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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO JUNETEENTH DAY.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Juneteenth, also  
2 known as Emancipation Day, Juneteenth Independence Day, and  
3 Black Independence Day, is a celebration of emancipation from  
4 slavery in the United States. June 19, 1865, marks the date  
5 that Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas,  
6 and announced the end of the Civil War and the end of slavery.

7           The legislature further finds that although the  
8 Emancipation Proclamation came two and a half years earlier on  
9 January 1, 1863, many slave owners continued to hold their  
10 slaves captive after the announcement, so Juneteenth became a  
11 symbolic date representing African American freedom.

12           Texans celebrated Juneteenth beginning in 1866, and on  
13 January 1, 1980, Juneteenth officially become a Texas state  
14 holiday. The legislature finds that although Juneteenth is not  
15 a federal holiday, most states and the District of Columbia have  
16 passed legislation recognizing Juneteenth as a holiday or  
17 observance. Hawaii is one of three states that does not



1 recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday or a special day of  
2 observance.

3 The purpose of this Act is to establish June 19 of each  
4 year as Juneteenth in recognition of the history and legacy of  
5 slavery in the United States and in honor of the significant  
6 roles and contributions of African Americans in the history of  
7 the United States.

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

11 "§8- Juneteenth. June 19 of each year shall be known  
12 and designated as Juneteenth to commemorate the end of slavery  
13 in the United States and in honor and recognition of the  
14 significant roles and contributions of African Americans in the  
15 history of the United States. Juneteenth is not and shall not  
16 be construed to be a state holiday."

17 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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



S.B. NO. 939  
H.D. 1

**Report Title:**

Juneteenth; Day of Observance

**Description:**

Establishes June 19 of each year as Juneteenth. (HD1)

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

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