
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 indigenous peoples,
2 including Native Hawaiians, have thrived and remained resilient
3 for generations, contributing to the world through rich
4 histories, knowledge, and cultural practices. However,
5 generations of federal and state policies sought to bring shame
6 upon, assimilate, and displace indigenous peoples and eradicate
7 native cultures. In Hawaii, this fact, coupled with the
8 introduction of new infectious diseases introduced by Western
9 contact, resulted in an eighty-four per cent decline in the
10 Native Hawaiian population in the first sixty years since
11 Captain James Cook's arrival in the islands in 1778.

12 The legislature additionally finds that the movement to
13 recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day in the United States began as
14 a protest of Columbus Day, which was declared to commemorate the
15 anniversary of Christopher Columbus' landfall in the Western
16 hemisphere. Nationwide, Indigenous Peoples' Day honors and
17 commemorates the histories, cultures, and traditions of
18 indigenous peoples and recognizes that the colonial takeovers of



1 the Americas, starting with Columbus, led to the deaths of
2 millions of native people and the forced assimilation of
3 survivors. The movement to replace Columbus Day began in 1990,
4 with South Dakota becoming the first state to rename the
5 holiday. Since 1992, a growing grassroots effort to replace
6 Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day or Native American Day
7 has spread to seventeen states and the District of Columbia. In
8 2021 and 2022, President Biden issued a proclamation that
9 recognized Indigenous Peoples' Day on the second Monday of
10 October, with the latter proclamation "honor[ing] the
11 sovereignty, resilience, and immense contributions that Native
12 Americans have made to the world". Indigenous Peoples' Day
13 recognizes the continued survival of the descendants of
14 indigenous peoples worldwide, including Native Hawaiians, and in
15 Hawaii, honors the individuals who first made the islands
16 habitable.

17 The legislature further finds that presently, Hawaii is one
18 of seventeen states that does not celebrate Columbus Day;
19 instead, it observes Discoverers' Day on the second Monday in
20 October "in recognition of the Polynesian discoverers of the
21 Hawaiian Islands" pursuant to Act 220, Session Laws of Hawaii



1 1988. While Discoverers' Day acknowledges the ancestors of
 2 Native Hawaiians and other indigenous Polynesians who discovered
 3 Hawaii, recognizing and designating Indigenous Peoples' Day as
 4 an observed day will serve to educate Hawaii's people about the
 5 State's obligation to the original inhabitants of the aina, or
 6 land, and the State's continued protection of all rights
 7 customarily and traditionally exercised by the descendants of
 8 those native people, as well as to celebrate the revival of
 9 previously-taboo cultural practices, such as hula and olelo
 10 Hawaii, and all cultures that form Hawaii today.

11 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 12 (1) Designate the second Monday in October as Indigenous
- 13 Peoples' Day; and
- 14 (2) Establish Indigenous Peoples' Day as an observed day.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
 16 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
 17 read as follows:

18 "§8- _____ Indigenous Peoples' Day. The second Monday in
 19 October of each year shall be known as Indigenous Peoples' Day;
 20 provided that this day is not and shall not be construed to be a
 21 state holiday."



- 1 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.
- 2 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Indigenous Peoples' Day; Observed Day

Description:

Designates the second Monday in October of each year as Indigenous Peoples' Day. (CD1)

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