
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BROTHER JOSEPH DUTTON DAY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Ira Barnes Dutton
2 was born on April 27, 1843, in Stowe, Vermont, and spent his
3 formative years in Janesville, Wisconsin. In September of 1861,
4 during the beginning of the Civil War, Ira Barnes Dutton
5 enlisted in the Union Army as part of Company B of the
6 thirteenth Wisconsin infantry. Ira Barnes Dutton was
7 subsequently discharged in 1866 due to a downsizing of the
8 military after the Civil War. Following the Civil War, Ira
9 Barnes Dutton suffered from a failed marriage, alcoholism,
10 probable post-traumatic stress disorder, and other personal
11 problems, leading him on a journey to seek atonement through
12 Catholicism. During this time, Ira Barnes Dutton was baptized
13 and adopted the name of his favorite saint, Joseph.

14 The legislature recognizes that, upon learning about the
15 work of Father Damien on Molokai, Joseph Dutton made his way to
16 Hawaii. Arriving at Kalaupapa in July of 1886, Joseph Dutton
17 assisted Father Damien, who had been diagnosed with leprosy.



1 Joseph Dutton quickly became an expert in caring for patients
2 while working alongside Father Damien, who affectionately called
3 Joseph Dutton "Brother". After Father Damien's death three
4 years later in 1889, Joseph Dutton managed the Baldwin Home for
5 Boys for leprosy victims and dedicated the remainder of his life
6 to the residents of Kalaupapa until becoming ill. Joseph Dutton
7 was then transferred to St. Francis Hospital in Honolulu, where
8 he passed away on March 26, 1931.

9 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to honor the hard
10 work and dedication of Brother Joseph Dutton in helping
11 residents of Kalaupapa by establishing April 27 of each year as
12 Brother Joseph Dutton Day.

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

16 "§8- Brother Joseph Dutton Day. April 27 of each year
17 shall be known and designated as "Brother Joseph Dutton Day";
18 provided that this day is not and shall not be construed to be a
19 state holiday."

20 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 2050.



Report Title:

Brother Joseph Dutton Day

Description:

Designates April 27 of each year as Brother Joseph Dutton Day.
Effective 6/30/2050. (SD1)

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