
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO RESEARCH THE
DESIGNATION OF NOVEMBER 20TH OF EACH YEAR AS MAKAHIKI
COMMEMORATION DAY, WHICH IS REQUESTED TO BE RECOGNIZED AS
AN UNPAID STATE HOLIDAY.

1 WHEREAS, in Native Hawaiian tradition, the Makahiki is a
2 New Year festival and season dedicated to harvest, bounty,
3 taxation, and the god Lono; and
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5 WHEREAS, the rising of Makali'i (the Constellation Pleiades)
6 at sunset marks the beginning of the Makahiki season; and
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8 WHEREAS, Makahiki is a season spanning four consecutive
9 lunar months, approximately from October or November through
10 February or March; and
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12 WHEREAS, a function of the Makahiki prior to foreign
13 arrival was to assess the prosperity of the 'āina, at least from
14 a political perspective and the rejuvenation of the 'āina and
15 people; and
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17 WHEREAS, Makahiki was a time for the Hawaiian people and
18 their ruling chiefs to focus on rest, strengthening their
19 bodies, and having great feasts of commemoration, during days in
20 which labor was prohibited; and
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22 WHEREAS, the Makahiki festival was celebrated in three
23 phases: the first phase was a time of spiritual cleansing and
24 making ho'okupu, offerings to the gods; the second phase was a
25 time of celebration consisting of hula, games, sports, singing,
26 and feasting; the third phase, the wa'a 'auhau -- tax canoe --
27 was loaded with ho'okupu and taken out to sea where it was set
28 adrift as a gift to Lono; and
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1 WHEREAS, Makahiki was the time when peace was of foremost
2 importance -- all war was outlawed to allow unimpeded passage of
3 the image of Lono whose domain includes fertility, agriculture,
4 and peace; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Makahiki was revived on Kaho'olawe and Moloka'i
7 in 1981 and 1982, respectively; and
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9 WHEREAS, today, there are Makahiki events throughout the
10 State; most are centered around youth to engage them with Native
11 Hawaiian traditions and practices such as games of skill and wit
12 as well as competitive events showcasing physical strength and
13 agility; and
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15 WHEREAS, the State currently recognizes November 20th of
16 each year as Makahiki Commemoration Day; however, it is not a
17 state holiday; and
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19 WHEREAS, given its importance in Hawaiian tradition, the
20 Makahiki should be recognized as a state holiday; now,
21 therefore,
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the
25 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative
26 Reference Bureau is requested to research the designation of
27 November 20th of each year as Makahiki Commemoration Day, which
28 is requested to be recognized as an unpaid state holiday; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
31 Bureau is requested to submit a report of its findings and
32 recommendations, including proposed legislation, to the
33 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
34 the Regular Session of 2024; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the
38 Legislative Reference Bureau.

