations throughout the island of Kauai to



1 memorialize the hard work and sacrifices of the 1924 Hanapepe  
2 Massacre victims and the contributions of Kauai sugar plantation  
3 laborers as a whole.

4 (b) The foundation shall install a permanent display at  
5 the Lihue Airport consisting of plaques or photographs depicting  
6 the history of events leading up to, and culminating in, the  
7 1924 Hanapepe Massacre.

8 (c) The foundation's members and staff may consult with  
9 other persons, organizations, or stakeholders as necessary to  
10 determine appropriate locations and designs for the monuments  
11 and determine appropriate content for the Lihue Airport display.

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the  
15 design, construction, and placement of monuments and displays on  
16 Kauai in accordance with this Act.

17 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
18 accounting and general services for the purposes of this Act.



# S.B. NO. 2998

1       SECTION 4.   This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

*Michael D. ...*

**By Request**



# S.B. NO. 2998

**Report Title:**

Department of Accounting and General Services; State Foundation on Culture and the Arts; 1924 Hanapepe Massacre; Monuments; Displays; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to erect monuments and displays on Kauai to memorialize the 1924 Hanapepe Massacre victims and the contributions of Kauai sugar plantation laborers as a whole. Appropriates funds.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

