

JAN 20 2023

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HAWAIIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that every state in our  
2 nation celebrates holidays unique to that state's history.  
3 Texas celebrates its own Texas Independence Day, a day honoring  
4 Texas' independence from Mexico's central government. Utah  
5 celebrates Pioneer Day, the day Brigham Young arrived in Utah's  
6 Great Salt Lake Valley. Alaska celebrates Seward's Day to  
7 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 territorial period of Hawaii's history.  
11 La Kuokoa, Hawaiian Independence Day, was widely celebrated with  
12 pride as Hawaii became an emerging power in the Pacific among  
13 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



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 propose a suitable 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 Independence 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 included in 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 Independence  
11 Day, to celebrate the historical recognition of the independence  
12 of 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 Independence Day. November 28  
17 of each year shall be known and designated as La Kuokoa,  
18 Hawaiian Independence 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.



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

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JBL', is written over a horizontal line that follows the text 'INTRODUCED BY:'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

# S.B. NO. 731

**Report Title:**

La Kuokoa; Hawaiian Independence Day

**Description:**

Designates November 28 of each year as La Kuokoa, Hawaiian Independence 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.*

