

MAR 12 2021

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE HAWAIIAN HOMES
COMMISSION ACT OF 1920, AS AMENDED.

1 WHEREAS, Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalanianaʻole (Prince Kūhiō) was
2 Hawaii's delegate to the United States Congress from his
3 election in 1902 until his untimely passing on January 7, 1922,
4 and was not a voting member of the governing body; and
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6 WHEREAS, in 1919, the Territory of Hawaii Legislature
7 unanimously supported the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act; and
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9 WHEREAS, in April 1920, Prince Kūhiō introduced House
10 Resolution 13500, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, for passage
11 by the United States Congress for the betterment of his beloved
12 Hawaiian people; and
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14 WHEREAS, the U.S. Senate and House Committees on
15 Territories comprised of a bipartisan coalition of elected
16 officials to pass the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act out of their
17 committees; and
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19 WHEREAS, Senate Resolution 1881, arising out of House
20 Resolution 13500, passed by voice vote in the United States
21 Senate on June 27, 1921, and the United States House of
22 Representatives on June 30, 1921; and
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24 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act was signed on
25 July 9, 1921, by President Warren G. Harding and took effect on
26 September 16, 1921. The Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920,
27 as amended, created the Hawaiian Homes Commission whose first
28 Chairman, Wallace R. Farrington, was the Governor of the
29 Territory of Hawaii; and
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31 WHEREAS, the other members of the first Commission included
32 Prince Kūhiō, Kahu Akaiko Akana, Rudolph Duncan, and George
33 Cooke; and



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2 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as
3 amended, was enacted to provide homestead lots for native
4 Hawaiians, who following the Mahele of 1848, lost their parcels
5 due to a myriad of reasons, including the lack of understanding
6 of the recently imposed foreign legal and judicial system,
7 introduction and expansion of large-scale ranching and
8 plantation operations, the decline of taro cultivation due to
9 the abandonment of large irrigation systems that had been
10 maintained by the community, the acquisition of parcels through
11 adverse possession or quiet title actions, and the seizing of
12 parcels as payment for debts and taxes; and
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14 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act was enacted to
15 provide homesteading programs for native Hawaiians by placing
16 approximately 200,000 acres of former crown lands into the
17 Hawaiian Home Lands Trust, in which the management of the
18 Hawaiian Home Lands Trust was vested in the Hawaiian Homes
19 Commission; and
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21 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as
22 amended, provides the Chairman of the Hawaiian Homes Commission
23 the authority to propose to the Secretary of the Interior the
24 exchange of Hawaiian home lands for land privately or publicly
25 owned in furtherance of the purposes of the Hawaiian Homes
26 Commission Act; and
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28 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as
29 amended, created the Hawaiian Home Loan Fund where receipts from
30 thirty per cent of the rental of cane lanes and thirty percent
31 of water licenses would reside; and
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33 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Home Loan Fund was utilized to
34 provide loans to homesteaders to erect dwellings and construct
35 permanent improvements; purchase livestock and farm equipment;
36 and otherwise assist in the development of the tract; and
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38 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as
39 amended, sought to increase native Hawaiian land ownership by
40 making the land title inalienable, providing adequate access to
41 water to all homestead holdings, and provide financial
42 assistance until farming operations were underway; and



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2 WHEREAS, in 1959, Congress enacted the Admission Act to
3 admit the Territory of Hawaii into the United States as a state.
4 In compliance with the Admission Act, and as a compact between
5 Hawaii and the United States relating to the management and
6 disposition of the Hawaiian home lands, the State adopted the
7 Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, as amended, as a law of the State
8 through Article XII of the Hawaii State Constitution, whereby
9 the day-to-day management of the Hawaiian Home Lands trust is
10 vested in the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, an agency of
11 the State of Hawaii, headed by the Hawaiian Homes Commission;
12 and
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14 WHEREAS, in its 1925 Report to the Legislature of Hawaii,
15 the Hawaiian Homes Commission wrote that Prince Kūhiō "made a
16 notable record and his voice was listened to with respect by
17 staunch friends among national leaders" and "the adoption of the
18 Hawaiian Homes Commission Act stands as a monument to his
19 memory"; now, therefore,
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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
23 House of Representatives concurring, that this body recognizes
24 the centennial celebration of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act
25 of 1920, as amended; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's congressional
29 delegation, Governor, Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes
30 Commission, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office
31 of Hawaiian Affairs, and all county mayors.
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OFFERED BY: 

