

JAN 21 2026

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 The legislature further finds that in 1929, the Hawaii
10 territorial house of representatives acknowledged the work of
11 Brother Joseph Dutton and passed House Resolution No. 7, which
12 read, in part, "this House desires to put on record its
13 appreciation of the great and inspiring service and influence
14 for good, for the splendid and effective service he has rendered
15 in their behalf and for the work done during the past 40 years
16 by Brother Joseph Dutton in the Settlement of Molokai in his
17 ministration to the afflicted in Kalawao and Kalaupapa; and that
18 the thanks of the House of representatives be extended to him in
19 his memorial".

20 The legislature notes that the State officially recognizes
21 Saint Damien de Veuster Day every May 10; Saint Marianne Cope



1 Day every January 23; and Kalaupapa Month every January. The
2 legislature believes that similar recognition should be accorded
3 to Brother Joseph Dutton.

4 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to honor the hard
5 work and dedication of Brother Joseph Dutton in helping
6 residents of Kalaupapa by establishing April 27 of each year as
7 Brother Joseph Dutton Day.

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

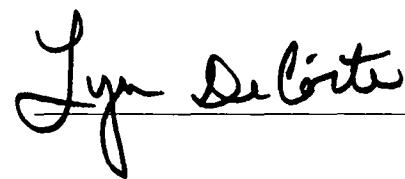
11 "§8- Brother Joseph Dutton Day. April 27 of each year
12 shall be known and designated as "Brother Joseph Dutton Day".
13 This day is not and shall not be construed to be a state
14 holiday."

15 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

17

INTRODUCED BY:


Lyn DeCorte



S.B. NO. 2256

Report Title:

Brother Joseph Dutton Day; Day of Observance

Description:

Designates April 27 of every year as Brother Joseph Dutton Day.

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

