
SENATE RESOLUTION

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

1 WHEREAS, Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole (Prince Kuhio) 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 Kuhio 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 United States' Senate and House Committees on
15 Territories comprised of a bipartisan coalition of elected
16 officials passed 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 Kuhio, Kahu Akaiko Akana, Rudolph Duncan, and George
33 Cooke; and
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1 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as
2 amended, was enacted to provide homestead lots for native
3 Hawaiians, who following the Mahele of 1848, lost their parcels
4 due to a myriad of reasons, including the lack of understanding
5 of the recently imposed foreign legal and judicial system,
6 introduction and expansion of large-scale ranching and
7 plantation operations, the decline of taro cultivation due to
8 the abandonment of large irrigation systems that had been
9 maintained by the community, the acquisition of parcels through
10 adverse possession or quiet title actions, and the seizing of
11 parcels as payment for debts and taxes; and
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13 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act was enacted to
14 provide homesteading programs for native Hawaiians by placing
15 approximately 200,000 acres of former crown lands into the
16 Hawaiian Home Lands Trust, in which the management of the
17 Hawaiian Home Lands Trust was vested in the Hawaiian Homes
18 Commission; and
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20 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as
21 amended, provides the Chairman of the Hawaiian Homes Commission
22 the authority to propose to the Secretary of the Interior the
23 exchange of Hawaiian home lands for land privately or publicly
24 owned in furtherance of the purposes of the Hawaiian Homes
25 Commission Act; and
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27 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as
28 amended, created the Hawaiian Home Loan Fund where receipts from
29 thirty per cent of the rental of cane lanes and thirty percent
30 of water licenses would reside; and
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32 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Home Loan Fund was utilized to
33 provide loans to homesteaders to erect dwellings and construct
34 permanent improvements; purchase livestock and farm equipment;
35 and otherwise assist in the development of the tract; and
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37 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as
38 amended, sought to increase native Hawaiian land ownership by
39 making the land title inalienable, providing adequate access to
40 water to all homestead holdings, and provide financial
41 assistance until farming operations were underway; and
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1 WHEREAS, in 1959, Congress enacted the Admission Act to
 2 admit the Territory of Hawaii into the United States as a state.
 3 In compliance with the Admission Act, and as a compact between
 4 Hawaii and the United States relating to the management and
 5 disposition of the Hawaiian home lands, the State adopted the
 6 Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, as amended, as a law of the State
 7 through Article XII of the Hawaii State Constitution, whereby
 8 the day-to-day management of the Hawaiian Home Lands trust is
 9 vested in the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, an agency of
 10 the State of Hawaii, headed by the Hawaiian Homes Commission;
 11 and
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13 WHEREAS, in its 1925 Report to the Legislature of Hawaii,
 14 the Hawaiian Homes Commission wrote that Prince Kuhio "made a
 15 notable record and his voice was listened to with respect by
 16 staunch friends among national leaders" and "the adoption of the
 17 Hawaiian Homes Commission Act stands as a monument to his
 18 memory"; now, therefore,
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
 21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
 22 that this body recognizes the centennial celebration of the
 23 Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as amended; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges all executive
 26 departments to review their policies related to the
 27 beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges all executive
 30 departments to prioritize the goal of housing beneficiaries
 31 under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 34 Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's congressional delegation,
 35 Governor, Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission,
 36 Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian
 37 Affairs, and all county mayors.

