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

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



1 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a commission to be
2 known as the Hawaii commission on the history and culture of
3 people of African descent.

4 (b) The commission shall be temporarily placed within the
5 department of accounting and general services for administrative
6 purposes. The commission shall be dissolved on June 30, 2017.

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

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

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

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

16 (4) Six at-large members.

17 (d) The chair of the commission shall be selected by a
18 majority vote of the commission members.

19 (e) The members shall not receive compensation for their
20 services but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses,



1 including travel expenses, incurred in the performance of their
2 duties under this section.

3 (f) The Hawaii commission on the history and culture of
4 people of African descent may:

5 (1) Initiate, direct, and coordinate projects and events
6 to further the understanding of the history and
7 culture of people of African descent;

8 (2) Educate residents and visitors to the State about the
9 significance and impact of the experience of people of
10 African descent in Hawaii; and

11 (3) Publish an annual report to the legislature with
12 recommendations to honor and recognize the
13 contributions of people of African descent in Hawaii.

14 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015; and
15 shall be repealed on June 30, 2017.



Report Title:

Hawaii Commission on the History and Culture of People of African Descent

Description:

Establishes the Hawaii Commission on the History and Culture of People of African Descent to recognize the contributions of people of African descent in Hawaii and educate residents and visitors to the State about these contributions. (SB194 HD1)

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