
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE 1924 HANAPEPE MASSACRE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that on September 9,
2 1924, there occurred a tragic event that has come to be known as
3 the Hanapepe Massacre. The massacre involved the killing of
4 sixteen sugar plantation workers of Filipino descent in
5 Hanapepe, Kauai. The workers are said to have been shot and
6 killed by deputy sheriffs in the context of an ongoing labor
7 strike. It appears that no law enforcement officers connected
8 to the incident were investigated or charged with criminal
9 offenses.

10 The legislature also finds that according to an oral
11 history project published by the university of Hawaii at Manoa's
12 ethnic studies program in 1979, newspapers of the day carried
13 stories of the event sympathetic to the perspective of
14 plantation managers and owners. The strikers were characterized
15 as malcontents led by self-serving outside agitators who would
16 use whatever means necessary, including threats and violence, to
17 accomplish their ends. The massacre was blamed entirely on the



1 strikers, some of whom were imprisoned or deported. Further, a
2 2010 article in Honolulu Magazine reported that in response to
3 the deaths of plantation workers and law enforcement officers,
4 the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association "gave each of the four
5 sheriffs' families \$500 (\$6,300 in 2009 dollars), while the
6 families of the 16 strikers had to split about \$75 (\$947 in 2009
7 dollars), barely \$5 per dead striker."

8 The legislature further finds that a grave injustice was
9 committed in 1924, and that the hard work and sacrifices of the
10 slaughtered Filipino sugar plantation workers, and the
11 contributions of Kauai sugar plantation laborers as a whole,
12 should be memorialized in permanent monuments and displays
13 throughout the island of Kauai. Moreover, this forgotten story
14 and suppressed history about Hawaii's sugar plantation labor
15 movement contains many valuable lessons relevant to modern times
16 about the significance of cultural clashes, the powerful versus
17 the powerless, and the fear and intimidation that ensued.
18 Homage should be paid to the sugar plantation workers who
19 struggled for dignity and self-determination. These workers
20 organized and participated in labor strikes, in the face of
21 manipulation by those in power, in order to gain a voice for



1 themselves and other immigrant laborers. Therefore, it is
2 critical that the State take the lead in bringing awareness
3 about the 1924 Hanapepe Massacre as its one hundredth
4 anniversary in 2024 approaches. This educational effort may be
5 accomplished by using film and interactive media that brings the
6 relevance of past events into sharper focus.

7 The purpose of this Act is to:

8 (1) Require the state foundation on culture and the arts
9 to erect monuments and displays on Kauai, and support
10 the production of a documentary film, creation of a
11 traveling exhibition and "talk story" event, and
12 publication of a compendium in accordance with this
13 Act; and

14 (2) Appropriate funds for this purpose.

15 SECTION 2. (a) The state foundation on culture and the
16 arts shall erect multiple, life-size, permanent monuments at
17 appropriate locations throughout the island of Kauai to
18 memorialize the hard work and sacrifices of the 1924 Hanapepe
19 Massacre victims and the contributions of Kauai sugar plantation
20 laborers as a whole.



1 (b) The foundation shall install a permanent display at
2 the Lihue Airport consisting of plaques or photographs depicting
3 the history of events leading up to, and culminating in, the
4 1924 Hanapepe Massacre.

5 (c) The foundation shall arrange and provide support for
6 the following activities:

7 (1) Production of a thirty-minute documentary film showing
8 the events that led up to the tragic massacre on
9 September 9, 1924, in Hanapepe, Kauai;

10 (2) Creation of an island-wide traveling exhibition and
11 "talk story" event depicting the importance of sugar
12 plantation laborers in the State's history; and

13 (3) Publication of a comprehensive compendium on the 1924
14 Hanapepe Massacre that is readily accessible to the
15 general public and that includes the history of events
16 depicted in the documentary film and commentary by
17 today's historians and scholars.

18 (d) The foundation's members and staff may consult with
19 other persons, organizations, or stakeholders as necessary to
20 determine appropriate locations and designs for the monuments
21 and determine appropriate content for the Lihue Airport display,



1 documentary film, traveling exhibition and "talk story" event,
2 and compendium.

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the
6 design, construction, and placement of monuments and displays on
7 Kauai in accordance with this Act.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
9 accounting and general services for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$450,000 or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the
13 production of a documentary film, creation of a traveling
14 exhibition and "talk story" event, and publication of a
15 compendium in accordance with this Act.

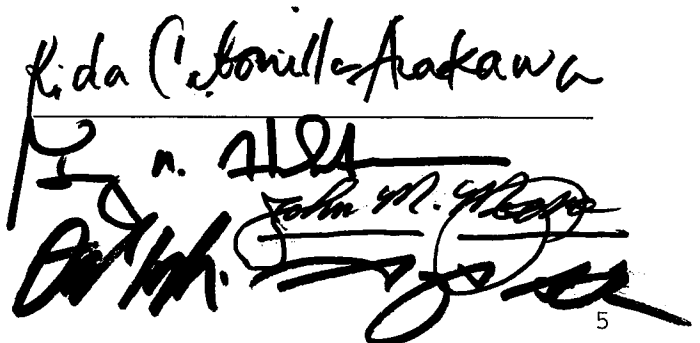
16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
17 accounting and general services for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

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INTRODUCED BY:







H.B. NO. 2515

Bicki

Tom B

Markus

Alan

Richard

JAN 22 2020



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Report Title:

Department of Accounting and General Services; State Foundation on Culture and the Arts; 1924 Hanapepe Massacre; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to erect monuments and displays on Kauai, and support other specified awareness efforts, to memorialize the 1924 Hanapepe Massacre victims and the contributions of Kauai sugar plantation laborers as a whole. Appropriates funds.

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