

JAN 23 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STATE SHERIFFS DAY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that sheriffs have served
2 a critical role in Hawai'i law enforcement for more than one
3 hundred eighty years, with origins dating back to the reign of
4 King Kamehameha III. The legislature further finds that the
5 Office of the Marshal of the Hawaiian Islands was established by
6 the Act to Organize the Executive Departments of the Government,
7 signed by King Kamehameha III on April 27, 1846. That Act
8 created the Office of the Marshal as the highest-ranking law
9 enforcement officer of the Kingdom, with authority over island
10 sheriffs appointed for O'ahu, Hawai'i, Maui, and Kaua'i.

11 The legislature recognizes that the Hawai'i sheriff is
12 unique in American history as the only law enforcement office in
13 the United States established by a monarch. Early sheriffs and
14 their deputies symbolized their authority through distinctive
15 insignia reflecting their direct service to the King and the
16 Kingdom's legal system.



1 The legislature further finds that, notwithstanding
2 subsequent governmental transitions, including the overthrow of
3 the Kingdom, the territorial period, and statehood, the
4 essential functions and legacy of the sheriff's office have
5 endured. Most recently, the office of the sheriff was
6 transferred to the department of law enforcement pursuant to
7 Act 278, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022, continuing its vital role
8 maintaining public safety and the rule of law and providing a
9 law enforcement presence to all courts in the state judiciary.

10 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to formally
11 recognize April 27 of each year as State Sheriffs Day, in
12 commemoration of the establishment of the Office of the Marshal
13 and island sheriffs and in honor of the historic and ongoing
14 contributions of sheriffs and deputy sheriffs in the State.

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- State Sheriffs Day.** April 27 of each year shall be
19 known and designated as State Sheriffs Day in recognition of the
20 establishment of the Office of the Marshal and island sheriffs
21 on April 27, 1846, and to honor the historic legacy and



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1 continuing service of sheriffs and deputy sheriffs in the State.

2 This day shall not be construed to be a state holiday."

3 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

5

INTRODUCED BY: Karl Rhoads



S.B. NO. 2723

Report Title:

State Sheriffs Day; Commemoration

Description:

Establishes April 27 of each year as State Sheriffs Day to commemorate the establishment of the Office of the Marshal of the Kingdom of Hawai'i in 1846.

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

