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# 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 Hawaii 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 designated the Marshal as the highest-ranking law enforcement  
9 officer of the Hawaiian Kingdom, with authority over island  
10 sheriffs appointed for Oahu, Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai.

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



1           The legislature further finds that, notwithstanding  
2 subsequent governmental transitions, including the overthrow of  
3 the Hawaiian 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 Hawaii 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  
19 be known and designated as "State Sheriffs Day" in recognition  
20 of the establishment of the Office of the Marshal and island  
21 sheriffs on April 27, 1846, and to honor the historic legacy and



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 on July 1, 3000.



**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 Hawaii in 1846. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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

