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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE CULTURAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN HAWAII AND AFRICAN AMERICANS.

**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 African Americans in Hawaii between 1778 and 1850, the  
3 African American people have contributed significantly to all  
4 phases of Hawaii's development. The rich culture and proud  
5 heritage of the African American people have been and continue  
6 to be positive influences upon life in Hawaii. However, little  
7 is known or preserved due to a lack of understanding and racial  
8 divides. Recognition of the contributions of the African  
9 American people and their culture is important to the promotion  
10 and awareness of Hawaii's diverse and multicultural society.

11           The purpose of this Act is to establish a commission on  
12 African American history and culture to recognize the  
13 contributions of the African American people in Hawaii and  
14 educate Hawaii's citizens.

15           SECTION 2. Chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
16 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to  
17 read as follows:



1           "§6E- Hawaii commission on African American history and  
2 culture. (a) There is established a commission to be known as  
3 the Hawaii commission on African American history and culture.

4           (b) The commission shall be temporarily placed within the  
5 office of the governor for administrative purposes.

6           (c) The Hawaii commission on African American history and  
7 culture shall consist of eleven members to be appointed by the  
8 governor without regard to section 26-34. The members shall  
9 include:

10           (1) Two members representing the African American  
11 Diversity Culture Center Hawaii;

12           (2) Two members representing the National Association for  
13 the Advancement of Colored People;

14           (3) One member representing the University of Hawaii; and

15           (4) Six at-large members.

16           (d) The chair of the commission shall be selected by the  
17 commission members.

18           (e) The members shall not receive compensation for their  
19 services but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses,  
20 including travel expenses, incurred in the performance of their  
21 duties under this section.



1        (f) The Hawaii commission on African American history and  
2 culture may:

3        (1) Initiate, direct, and coordinate projects and events  
4 to further the understanding of African American  
5 history and culture;

6        (2) Educate residents and visitors to the State about the  
7 significance and impact of the African American  
8 experience in Hawaii; and

9        (3) Publish an annual report to the legislature with  
10 recommendations to honor and recognize the  
11 contributions of African American people in Hawaii."

12        SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so much  
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for  
15 operational expenses relating to the Hawaii commission on  
16 African American history and culture.

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

19        SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

20        SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Commission on African American History and Culture

**Description:**

Establishes the Hawaii commission on African American History and Culture to recognize the contributions of the African American people in Hawaii and educate residents and visitors to the State about these contributions. Appropriates funds to the Governor for the expenses of the commission. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

