

JAN 17 2024

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 2023 marks the two
2 hundred thirty-fourth anniversary of the first arrival of Asian
3 immigrant workers in the State. As of July 1, 2022,
4 approximately 37.1 per cent of the State's population, over five
5 hundred thousand residents, are of Asian descent.

6 The legislature further finds that the Asian community in
7 Hawaii has contributed greatly, not only to the State's social,
8 civic, and economic success, but also to its diverse and vibrant
9 culture, which includes the celebration of the Lunar New Year.
10 The Lunar New Year is joyously observed by numerous residents in
11 the State and is celebrated by more than two-thirds of Chinese,
12 Korean, Japanese, and Vietnamese Americans in general. The
13 Lunar New Year provides a time to renew one's family ties,
14 reflect upon the past year, and wish for good fortune, health,
15 and prosperity in the year ahead.

16 The legislature also finds that the United States House of
17 Representatives introduced resolutions recognizing the cultural



1 and historical significance of the Lunar New Year in 2021 and
2 2023; California recognized the Lunar New Year as a state
3 holiday in 2022; and New York recognized the Lunar New Year as a
4 public school holiday in 2023.

5 The legislature finds that, by establishing the Lunar New
6 Year as a state holiday in Hawaii, the State can honor its rich
7 cultural history, demonstrate its commitment to cultural
8 diversity, and extend its best wishes for peace and prosperity
9 to all who celebrate this important occasion.

10 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

11 (1) Designate the day of the second new moon after the
12 winter solstice of every year as the Lunar New Year;
13 and

14 (2) Establish the Lunar New Year as a state holiday.

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

17 "**§8-1 Holidays designated.** The following days of each
18 year are set apart and established as state holidays:

19 The first day in January, New Year's Day;

20 The third Monday in January, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,
21 Day;



1 The day of the second new moon after the winter solstice,

2 Lunar New Year;

3 The third Monday in February, Presidents' Day;

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

5 Kalaniana'ole Day;

6 The Friday preceding Easter Sunday, Good Friday;

7 The last Monday in May, Memorial Day;

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

9 The fourth day in July, Independence Day;

10 The third Friday in August, Statehood Day;

11 The first Monday in September, Labor Day;

12 The eleventh day in November, Veterans' Day;

13 The fourth Thursday in November, Thanksgiving Day;

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

15 All election days, except primary and special election

16 days, in the county wherein the election is held; and

17 Any day designated by proclamation by the President of the

18 United States or by the governor as a holiday."

19 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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S.B. NO. 2037

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 2037

Report Title:

Public Administration; State Holidays; Lunar New Year

Description:

Designates the day of the second new moon after the winter solstice of every year as the Lunar New Year. Establishes the Lunar New Year as a state holiday.

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