
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. (a) There is established a commission to be
16 known as the Hawaii commission on African American history and
17 culture.



1 (b) The commission shall be temporarily placed within the
2 state foundation on culture and the arts for administrative
3 purposes. The commission shall be dissolved on June 30, 2017.

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

8 (1) Two members representing the African American
9 Diversity Culture Center Hawaii;

10 (2) Two members representing the National Association for
11 the Advancement of Colored People;

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

13 (4) Six at-large members.

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

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

20 (f) The Hawaii commission on African American history and
21 culture may:



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

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

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

10 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050; and
11 shall be repealed on June 30, 2017.



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. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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