

JAN 26 2022

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HAWAIIAN RECOGNITION DAY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that every state in the
2 United States celebrates holidays unique to that state's
3 history. Texas celebrates its own Texas Independence Day, a day
4 honoring Texas' independence from Mexico's central government.
5 Utah celebrates Pioneer Day, the day Brigham Young arrived in
6 Utah's Great Salt Lake Valley. Alaska celebrates Seward's Day
7 to recognize the day that the purchase treaty between the United
8 States and Russia was codified. The distinctive cultural and
9 storied past of Hawaii has its own holidays that have been
10 celebrated through the Territory of Hawaii period of Hawaii's
11 history. La Kuokoa, Hawaiian Recognition Day, was widely
12 celebrated with pride as Hawaii became an emerging power in the
13 Pacific among the global powers of that time.

14 The history and culture of Hawaii are showcased around the
15 world to tell the story of the archipelago. Hawaii's culture
16 and native language are used to make areas, buildings, and
17 communities relevant with a sense of place. La Kuokoa has long



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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 Kingdom of Hawaii 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 Haalilio, 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, La Kuokoa.

19 Throughout the 1850s and 1870s, Hawaii celebrated La Kuokoa
20 with luau, music, and marches. The celebration grew under the
21 reign of King Kalakaua, with formal proclamations sent by



1 official circular to the foreign diplomatic corps in Hawaii and
2 the Kingdom of Hawaii consuls abroad, informing them of the
3 holiday.

4 The day remained a national holiday under the Provisional
5 Government of Hawaii, the Republic of Hawaii, and the initial
6 years of the Territory of Hawaii. La Kuokoa was among the
7 codified list of national holidays enacted by the Republic of
8 Hawaii in 1896.

9 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish
10 November 28 of each year as La Kuokoa, Hawaiian Recognition Day,
11 to celebrate the historical recognition of the independence of
12 the Kingdom of 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 Kuokoa; Hawaiian Recognition Day. November 28
17 of each year shall be known and designated as La Kuokoa,
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.



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

2

INTRODUCED BY:





S.B. NO. 3218

Report Title:

La Kuokoa; Hawaiian Recognition Day

Description:

Designates November 28 of each year as La Kuokoa, Hawaiian Recognition Day, to celebrate the historical recognition of the independence of the Kingdom of Hawaii.

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

