
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP AND
IMPLEMENT INITIATIVES RECOGNIZING AND HONORING FORMER
UNITED STATES PRESIDENT BARACK H. OBAMA.

1 WHEREAS, born in Honolulu, Hawaii, on August 4, 1961, to a
2 mother from Kansas and a father from Kenya, Barack H. Obama's
3 inspirational and noteworthy path to service as the 44th
4 President of the United States is grounded in his life
5 experiences, hard work, and his personal character; and
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7 WHEREAS, former President Barack Obama's experience in his
8 young life has global roots in Hawaii, Indonesia, and the
9 mainland United States; and
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11 WHEREAS, in his first published book, the autobiography
12 *Dreams From My Father*, then-Illinois State Senator Barack Obama
13 wrote extensively about his childhood and youth in Hawaii and
14 the profound impact that coming of age in Honolulu's unique
15 multicultural society had on his identity and sense of place in
16 the world; and
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18 WHEREAS, by the time he graduated from Punahou School in
19 1979, Barack Obama had distinguished himself on the basketball
20 court and in the classroom and had formed lasting friendships
21 that have persisted throughout his life; and
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23 WHEREAS, young Barack Obama's early life in Honolulu was
24 characterized by experiences that are familiar to many in
25 Hawaii: He was raised in a multigenerational, multicultural
26 household by his maternal grandparents, his parents met while
27 both were students and came from opposite ends of the world to
28 attend the University of Hawaii, and his strong family bonds
29 were a central factor in his path to achievement; and



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1 WHEREAS, after graduating from Columbia University in New
2 York City, Barack Obama worked as a community organizer in
3 Chicago before enrolling in Harvard Law School in Cambridge,
4 Massachusetts, where he became the first African-American
5 President of the Harvard Law Review; and

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7 WHEREAS, after working his way through college and law
8 school with the help of scholarships and student loans, Barack
9 Obama moved to Chicago where he worked with a group of churches
10 to help rebuild communities devastated by the closure of local
11 steel plants; and

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13 WHEREAS, upon graduating from law school, Barack Obama
14 returned to Chicago to help lead a voter registration drive,
15 teach constitutional law at the University of Chicago, and
16 remain active in the community; and

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18 WHEREAS, this community organizer, civil rights attorney,
19 lecturer, and professor would go on to serve in the Illinois
20 State Senate from 2005 to 2008, and then be elected President of
21 the United States for two terms, becoming the first African-
22 American to serve as Commander-in-Chief; and

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24 WHEREAS, former President Barack Obama's achievements are
25 particularly notable in the areas of health care, climate and
26 energy, American leadership, economic progress, equality, and
27 social progress, and include signing the Affordable Care Act,
28 passing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, joining the
29 Paris Agreement on climate change, passing the Dodd-Frank Wall
30 Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, stimulating the U.S.
31 automobile industry, and receiving the 2009 Noble Peace Prize;
32 and

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34 WHEREAS, former President Barack Obama has maintained close
35 personal and family ties to Hawaii, returning each year for the
36 holidays with his family and friends to enjoy Hawaii and the
37 Aloha Spirit; and

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39 WHEREAS, former President Barack Obama's leadership,
40 accomplishments, and powerful, inspiring messages to Americans



1 as the 44th President of the United States are worthy of special
2 recognition; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
6 2019, that the Director of Business, Economic Development, and
7 Tourism is requested to convene a task force to develop and
8 implement initiatives that recognize and honor former United
9 States President Barack H. Obama, his historic legacy, and his
10 impact on the Nation and the State; and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force comprise the
13 following individuals or their respective designees:

- 14 (1) The Governor;
- 15 (2) The Senate President;
- 16 (3) The Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 17 (4) The Director of Business, Economic Development, and
18 Tourism;
- 19 (5) The President and Chief Executive Officer of the
20 Hawaii Tourism Authority;
- 21 (6) The Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian
22 Affairs;
- 23 (7) The President of the University of Hawaii;
- 24 (8) The Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu;
- 25 (9) The Mayors of the Counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui;
26 and
- 27 (10) A member of the community, preferably with expert
28 knowledge on former President Barack Obama, to be
29 appointed by the Governor; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force members are
2 requested to select a chairperson of the task force from among
3 the membership; and

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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force members are to
6 serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for expenses,
7 including travel expenses, incurred in the performance of their
8 duties; and

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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
11 examine:

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- 13 (1) The entity best suited to serve as the planning agency
- 14 for all state-sponsored events and the coordinating
- 15 agency for all state-sponsored and other events for
- 16 the purpose of honoring former President Barack Obama;
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- 18 (2) The solicitation of funding from private and public
- 19 sources for the purposes of paragraph (1);
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- 21 (3) The acceptance of any appropriations from the State,
- 22 the counties, the federal government, foreign and
- 23 intergovernmental agencies, and non-governmental
- 24 agencies for the purposes of paragraph (1); and
- 25
- 26 (4) The acceptance of donations of money and personal
- 27 property and services from private and public sources;
- 28 provided that all such donations are recorded and
- 29 appropriately accounted for; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
32 submit a report of its progress, proposed activities, plans, and
33 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
34 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
35 the Regular Session of 2020; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Senate President;
39 Speaker of the House of Representatives; Director of Business,
40 Economic Development, and Tourism; President and Chief Executive
41 Officer of the Hawaii Tourism Authority; Chief Executive Officer



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1 of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; President of the University
2 of Hawaii; Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu; and the
3 respective Mayors of the Counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui.
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