

JAN 19 2007

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MAKAHIKI DAY COMMEMORATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. Makahiki is a significant time throughout  
2 Polynesia. The rising of the makalii, Pleiades, marks the  
3 beginning of the Makahiki season that covers four consecutive  
4 months. Conflict and war were set aside and unity and peace  
5 prevailed as the people paid tribute to the god Lono.

6           After harvesting their crops, the people rested and let the  
7 land lay fallow. Food was offered in tribute to the chiefs and  
8 Lono in thanks for their wise stewardship for without such  
9 wisdom, the land would be barren.

10           A white tapa banner that symbolized Lono made the circuit  
11 of the island. In 1778, Captain James Cook sailed into  
12 Kealakekua Bay, also known as the path of God. His arrival  
13 coincided with the Makahiki Observance. The sails of his ship  
14 resembled the symbol of Lono. According to Hawaiian tradition,  
15 one day Lono would return. Thus, the people welcomed Captain  
16 James Cook as Lono. However, a seemingly minor incident led



1 from the deification of Captain James Cook to his demise and  
2 changed the course of history forever.

3 To perpetuate the ancient wisdom of land conservation,  
4 abundance, unity, and peace during the four months of Makahiki,  
5 Polynesian regional governments celebrate the Makahiki season  
6 and have designated November 20th as the start of the Makahiki  
7 observance. Groups from Hawaii, Samoa, Tonga, New Zealand or  
8 Aotearoa, Easter Island or Rapa Nui, Wallis and Futuna, and the  
9 Marquesas Islands all gather in Tahiti to celebrate Matahiti Tau  
10 Auhune, a time of harvest.

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

14 "§8- Makahiki Commemoration Day. Every November 20th  
15 shall be known and designated as Makahiki Commemoration Day.  
16 This day shall not be construed as a state holiday."

17 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

19

INTRODUCED BY:

*J. Kalani Eglish*  
*Angie D. Brown*  
*Samuel M. Slom*  
*Ron Mann*

**Report Title:**

Makahiki; Commemoration

**Description:**

Establishes each November 20th as the Makahiki Commemoration day.

