

'JAN 19 2024'

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO KIMCHI DAY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that 2024 is the one
2 hundred twenty-first anniversary of the arrival of the first
3 Korean immigrant workers in Hawaii. Since that time, Korean
4 Americans in Hawaii have greatly contributed to the diverse and
5 vibrant culture of the State. Today, approximately 50,000
6 residents in Hawaii consider themselves ethnically Korean.

7 The legislature further finds that kimchi is a traditional
8 Korean dish with a long, rich history that began over two
9 millennia ago during the time of the Three Kingdoms of Korea.
10 Kimchi has been a part of meals shared between friends and
11 family in the Hawaiian Islands for as long as the State has been
12 welcoming Korean immigrants. The legislature notes that Hawaii
13 island is the birthplace of the first commercialized bottled
14 kimchi in the country. Hannah Sun Nai Kim, the daughter of a
15 Korean immigrant family who arrived in Honolulu Harbor in 1904,
16 started her Kohala Kim Chee business in Hawi in the 1940s.



1 The legislature also finds that currently, there are three
2 hundred thirty-five different types of kimchi registered in
3 South Korea. In 2013, the traditional process of preparing
4 kimchi, "kimjang", was recognized as an Intangible Cultural
5 Heritage of Humanity by the United Nations Educational,
6 Scientific and Cultural Organization. Kimchi can increasingly
7 be found for sale at many major retailers across the United
8 States and is becoming an international staple, particularly as
9 it is used in the place of slaws, pickles, and sauerkraut in
10 fusion cuisine. Kimchi is an excellent source of probiotics,
11 folate, beta-carotene, choline, potassium, calcium, and vitamins
12 A, C, and K. Many of these nutrients can contribute to lower
13 rates of stroke, cancer, and diabetes. South Korea celebrates
14 "National Kimchi Day" each November 22, as the date represents
15 the eleven major ingredients in kimchi and the twenty-two health
16 benefits of the food. In 2021, California passed a resolution
17 designating November 22 as Kimchi Day, and Virginia passed a
18 similar resolution in 2022.

19 In 2023, the legislature passed House Concurrent Resolution
20 No. 33 to establish the first Kimchi Day in Hawaii on
21 November 22, 2023. Across the State, the Korean-American



1 community celebrated with festivals, cultural performances, and
2 kimchi making demonstrations, and shared kimchi traditions.
3 Additionally, on November 22, 2023, the first Kimchi Museum
4 opened in Hawaii to celebrate the State's first Kimchi Day and
5 share the rich history of kimchi and the many different types of
6 kimchi.

7 The legislature additionally finds that the establishment
8 of an annual Kimchi Day will foster economic commercial
9 relations with Korean American businesses in the State and
10 across the continental United States. By celebrating Kimchi
11 Day, the State will be able to offer an additional annual
12 attraction to draw tourists and locals interested in
13 experiencing and celebrating kimchi and Korean history and
14 culture.

15 Therefore, the legislature now finds it appropriate to
16 designate November 22 of each year as "Kimchi Day" in the State.

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



1 "§8- Kimchi Day. November 22 of each year shall be
2 known and designated as "Kimchi Day". This day is not and shall
3 not be construed to be a state holiday."

4 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

6

INTRODUCED BY: 



S.B. NO. 2402

Report Title:

Kimchi Day; November 22

Description:

Designates November 22 of each year as "Kimchi Day" in the State.

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