

MAR 03 2017

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TO ESTABLISH THE HAWAII COMMISSION ON THE HISTORY AND
CULTURE OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT.

1 WHEREAS, people of African descent have contributed
2 significantly to many phases of Hawaii's development; and
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4 WHEREAS, the rich culture and proud heritage of people of
5 African descent have been and continue to be positive influences
6 upon life in Hawaii; and
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8 WHEREAS, the history of people of African descent's
9 contributions to Hawaii is not known or preserved due to lack of
10 understanding and racial divides; and
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12 WHEREAS, the first African-American President of the United
13 States of America, Barack Obama, was born and raised in Hawaii;
14 and
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16 WHEREAS, during his tenure as President, President Obama
17 has brought global recognition and admiration for Hawaii's
18 cultural diversity; and
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20 WHEREAS, recognition of the contributions of people of
21 African descent and their culture is important to the promotion
22 and awareness of Hawaii's diverse and multicultural society;
23 now, therefore,
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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the
27 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii State
28 Foundation on Culture and the Arts is requested to establish and
29 temporarily place within the Foundation the Hawaii Commission on
30 the History and Culture of People of African Descent
31 (Commission); and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission consist of
2 eleven members to be appointed by the Governor to include:

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4 (1) Two members representing the African American
5 Diversity Culture Center Hawaii;
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7 (2) Two members representing the National Association for
8 the Advancement of Colored People;
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10 (3) One member representing the University of Hawaii; and
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12 (4) Six at-large members; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair of the Commission
15 shall be selected by a majority vote of the commission members;
16 and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members be reimbursed for
19 necessary expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the
20 performance of their duties; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission may:

- 23
24 (1) Research the significance and impact of the experience
25 of people of African descent in Hawaii;
26
27 (2) Educate residents and visitors to the State about the
28 significance and impact of the experience of people of
29 African descent in Hawaii;
30
31 (3) Initiate, direct, and coordinate projects and events
32 to further the understanding of the history and
33 culture of people of African descent; and
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35 (4) Publish an annual report to the Legislature with
36 recommendations to honor and recognize the
37 contributions of President Obama and people of African
38 descent in Hawaii; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission shall cease to
41 exist on June 30, 2019; and
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S.C.R. NO. 61

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the
 3 Executive Director of the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and
 4 the Arts.

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OFFERED BY: Will Zygo

~~Michael Aye~~
 Michele Sidani
 Matt K

~~Blas~~
 You always
 JJ
 Dan Williams
Kal Rhoads
 Mike Habber
 Fernine S. Brown
 Matt
 [Signature]
 Clarence K. Nishihara
 Anne Merenda K.

