
HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING 2008 AS THE YEAR OF THE PANIOLO.

1 WHEREAS, in 1792, Captain George Vancouver gave King
2 Kamehameha I a gift of cattle, and under Captain Vancouver's
3 advice, King Kamehameha I placed a ten-year kapu over the cattle
4 so that they might multiply in peace; and

5
6 WHEREAS, the kapu on the cattle accomplished more than its
7 desired effect as the cattle multiplied beyond control, and in
8 1803, horses were introduced to the Hawaiian Islands by Richard
9 Clevedon as a gift to the nation; and

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11 WHEREAS, by 1820, the cattle industry was becoming a
12 valuable industry to the Hawaiian Islands, and to help
13 facilitate its growth, King Kamehameha III brought in a group of
14 Mexican men from Vera Cruz, to the Big Island roughly around
15 1830, who became the first paniolo or cowboys in the Hawaiian
16 Kingdom; and

17
18 WHEREAS, with the arrival of the paniolo, came the growth
19 of a new industry leading to the development of some of the
20 world's finest ranches and significant contributions to the
21 Hawaiian culture; and

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23 WHEREAS, Hawaii was introduced to new ways of practicing
24 water and land conservation, elements of indigenous, cultural,
25 and Western medicine were brought in, and advances in
26 veterinarian care, botanical surveys, and agronomical
27 improvements can be credited to the paniolo; and

28
29 WHEREAS, with the knowledge and the skills of the first
30 paniolo, the cattle ranches of Hawaii were able to expand and
31 grow, and their skills were quickly learned by the Hawaiian
32 people; and for over a century, Hawaii was a major exporter of



1 cattle to places such as California, other destinations in the
2 Americas, and around the Pacific Rim; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the skills and talents of Hawaii's paniolo were
5 clearly on display at the 1908 World Rodeo Championships in
6 Cheyenne, Wyoming, when three paniolo from Hawaii placed in the
7 top six at the championships, with Ikua Purdy, arguably Hawaii's
8 most famous paniolo, taking first place and winning the event on
9 a horse he had to borrow; and

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11 WHEREAS, the skills and the efforts of these early paniolo
12 led to the establishment of some of the world's most famous
13 ranches, such as Parker Ranch on the Big Island, Ulupalakua
14 Ranch on Maui, Kahuku Ranch on Oahu, and Molokai Ranch; and

15
16 WHEREAS, the paniolo played a large role in the development
17 of Hawaii: bringing new language and customs, connecting with
18 and becoming a part of the local Hawaiian culture, and greatly
19 influencing the popularity of the slack key guitar and the
20 ukulele, two of Hawaii's most symbolic musical instruments; and

21
22 WHEREAS, an extremely significant cultural contribution of
23 the paniolo is their influence on the preservation of the
24 Hawaiian language, since paniolo are one of the few groups who
25 actively speak the Hawaiian language and are viewed as "keepers
26 of the language"; and

27
28 WHEREAS, each new generation brought into the paniolo way
29 of life and taught the lessons and skills of the previous
30 generation, a richer and stronger tradition will emerge, as new
31 elements are added to the traditions of the paniolo; and

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33 WHEREAS, with the help of organizations such as the Hawaii
34 High School Rodeo Association and the Paniolo Preservation
35 Society that provide opportunities for both boys and girls at an
36 extremely early age, the future of the paniolo community in the
37 State looks bright; and

38
39 WHEREAS, the impact that paniolo have had in all aspects of
40 life in Hawaii is far-reaching, and the people of Hawaii owe a
41 great deal to the contributions of the paniolo; and
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1 WHEREAS, on November 7, 2007, the Governor joined the
2 Lieutenant Governor in proclaiming 2008 as the "Year of the
3 Paniolo"; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the Paniolo Preservation Society is celebrating
6 2008 as the Year of the Paniolo by sponsoring the Great Waiomina
7 Centennial Celebration to honor generations of paniolo as
8 stewards of the land and perpetuators of the Hawaiian culture
9 and all things "cowboy" with rodeos, concerts, rides, barbecues,
10 and parades throughout the year and throughout the State; and
11

12 WHEREAS, while the combined efforts of all paniolo is
13 celebrated, a distinguished group of five men deserve special
14 recognition for their leadership, integrity, and contributions
15 to the paniolo community: Abraham Akau, Eddie Taniguchi, Jr.,
16 Kimo Ho'opai, Jr., Merton Kekiwi, and Morrency Dudoit; and
17

18 WHEREAS, carrying on the rich tradition of the paniolo is
19 an important responsibility for the next generation, five young
20 adults have already shown that they have the skills to take up
21 the reigns: Levi Rita, Cheyenne Gaspar, Kristyn-Lee
22 Vasconcelles, Cole Hendrickson, and Cheyanne Keliihoomalu; now,
23 therefore,
24

25 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
26 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
27 Session of 2008, that this body recognizes and honors the
28 paniolo, as the year 2008 has been proclaimed "The Year of the
29 Paniolo", so that we may commemorate their contributions to the
30 State, and most importantly, educate the citizens of Hawaii on
31 the history of the paniolo; and
32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Lieutenant
35 Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
36 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the
37 Director of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the Paniolo
38 Preservation Society.
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OFFERED BY: Cindy Evans



~~John W. Hanover~~
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