

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1747

Honolulu, Hawaii

, 2023

**MAR 21**

RE: S.B. No. 731

Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2023  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 731 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HAWAIIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to designate November 28 of each year as La Kuokoa, Hawaiian Independence Day, to celebrate the historical recognition of the independence of the Kingdom of Hawaii.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Accounting and General Services and one individual. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Center for Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies.

Your Committee finds that Hawaii's special heritage and various holidays distinguish Hawaii from other states. La Kuokoa commemorates the date of November 28, 1843, during the reign of Kamehameha III when Great Britain and France recognized the independence of the Hawaiian Kingdom through the signing of the Anglo-French Declaration, making it known to the world that the Hawaiian islands were one sovereign political unit under the complete and exclusive control of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Your Committee further finds that La Kuokoa was first recognized as a holiday in Hawaii in 1847 as an official holiday of the Republic of Hawaii in 1896, and continued to be celebrated by the Territory

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of Hawaii. Your Committee believes that the State's acknowledgment of La Kuokoa, or Hawaiian Independence Day, is an appropriate and meaningful way to celebrate the recognition of Hawaii's independence and its rich, diverse culture and history.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 731 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Culture, Arts &  
International Affairs,



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ADRIAN K. TAM, Chair



