
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CULTURAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN HAWAII AND PUERTO RICO.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that since the arrival of
2 the first Puerto Ricans in Hawaii on December 23, 1900, the
3 Puerto Rican people have contributed significantly to all phases
4 of Hawaii's development. The rich culture and proud heritage of
5 the Puerto Rican people have been and continue to be positive
6 influences upon life in Hawaii. Recognition of the
7 contributions of the Puerto Rican people and their culture is
8 important to the promotion and awareness of Hawaii's diverse and
9 multicultural society.

10 The purpose of this Act is to establish a Puerto Rican
11 exchange commission to coordinate a cultural exchange program
12 between Hawaii and Puerto Rico to honor and recognize the
13 contributions of the Puerto Rican people and commemorate the
14 arrival of the first Puerto Ricans to Hawaii.

15 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a temporary
16 commission to be known as the Puerto Rican exchange commission,
17 which shall coordinate cultural exchange events between Hawaii
18 and Puerto Rico to honor and recognize the contributions of the



1 Puerto Rican people to Hawaii and to commemorate the arrival of
2 the first Puerto Ricans to Hawaii.

3 (b) The commission shall be placed within the office of
4 the governor for administrative purposes and shall cease to
5 exist on January 1, 2016.

6 SECTION 3. (a) The Puerto Rican exchange commission shall
7 consist of fifteen members to be appointed by the governor
8 without regard to section 26-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Of
9 the fifteen members:

10 (1) One member shall be from the Puerto Rican Heritage
11 Society of Hawaii;

12 (2) One member shall be from the United Puerto Rican
13 Association of Hawaii, Inc.;

14 (3) One member shall be from the Maui Puerto Rican
15 Association;

16 (4) One member shall be from the Kohala Puerto Rican
17 Social Club;

18 (5) One member shall be from the Kauai Puerto Rican
19 Association; and

20 (6) Ten members shall represent government, labor,
21 business, culture and the arts, and the community at
22 large.



1 (b) The chairperson of the commission shall be selected by
2 the commission members.

3 (c) The commission members shall not receive compensation
4 for their services but shall be reimbursed for necessary
5 expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the performance
6 of their duties under this Act.

7 SECTION 4. (a) The Puerto Rican exchange commission
8 shall:

9 (1) Develop, plan, and coordinate various cultural
10 exchange programs and activities between Hawaii and
11 Puerto Rico that honor and recognize the contributions
12 of the Puerto Rican people to the State, including but
13 not limited to:

14 (A) Workshops teaching Hawaiian dance and lei making;

15 (B) Music performances; and

16 (C) Art presentations;

17 (2) Encourage the participation of all segments of the
18 Puerto Rican community in the exchange program;

19 (3) Consider any related plans and programs developed by
20 the Puerto Rican Heritage Society of Hawaii, the

21 United Puerto Rican Association of Hawaii, Inc., the

22 Maui Puerto Rican Association, the Kohala Puerto Rican



1 Social Club, the Kauai Puerto Rican Association, and
2 other interested private and public organizations or
3 agencies from whose members the commission may
4 designate special committees to plan, develop, and
5 coordinate specific programs or activities; and

6 (4) Design and construct a monument to commemorate the
7 arrival of the first Puerto Rican people to Hawaii,
8 which shall be donated to Puerto Rico and be placed at
9 a location that best represents where the first Puerto
10 Ricans began their journey to Hawaii.

11 (b) Prior to the convening of the regular session of 2015,
12 the commission shall submit to the governor a comprehensive
13 report for the cultural exchange program that shall include but
14 not be limited to:

15 (1) The production, publication, and distribution of
16 educational materials about the Hawaiian culture;

17 (2) Traveling exhibits, other exhibits, ceremonies,
18 theatrical productions, and other special events
19 portraying the Hawaiian culture; and

20 (3) Images of the monument to commemorate the arrival of
21 the first Puerto Rican people to Hawaii.



1 (c) At the end of its term, the commission shall submit to
2 the governor a final report of all its activities, including an
3 accounting of all moneys received and disbursed.

4 SECTION 5. All property acquired by the commission shall
5 be deposited for preservation in the Hawaii state public library
6 system, museums, or public archives.

7 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for
10 developing, planning, and coordinating various programs and
11 events as part of a cultural exchange program with Puerto Rico
12 and construction of a monument to commemorate the arrival of the
13 first Puerto Rican people to Hawaii.

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

16 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2030.



Report Title:

Puerto Rican Cultural Exchange Commission; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Puerto Rican Exchange Commission to coordinate a cultural exchange program between Hawaii and Puerto Rico to honor and recognize the contributions of the Puerto Rican people and commemorate the arrival of the first Puerto Ricans to Hawaii. (SB2042 HD1)

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