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# 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 to, assimilate, and displace indigenous peoples and eradicate  
7 native cultures. In Hawaii, this fact, coupled with the  
8 introduction of new infectious diseases brought by western  
9 missionaries, 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 Columbus' landfall in the Western Hemisphere.  
16 Nationwide, Indigenous Peoples' Day honors and commemorates the  
17 histories, cultures, and traditions of indigenous peoples and



1 recognizes that the colonial takeovers of the Americas, starting  
2 with Columbus, led to the deaths of millions of native people  
3 and the forced assimilation of survivors. The movement to  
4 replace Columbus Day began in 1990, with South Dakota becoming  
5 the first state to rename the holiday. Since 1992, a growing  
6 grassroots effort to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous  
7 Peoples' Day or Native American Day has spread to seventeen  
8 states and the District of Columbia. In 2021 and 2022,  
9 President Biden issued a proclamation that recognized Indigenous  
10 Peoples' Day on the second Monday of October, "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 people 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 a  
4 state holiday will serve as a day to educate Hawaii's people  
5 about the State's obligation to the original inhabitants of the  
6 aina (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;
- 14 (2) Establish Indigenous Peoples' Day as a state holiday;  
15 and
- 16 (3) Repeal the designation of election days as state  
17 holidays.

18 SECTION 2. Section 8-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
19 amended to read as follows:

20 "**§8-1 Holidays designated.** The following days of each  
21 year are set apart and established as state holidays:



1 The first day in January, New Year's Day;  
2 The third Monday in January, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,

3 Day;

4 The third Monday in February, Presidents' Day;

5 The twenty-sixth day in March, Prince Jonah Kuhio

6 Kalaniana'ole Day;

7 The Friday preceding Easter Sunday, Good Friday;

8 The last Monday in May, Memorial Day;

9 The eleventh day in June, King Kamehameha I Day;

10 The fourth day in July, Independence Day;

11 The third Friday in August, Statehood Day;

12 The first Monday in September, Labor Day;

13 The second Monday in October, Indigenous Peoples' Day;

14 The eleventh day in November, Veterans' Day;

15 The fourth Thursday in November, Thanksgiving Day;

16 The twenty-fifth day in December, Christmas Day;

17 ~~[All election days, except primary and special election~~  
18 ~~days, in the county wherein the election is held;]~~

19 Any day designated by proclamation by the President of the  
20 United States or by the governor as a holiday."



1 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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



**Report Title:**

Public Administration; State Holidays; Indigenous Peoples' Day

**Description:**

Designates the second Monday in October of each year as Indigenous Peoples' Day. Establishes Indigenous Peoples' Day as a state holiday. Repeals the designation of election days as state holidays. (SD1)

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

