

ACT 221

H.B. NO. 2638

A Bill for an Act Establishing a Commission to Celebrate the Arrival of Okinawans to Hawaii.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that since the arrival of the first Okinawans in Hawaii in January, 1900, the Okinawan people have contributed significantly to all phases of Hawaii's development. The rich culture and proud heritage of the Okinawan people have been and continue to be positive influences upon life in Hawaii. Recognition of the contributions of the Okinawan people and their culture is important to promoting and maintaining cognizance of Hawaii's diverse and multicultural society. The year 1990 will mark the ninetieth anniversary of the arrival of the Okinawan people in Hawaii, and a celebration to commemorate their arrival and subsequent achievements in Hawaii is appropriate. The purpose of this Act is to provide for the celebration of the ninetieth anniversary of the Okinawan people in Hawaii.

SECTION 2. **Creation of the Okinawan celebration commission.** There is established a temporary commission to be known as the Okinawan celebration commission which shall have charge of all arrangements for the commemoration of the ninetieth anniversary of the arrival of the first Okinawan to Hawaii. The commission shall be placed within the office of the governor for administrative purposes and shall cease to operate after June 30, 1991.

SECTION 3. **Membership, compensation.** The commission shall consist of fifteen members to be appointed by the governor without regard to section 26-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Four of the members shall be representatives from the four counties, and the remaining members shall represent government, labor, business, and the community at large. The governor shall designate the chair of the commission from among the appointed members. The members shall not receive compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the performance of their duties under this Act.

SECTION 4. **Powers and duties.** The commission shall prepare an overall program to celebrate the ninetieth anniversary of the arrival of the Okinawan people to Hawaii, their significant contributions to the development of this State, and their culture and heritage. The commission shall develop, plan, and coordinate the various program activities that are to be scheduled throughout the year of the celebration and shall encourage the participation of all segments of the Okinawan community. The commission shall consider any related plans and programs developed by the United Okinawan Association and other interested private and public organizations or agencies from whose members the commission may designate special committees to plan, develop, and coordinate specific projects or activities.

The commission shall submit to the governor a comprehensive report for the ninetieth anniversary celebration which shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) The production, publication, and distribution of books, films, and other educational materials on the life and experiences of Okinawans in Hawaii;
- (2) Conferences, convocations, lectures, and seminars; and
- (3) Ceremonies, theatrical productions, and other special events commemorating the anniversary.

SECTION 5. Cooperation. In fulfilling its responsibilities, the commission shall consult, cooperate with, and seek the advice from, the United Okinawan Association and other appropriate organizations or agencies.

SECTION 6. Trust fund established. There is hereby created a trust fund to be known as the ethnic celebration trust fund which shall consist of payments made to the trust fund as provided in this Act. All moneys received by the commission shall be deposited by the state director of finance into the trust fund and expended by the commission for the purposes of this Act. Disbursement of such moneys shall be by state warrants issued in accordance with applicable laws and rules and shall be based on vouchers signed by the chair of the commission.

The commission may seek grants from public and private sources and may accept donations to finance the projects, programs, and activities of the ninetieth anniversary celebration.

All property acquired by the commission shall be deposited for preservation in the state library system, museums, and public archives or shall otherwise be disposed of as directed by the commission.

SECTION 7. Final report. At the end of its term, the commission shall submit to the governor a final report of all its activities, including an accounting of all moneys received and disbursed.

SECTION 8. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$25,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1988-1989, to carry out the purposes of this Act. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of the governor for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect upon approval.

(Approved June 8, 1988.)