
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE EARLY SETTLERS OF AFRICAN ANCESTRY, THEIR
HAWAIIAN AFRICAN DESCENDANTS, AND PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT
IN HAWAII.

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

1 SECTION 1. People of African ancestry made numerous
2 significant contributions to all phases of Hawaii's development
3 and history since their arrival in the eighteenth century.
4 Combined with the rich culture of Native Hawaiians, people of
5 African ancestry continue to impact and influence life in
6 Hawaii, particularly with the President of the United States,
7 Barack Obama, being a Hawaii born person of African ancestry.
8 Hawaii can no longer ignore the early settlers' history which
9 has been embedded in the fabric of these islands long before the
10 missionaries arrived in 1820, with the descendants of these
11 settlers still living among us today.

12 The purpose of this Act is to establish a commission to
13 recognize the history of the early settlers of African ancestry
14 and Hawaiian African descendants, acknowledging their many
15 contributions and common threads within Hawaii's society and to



1 educate local residents and young people about the diverse
2 culture and roots within our islands' multicultural society.

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

6 "§6E- Hawaii commission on the history and culture of
7 the early settlers of African ancestry and their Hawaiian
8 African descendants. (a) There is established a commission to
9 be known as the Hawaii commission on the history and culture of
10 the early settlers of African ancestry and their Hawaiian
11 African descendants.

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

14 (c) The commission shall consist of eleven members to be
15 appointed by the governor without regard to section 26-34. The
16 members may include:

17 (1) Two members representing the African American
18 Diversity Culture Center Hawaii;

19 (2) Two members representing the National Association for
20 the Advancement of Colored People;

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



- 1 (4) Six at-large members from various ethnic groups.
- 2 (d) The chair of the commission shall be selected by the
3 commission members.
- 4 (e) The members shall not receive compensation for their
5 services but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses,
6 including travel expenses, incurred in the performance of their
7 duties under this section.
- 8 (f) The commission may:
- 9 (1) Initiate, direct, and coordinate projects and events
10 to further the understanding of the history and
11 culture of the early settlers of African ancestry and
12 their Hawaiian African descendants;
- 13 (2) Educate residents, young people, and visitors to
14 Hawaii about the significance and impact of the early
15 settlers of African ancestry and their Hawaiian
16 African descendants' experiences in Hawaii; and
- 17 (3) Publish an annual report to the legislature with
18 recommendations to honor and recognize the
19 contributions of early settlers, their Hawaiian
20 African descendants, and people of African descent in
21 Hawaii."



H.B. NO. 1549

1 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

3

INTRODUCED BY: *Jim Frick*

JAN 13 2016



H.B. NO. 1549

Report Title:

Early Settlers of African Ancestry; Hawaiian African Descendants

Description:

Establishes a commission on the history and culture of the early settlers of African ancestry and their Hawaiian African descendants.

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