

MAR 03 2017

SENATE 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
11

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,
27 that the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts is
28 requested to establish and temporarily place within the
29 Foundation the Hawaii Commission on the History and Culture of
30 People of African Descent (Commission); and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission consist of
33 eleven members to be appointed by the Governor to include:
34



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- 1 (1) Two members representing the African American
2 Diversity Culture Center Hawaii;
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- 4 (2) Two members representing the National Association for
5 the Advancement of Colored People;
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- 7 (3) One member representing the University of Hawaii; and
- 8
- 9 (4) Six at-large members; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair of the Commission
12 shall be selected by a majority vote of the commission members;
13 and

14
15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members be reimbursed for
16 necessary expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the
17 performance of their duties; and

18
19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission may:

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- 21 (1) Research the significance and impact of the experience
22 of people of African descent in Hawaii;
- 23
- 24 (2) Educate residents and visitors to the State about the
25 significance and impact of the experience of people of
26 African descent in Hawaii;
- 27
- 28 (3) Initiate, direct, and coordinate projects and events
29 to further the understanding of the history and
30 culture of people of African descent; and
- 31
- 32 (4) Publish an annual report to the Legislature with
33 recommendations to honor and recognize the
34 contributions of President Obama and people of African
35 descent in Hawaii; and
- 36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission shall cease to
38 exist on June 30, 2019; and



