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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GOVERNMENT.

**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 Hawaii has its own holidays that  
9 have been celebrated up through the Territory of Hawaii. Lā  
10 Kū'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, was widely celebrated with  
11 pride as Hawaii became an emerging power in the Pacific among  
12 the global powers of that time.

13           The history and culture of Hawaii are showcased around the  
14 world to tell the story of the archipelago. Hawaii'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 Hawaii 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 Hawaii as an independent  
8 nation state due to the diplomatic work of Timoteo Ha'alilio, the  
9 first diplomat of the Kingdom of Hawaii, 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 Hawaii'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, Hawaii celebrated Lā  
20 Kū'oko'a with luau, 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 Hawaii  
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 Hawaii (1893), the Republic of Hawaii (1894-1898),  
6 and the initial years of the Territory of Hawaii. Lā Kū'oko'a  
7 was among the codified list of national holidays enacted by the  
8 Republic of Hawaii in 1896 (Act 66).

9 The purpose of this Act is to establish November 28 of each  
10 year as Lā Kū'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, to celebrate the  
11 historical recognition of the independence of the Kingdom of  
12 Hawaii.

13 SECTION 2. Chapter 8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
14 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to  
15 read as follows:

16 "§8- La Ku'oko'a; Hawaiian Recognition Day. November 28  
17 of each year shall be known and designated as La Ku'oko'a,  
18 Hawaiian Recognition Day, to celebrate the historical  
19 recognition of the independence of the Kingdom of Hawaii. This  
20 day is not and shall not be construed to be a state holiday."

21 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.



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



**Report Title:**

Lā Kū'oko'a; Hawaiian Recognition Day

**Description:**

Designates November 28 of each year as Lā Kū'oko'a, Hawaiian Recognition Day, not constituting a state holiday, to celebrate the historical recognition of independence of the kingdom of Hawaii. (SD1)

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

