
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 it is important for
2 the State's residents to learn about Hawaii's culture and
3 history. In 1843, King Kamehameha III established
4 La Hoihoi Ea, also known as Restoration Day, as the first
5 national holiday in the Hawaiian Kingdom. Historically
6 celebrated on July 31st, La Hoihoi Ea marked the restoration of
7 the Hawaiian Kingdom's government after the British ambassador
8 and a British Navy captain illegally seized control.

9 In 1840, Mr. Richard Charlton, Hawaii's first British
10 ambassador, arrived in the islands and began illegally claiming
11 certain land on Oahu. When Kamehameha III rejected the claims,
12 Charlton left Hawaii, intending to return to England, via
13 Mexico, so he could argue his claim to the land before Britain's
14 Foreign Office. While in Mexico, Charlton met Lord George
15 Paulet, a British Navy captain, and persuaded Paulet to travel
16 with him to Hawaii to investigate his claims. Once there,
17 Paulet seized military control of the government and had all



1 Hawaiian flags lowered and burned in a five-month occupation
2 that became known as the "Paulet Affair".

3 In light of Paulet's actions, the king sent diplomatic
4 envoys Timoteo Haalilio and William Richards to England to
5 present their side of the issue, ultimately gaining favor with
6 Britain and clearing the way for removal of Paulet. Admiral
7 Richard Thomas would later be dispatched to Hawaii, where he
8 would remove Paulet and correct his unwarranted transgressions
9 against the Hawaiian Kingdom and its people.

10 The legislature finds that, on July 31, 1843, subjects of
11 the kingdom gathered on the grounds of what is now known as
12 Thomas Square on the island of Oahu to witness Admiral Thomas
13 officially restore the kingdom's government and Kūikeyaouli as
14 king. Later that day, at Kawaihāo Church, the king spoke the
15 words that would become the motto of the monarchy and in 1959
16 the official motto of the State of Hawaii: "Ua Mau ke Ea o ka
17 Aina i ka Pono", or "The life of the land is perpetuated in
18 righteousness". The commemoration of the events that occurred on
19 this day would come to be known as La Hōihoi Ea, or Restoration
20 Day, the kingdom's first national holiday.



1 After being removed as an official holiday, many would
2 continue to remember and celebrate it in small pockets
3 throughout the islands until it went into obscurity. Today, La
4 Hoihoi Ea Honolulu works in partnership with the Honolulu
5 Mayor's Office on Culture and the Arts to plan events throughout
6 the month of July to share the importance of this day and honor
7 upstanding members of the Hawaiian community.

8 The legislature notes that there have been other efforts to
9 recognize King Kamehameha III's accomplishments and to restore
10 official celebrations of La Hoihoi Ea. On June 16, 2015, the
11 County Council for the County of Hawaii unanimously passed
12 Resolution No. 185-15, Draft 2, requesting the legislature to
13 designate July 31 as La Hoihoi Ea, or Restoration Day. On July
14 31, 2018, the City and County of Honolulu marked the 175th
15 anniversary of La Hoihoi Ea by installing a twelve-foot tall
16 bronze statue of King Kamehameha III in Thomas Square Park. The
17 installation includes the state motto and Hawaii's flag.

18 Annual gatherings take place in Waianae and Waimanalo on
19 the island of Oahu; in Hamakua and Waimea on the island of
20 Hawaii; and in Lahaina on the island of Maui. A small
21 remembrance ceremony is also held each year in New York. The



1 legislature believes that, given the strong interest in
2 recognizing La Hoihoi Ea, the date should be made a state
3 holiday.

4 The legislature also believes that it is no longer
5 necessary to designate election days as state holidays. The
6 original purpose of these holidays was to ensure that all
7 citizens had the time and opportunity to vote. Vote by mail,
8 same-day registration and voting, and other practices have made
9 voting easier, more accessible, and more convenient. In 2019,
10 Act 136 authorized all registered voters in Hawaii to vote by
11 mail, beginning in 2020. The Act also allowed a limited number
12 of voter service centers to remain open from the tenth business
13 day preceding an election through the day of the election to
14 receive personal delivery of mail-in ballots, accommodate voters
15 with special needs, offer same day registration and voting, and
16 provide other election services. At the conclusion of the 2020
17 election, the office of elections reported that more than sixty
18 per cent of all registered voters in Hawaii cast their ballot by
19 mail, while only 3.5 per cent used a service center. The
20 legislature believes that, rather than designating election days
21 as a state holidays, the holiday could be better used to educate



1 the State's residents on an important part of Hawaii's history
2 and to give Native Hawaiians the opportunity to celebrate and
3 remember.

4 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to remove election
5 days as designated state holidays and to establish the
6 thirty-first day of July each year as the state holiday La
7 Hoihoi Ea.

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

10 "**§8-1 Holidays designated.** The following days of each
11 year are set apart and established as state holidays:

12 The first day in January, New Year's Day;

13 The third Monday in January, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,
14 Day;

15 The third Monday in February, Presidents' Day;

16 The twenty-sixth day in March, Prince Jonah Kuhio
17 Kalanianaʻole Day;

18 The Friday preceding Easter Sunday, Good Friday;

19 The last Monday in May, Memorial Day;

20 The eleventh day in June, King Kamehameha I Day;

21 The fourth day in July, Independence Day;



The thirty-first day in July, La Hoihoi Ea;

The third Friday in August, Statehood Day;

The first Monday in September, Labor Day;

The eleventh day in November, Veterans' Day;

The fourth Thursday in November, Thanksgiving Day; and

The twenty-fifth day in December, Christmas Day[+].

~~[All election days, except primary and special election days, in the county wherein the election is held,]~~

Any day designated by proclamation by the President of the United States or by the governor as a holiday."

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

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

INTRODUCED BY:

Hakshum

JAN 26 2022



H.B. NO. 2475

Report Title:

State Holidays; Election Days; Restoration Day; La Hoihoi Ea

Description:

Removes election days as designated state holidays. Establishes July 31 as La Hoihoi Ea.

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

