

JAN 23 2020

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that every state in the
2 Union celebrates holidays unique to that state's history. Texas
3 celebrates its own Texas Independence Day, a day honoring Texas'
4 independence from Mexico's central government. Utah celebrates
5 Pioneer Day, the day Brigham Young ventured to its territory.
6 Alaska celebrates Seward's Day, when the purchase treaty between
7 the United States and Russia was codified. The distinctive
8 cultural and storied past of Hawai'i has its own holidays that
9 have been celebrated up through the Territory of Hawai'i. Lā
10 Kū'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, was widely celebrated with
11 pride as Hawai'i became an emerging power in the Pacific among
12 the global powers of that time.

13 The history and culture of Hawai'i are showcased around the
14 world to tell the story of the archipelago. Hawai'i's culture
15 and native language are used to make areas, buildings, and
16 communities relevant with a sense of place. Lā Kū'oko'a has long



1 been a source of pride in Hawai'i and in recent years has
2 garnered a newfound energy in its celebration.

3 The legislature further finds that during the reign of
4 Kamehameha III, Great Britain and France recognized the
5 independence of the Hawaiian Kingdom by joint proclamation on
6 November 28, 1843. The United States followed on July 6, 1844.
7 These leading world powers recognized Hawai'i as an independent
8 nation state due to the diplomatic work of Timoteo Ha'alilio, the
9 first diplomat of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, and his associate
10 William Richards, who were sent as envoys of Kamehameha III to
11 secure formal diplomatic relations with these countries.

12 In 1847, Kamehameha III required his Minister of Foreign
13 Affairs, Robert Crichton Wyllie, to determine a fitting way to
14 recognize and celebrate the anniversary of Hawai'i's welcome into
15 the family of nations. On October 15, 1847, Wyllie delivered
16 his report, by Privy Council, to the King and ministers. That
17 year marked the first official celebration of Hawaiian
18 Recognition Day, Lā Kū'oko'a.

19 Throughout the 1850s and 1870s, Hawai'i celebrated Lā
20 Kū'oko'a with lū'au, music, and marches. The celebration grew
21 under the reign of King Kalākaua, with formal proclamations sent



1 by official circular to the foreign diplomatic corps in Hawai'i
2 and the Hawaiian Kingdom consuls abroad, informing them of the
3 holiday.

4 The day remained a national holiday under the Provisional
5 Government of Hawai'i (1893), the Republic of Hawai'i (1894-
6 1898), and the initial years of the Territory of Hawai'i. Lā
7 Kū'oko'a was among the codified list of national holidays enacted
8 by the Republic of Hawai'i in 1896 (Act 66).

9 The legislature further finds that the year 2020 is the
10 first that citizens will be required to submit ballots via mail.
11 Because future elections will be conducted by mail, there is no
12 longer a need for this holiday. Therefore the traditional
13 election day falling on the first Tuesday after the first Monday
14 of November, shall now be recognized and celebrated as Lā
15 Kū'oko'a.

16 The purpose of this Act is to reestablish Lā Kū'oko'a,
17 Hawaiian Recognition Day, as an official state holiday.

18 SECTION 2. Section 8-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 "§8-1 Holidays designated. The following days of each
21 year are set apart and established as state holidays:



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1 The first day in January, New Year's Day;
2 The third Monday in January, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,
3 Day;
4 The third Monday in February, Presidents' Day;
5 The twenty-sixth day in March, Prince Jonah Kuhio
6 Kalanianaʻole Day;
7 The Friday preceding Easter Sunday, Good Friday;
8 The last Monday in May, Memorial Day;
9 The eleventh day in June, King Kamehameha I Day;
10 The fourth day in July, Independence Day;
11 The third Friday in August, Statehood Day;
12 The first Monday in September, Labor Day;
13 The Tuesday after the first Monday of November, Lā Kū'oko'a;
14 The eleventh day in November, Veterans' Day;
15 The fourth Thursday in November, Thanksgiving Day;
16 The twenty-fifth day in December, Christmas Day; and
17 ~~[All election days, except primary and special election~~
18 ~~days, in the county wherein the election is held;]~~
19 Any day designated by proclamation by the President of the
20 United States or by the governor as a holiday."



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1 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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S.B. NO. 3096

Report Title:

State Holiday; Lā Kū'oko'a; Hawaiian Recognition Day

Description:

Reestablishes Lā Kū'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, as an official state holiday.

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