
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 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 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 that shall coordinate cultural exchange events between Hawaii



1 and Puerto Rico to honor and recognize the contributions of the
2 Puerto Rican people to Hawaii and to commemorate the arrival of
3 the first Puerto Ricans to Hawaii.

4 (b) The commission shall be placed within the department
5 of accounting and general services for administrative purposes
6 and shall cease to operate after June 30, 2017.

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

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

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

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

17 (4) One member shall be from the Kohala Puerto Rican
18 Association;

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



1 (6) Ten members shall represent government, labor,
2 business, culture and the arts, and the community at
3 large.

4 (b) The chair of the commission shall be selected by the
5 commission members.

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

10 SECTION 4. (a) The Puerto Rican exchange commission
11 shall:

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

- 17 (A) Workshops teaching Hawaiian dance and lei making;
- 18 (B) Music performances; and
- 19 (C) Art presentations;

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



1 (3) Consider any related plans and programs developed by
2 the Puerto Rican Heritage Society; the United Puerto
3 Rican Association of Hawaii, Inc.; the Puerto Rican
4 Association of Maui; the Kohala Puerto Rican
5 Association; the Kauai Puerto Rican Association; and
6 other interested private and public organizations or
7 agencies from whose members the commission may
8 designate special committees to plan, develop, and
9 coordinate specific projects or activities; and

10 (4) Design and construct a monument to commemorate the
11 arrival of the first Puerto Rican people to Hawaii
12 that shall be donated to Puerto Rico and be placed at
13 a location that best represents where the first Puerto
14 Ricans began their journey to Hawaii.

15 (b) Prior to the convening of the regular session of 2016,
16 the commission shall submit to the governor and the legislature
17 a comprehensive report for the cultural exchange program that
18 shall include but not be limited to:

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



1 (2) Traveling exhibits, other exhibits, ceremonies,
2 theatrical productions, and other special events
3 portraying the Hawaiian culture; and

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

6 (c) At the end of its term, the commission shall submit to
7 the governor and the legislature a final report of all its
8 activities, including an accounting of all moneys received and
9 disbursed.

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

13 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.



Report Title:

Puerto Rican Exchange Commission

Description:

Establishes the temporary 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 Puerto Ricans to Hawaii. (SB825 HD1)

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