

MAR 10 2023

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO RESEARCH THE
MAKAHIKI TRADITION TO DETERMINE AN APPROPRIATE DATE TO
DESIGNATE AS A STATE HOLIDAY CELEBRATING MAKAHIKI.

1 WHEREAS, in Native Hawaiian tradition, the Makahiki is a
2 New Year festival and season dedicated to harvest, bounty,
3 taxation, and the god Lono; and
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5 WHEREAS, the rising of Makali'i (the Constellation Pleiades)
6 at sunset marks the beginning of the Makahiki season; and
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8 WHEREAS, Makahiki is a season spanning four consecutive
9 lunar months, approximately from October or November through
10 February or March; and
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12 WHEREAS, a function of the Makahiki prior to foreign
13 arrival was to assess the prosperity of the 'āina, at least from
14 a political perspective and the rejuvenation of the 'āina and
15 people; and
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17 WHEREAS, Makahiki was a time for the Hawaiian people and
18 their ruling chiefs to focus on rest, strengthening their
19 bodies, and having great feasts of commemoration, during days in
20 which labor was prohibited; and
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22 WHEREAS, the Makahiki festival was celebrated in three
23 phases: the first phase was a time of spiritual cleansing and
24 making ho'okupu, offerings to the gods; the second phase was a
25 time of celebration consisting of hula, games, sports, singing,
26 and feasting; the third phase, the wa'a 'auhau -- tax canoe --
27 was loaded with ho'okupu and taken out to sea where it was set
28 adrift as a gift to Lono; and
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30 WHEREAS, Makahiki was the time when peace was of foremost
31 importance -- all war was outlawed to allow unimpeded passage of



1 the image of Lono whose domain includes fertility, agriculture,
2 and peace; and
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4 WHEREAS, the Makahiki was revived on Kaho'olawe and Moloka'i
5 in 1981 and 1982, respectively; and
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7 WHEREAS, today, there are Makahiki events throughout the
8 State; most are centered around youth to engage them with Native
9 Hawaiian traditions and practices such as games of skill and wit
10 as well as competitive events showcasing physical strength and
11 agility; and
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13 WHEREAS, the State currently recognizes November 20th of
14 each year as Makahiki Commemoration Day; however, it is not a
15 state holiday; and
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17 WHEREAS, given its importance in Hawaiian tradition, the
18 Makahiki should be recognized as a state holiday; now,
19 therefore,
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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the
23 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative
24 Reference Bureau is requested to research the Makahiki tradition
25 to determine an appropriate date to designate as a state holiday
26 celebrating Makahiki; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
29 Bureau is requested to report its findings and recommendations
30 to the Legislature, including specific legislative proposals, no
31 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
32 Session of 2024; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
35 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the
36 Legislative Reference Bureau.
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OFFERED BY:

