

---

---

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION TO COMMEMORATE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF  
HAWAII'S RANCHING COMMUNITY.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Hawaii ranching  
2 community has made significant and substantial contributions to  
3 Hawaii's economic and cultural vitality. Since the arrival of  
4 cattle and horses in 1793 and 1803, respectively, the  
5 multiethnic culture and proud heritage of the livestock industry  
6 has been, and will continue to be, a positive influence upon  
7 life in Hawaii. Until 1908, when the territory of Hawaii had  
8 been in existence for only eight years, Hawaii was virtually  
9 unknown to the American ranching industry. A few American  
10 ranchers had sold livestock to people who said they were taking  
11 them to Hawaii, a destination known only to most Americans as an  
12 island kingdom consisting of grass shacks and some sugar cane  
13 producers.

14           In July 1908, however, a particular event changed these  
15 perceptions of Hawaii. The Cheyenne, Wyoming ("Waiomina" in the  
16 Hawaiian language) Frontier Days Rodeo, then in its eleventh  
17 year of existence, was known as the greatest and grandest



1 western rodeo. A winner in the Cheyenne competition was  
2 acknowledged in American ranching circles as a true champion.  
3 In 1908, Eben Low, a Hawaii rancher, picked three of the best  
4 Hawaiian cowboy ropers, known as paniolo, he could find and  
5 entered them in the rodeo at Cheyenne. They took first, third,  
6 and sixth places in steer roping and the cowboy world on the  
7 continental United States was stunned. It became obvious that  
8 the Hawaii men who could win using borrowed horses were expert  
9 horsemen and could use well-trained horses that they had trained  
10 themselves. Within a year or so, the horses of Hawaii had  
11 attracted the critical eyes of the United States military, when  
12 the cavalry at that time rode horses and mules instead of  
13 four-wheel drive cargo trucks. By World War II, Hawaii horses  
14 were considered better for military purposes than those raised  
15 and trained in the continental United States. General George  
16 Patton, who later led the United States tank cavalry in World  
17 War II, came to Hawaii as a major and bought, trained, and rode  
18 the State's excellent Hawaiian horses.

19 During the Kingdom of Hawaii and the Territory of Hawaii,  
20 as well as during the two world wars, the Hawaii ranching  
21 industry supplied the beef and mutton needs of both the civilian  
22 and military populations of Hawaii. Today, the mainland United



1 States beef industry favors Hawaii-raised cattle because they  
2 are hardy, noted for rapid weight gain, and have an excellent  
3 reputation with consumers.

4 The purpose of this Act is to establish a commission to  
5 develop a centennial celebration commemorating the recognition  
6 of Hawaii's ranching community by the American government and  
7 agribusiness sectors.

8 SECTION 2. There is established a temporary commission to  
9 be known as the Waiomina centennial celebration commission,  
10 which shall have charge of all arrangements for the  
11 commemoration of the centennial anniversary of the Cheyenne  
12 Frontier Days Championship of 1908. The commission shall be  
13 placed within the office of the governor for administrative  
14 purposes and shall cease to operate after December 31, 2008.

15 SECTION 3. The commission shall consist of nine members to  
16 be appointed by the governor without regard to section 26-34,  
17 Hawaii Revised Statutes. The members shall represent  
18 government, ranching, agribusiness, tourism, culture and the  
19 arts, and the community at large. The governor shall designate  
20 the chair of the commission from among the appointed members.  
21 An individual appointed to another commission is eligible to be  
22 appointed as a member of this commission.



1           The members shall not receive compensation for their  
2 services but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses,  
3 including travel expenses, incurred in the performance of their  
4 duties under this Act.

5           Any member of the commission shall be immune from civil  
6 liability as provided for under section 26-35.5, Hawaii Revised  
7 Statutes.

8           SECTION 4. The Waiomina centennial celebration commission  
9 shall:

- 10           (1) Prepare an overall program to celebrate the centennial  
11 anniversary of the Wyoming championship through  
12 commemorating the multicultural contributions of both  
13 ranchers and cowboys to the development of this State;
- 14           (2) Identify a nonprofit organization that will be  
15 responsible for any moneys received or expended for  
16 the centennial anniversary celebration; and
- 17           (3) Develop, plan, and coordinate the various program  
18 activities to be scheduled throughout the year of the  
19 celebration and encourage the participation of all  
20 segments of the tourism, agricultural, and ranching  
21 communities.



1           In fulfilling its responsibilities, the Waiomina centennial  
2 celebration commission shall consult, cooperate with, and seek  
3 advice from appropriate organizations and agencies.

4           SECTION 5. The Waiomina centennial celebration commission  
5 may seek grants from public and private sources and may accept  
6 donations to finance the projects, programs, and activities of  
7 the centennial anniversary celebration. Any funds received by  
8 the commission shall be submitted to the nonprofit organization  
9 responsible for any moneys received or expended for the  
10 centennial anniversary celebration.

11           Chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall not apply to  
12 any grant or subsidy made pursuant to this Act by the  
13 legislature. All property acquired by the commission shall be  
14 deposited for preservation in the Hawaii state public library  
15 system, museums, and public archives or shall otherwise be  
16 disposed of as directed by the commission.

17           SECTION 6. At the end of its term, the Waiomina centennial  
18 celebration commission shall submit to the governor and the  
19 legislature a final report of its activities, including:

- 20           (1) Documentation of the activities implemented for the  
21           centennial commemoration; and



1 (2) An accounting of all moneys received and disbursed by  
 2 the nonprofit organization responsible for the  
 3 financial management of funds appropriated to the  
 4 commission.

5 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general  
 6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000, or so much  
 7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, to be  
 8 used by the Waiomina centennial commission as matching funds for  
 9 the commemoration of the contributions of the ranching industry  
 10 to Hawaii.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of the  
 12 governor for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect upon approval;  
 14 provided that section 7 shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

15

INTRODUCED BY:

Cindy Evans

Suzanne Mammone

Joseph Murphy

Mell Carroll

Rida T. R. Cabanilla

Joe Wood

Constance H. King

John Collier Meyer

Guthrie Hoelen

Della C. Salatti

Kevin Caldwell

John J. ...

Ray ...

James ...



**Report Title:**

Commission; Waiomina Centennial Commission

**Description:**

Establishes the Waiomina centennial commission to commemorate the contributions of Hawaii's ranching community. Appropriates funds.

