

JAN 28 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CULTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State rightly
2 recognizes Native Hawaiian contributions to state culture and
3 history, including through holidays, like Prince Jonah Kuhio Day
4 Kalanianaʻole Day, on the twenty-sixth day in March, and King
5 Kamehameha I Day, on the eleventh day in June. However, the
6 State does not reserve a day to recognize the significant
7 contributions of immigrants and immigrant communities to the
8 State's history and culture.

9 The legislature further finds that hundreds of thousands of
10 immigrants have come to the State since the mid-nineteenth
11 century. Beginning in 1852, more than fifty thousand Chinese
12 laborers immigrated to the State. In 1878, the first of more
13 than sixteen thousand Portuguese immigrants started arriving.
14 More than two hundred thousand Japanese immigrants began
15 arriving in 1885. Korean immigrants, in their turn, began
16 arriving in multiple waves starting in 1903. Filipino
17 immigrants started settling in the State in 1906, and by 1932,



1 they formed the majority of laborers on local sugar plantations.
2 Numerous immigrants from many different nations have come to the
3 islands and now call the State home and many individuals from
4 those communities have gone on to contribute to the State and to
5 the United States as the nation's first governors, state
6 senators, and business and community leaders of foreign
7 ancestries.

8 The legislature finds that, while state history over the
9 centuries includes many difficult periods of injustice,
10 challenge, and conflict amongst everyone who has called the
11 islands home, Native Hawaiian residents and immigrants from
12 numerous nations have integrated and transformed the State into
13 a remarkable melting pot where Polynesian, Asian, European, and
14 American communities and cultures have converged and prospered
15 together. In 1959, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., addressed the
16 state legislature and cited the State as "a noble example, where
17 you have already accomplished in the area of racial harmony and
18 racial justice what we are struggling to accomplish in other
19 sections of the country, and you can never know what it means to
20 those of us caught for the moment in the tragic and often dark
21 midnight of man's inhumanity to man, to come to a place where we



1 see the glowing daybreak of freedom and dignity and racial
2 justice".

3 The legislature further finds that Statehood Day,
4 recognized annually every third Friday in August, remains
5 controversial due to generations of injustice that culminated in
6 the federal government issuing the 1993 apology resolution for
7 committing acts that "resulted in the suppression of the
8 inherent sovereignty of the Native Hawaiian people".

9 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

10 (1) Recognize and celebrate the contributions of
11 immigrants and immigrant communities to the State by
12 establishing a new state holiday, to be known as
13 Immigrants Day, that will coincide with National
14 Immigrants Day, which is held annually on October 28;
15 and

16 (2) Help heal injustices of the past by changing Statehood
17 Day from a state holiday to a day of recognition
18 observed annually on August 21.

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



1 "§8- Statehood Day. The twenty-first day of August of
2 each year shall be known and designated as "Statehood Day" to
3 recognize and memorialize the annexation of the State as the
4 fiftieth in the nation on August 21, 1959; provided that
5 Statehood Day is not and shall not be construed to be a state
6 holiday."

7 SECTION 3. Section 8-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 **"§8-1 Holidays designated.** The following days of each
10 year are set apart and established as state holidays:

11 The first day in January, New Year's Day;

12 The third Monday in January, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,
13 Day;

14 The third Monday in February, Presidents' Day;

15 The twenty-sixth day in March, Prince Jonah Kuhio
16 Kalaniana'ole Day;

17 The Friday preceding Easter Sunday, Good Friday;

18 The last Monday in May, Memorial Day;

19 The eleventh day in June, King Kamehameha I Day;

20 The fourth day in July, Independence Day;

21 [~~The third Friday in August, Statehood Day;~~]



1 The first Monday in September, Labor Day;
2 The twenty-eighth day in October, Immigrants Day;
3 The eleventh day in November, Veterans' Day;
4 The fourth Thursday in November, Thanksgiving Day;
5 The twenty-fifth day in December, Christmas Day;
6 All election days, except primary and special election
7 days, in the county wherein the election is held;
8 Any day designated by proclamation by the President of the
9 United States or by the governor as a holiday."

10 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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

13

INTRODUCED BY: 



S.B. NO. 3200

Report Title:

State Holiday; Immigrants Day; Statehood Day; Day of Recognition

Description:

Establishes Immigrants Day as a state holiday that is held annually on October 28. Changes Statehood Day from a state holiday to a day of recognition.

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