

ACT 76

H.B. NO. 634

A Bill for an Act Establishing a Commission to Celebrate the One-Hundredth Anniversary of the Arrival of the Puerto Ricans to Hawaii.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:*

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that since the arrival of the first Puerto Ricans in Hawaii on December 23, 1900, the Puerto Rican people have contributed significantly to all phases of Hawaii's development. The rich culture and proud heritage of the Puerto Rican people have been and continue to be positive influences upon life in Hawaii. Recognition of the contributions of the Puerto Rican people and their culture is important to promoting and maintaining cognizance of Hawaii's diverse and multicultural society. The year 2000 will mark the centennial anniversary of the arrival of the Puerto Rican people in Hawaii, and a celebration to commemorate their arrival and subsequent achievements in Hawaii is appropriate.

The purpose of this Act is to provide for the celebration of the centennial anniversary of the Puerto Rican people in Hawaii.

SECTION 2. **Creation of the Puerto Rican centennial celebration commission.** There is established a temporary commission to be known as the Puerto Rican centennial celebration commission which shall have charge of all arrangements for the commemoration of the centennial anniversary of the arrival of the first Puerto Ricans to Hawaii. The commission shall be placed within the office of the

governor for administrative purposes and shall cease to operate after December 23, 2001.

**SECTION 3. Membership, compensation.** The commission shall consist of fifteen members to be appointed by the governor without regard to section 26-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes. There shall be a member from the Puerto Rican Heritage Society of Hawaii, the United Puerto Rican Association of Hawaii, Inc., the Maui Puerto Rican Association, the Kohala Puerto Rican Association, and the Kauai Puerto Rican Association. The remaining ten members shall represent government, labor, business, culture and the arts, and the community at large. The governor shall designate the chair of the commission from among the appointed members. The members shall not receive compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the performance of their duties under this Act.

**SECTION 4. Powers and duties.** The commission shall prepare an overall program to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the arrival of the Puerto Rican people to Hawaii, their significant contributions to the development of this State, and their culture and heritage. The commission shall develop, plan, and coordinate the various program activities that are to be scheduled throughout the year of the celebration and shall encourage the participation of all segments of the Puerto Rican community. In fulfilling its responsibilities, the commission shall consult, cooperate with, and seek advice from the Puerto Rican Heritage Society, the United Puerto Rican Association of Hawaii, Inc., the Maui Puerto Rican Association, the Kohala Puerto Rican Association, the Kauai Puerto Rican Association, and other appropriate organizations and agencies.

The commission shall submit to the governor a comprehensive report for the centennial anniversary celebration which shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) The production, publication, and distribution of books, films, and other educational materials on the life and experiences of Puerto Ricans in Hawaii;
- (2) Conferences, convocations, lectures, and seminars; and
- (3) Traveling exhibits, other exhibits, ceremonies, theatrical productions, and other special events commemorating the anniversary.

**SECTION 5. Trust fund established.** There is hereby created a trust fund to be known as the ethnic celebration trust fund which shall consist of payments made to the trust fund as provided in this Act. All moneys received by the commission shall be deposited by the state director of finance into the trust fund and expended by the commission for the purposes of this Act. Disbursement of such moneys shall be by state warrants issued in accordance with applicable laws and rules and shall be based on vouchers signed by the chair of the commission.

The commission may seek grants from public and private sources and may accept donations to finance the projects, programs, and activities of the centennial anniversary celebration. Any funds received shall be deposited in the ethnic celebration trust fund.

All property acquired by the commission shall be deposited for preservation in the state library system, museums, and public archives or shall otherwise be disposed of as directed by the commission.

**SECTION 6. Final report.** At the end of its term, the commission shall submit to the governor a final report of all its activities, including an accounting of all moneys received and disbursed.

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**SECTION 7.** This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1999.

(Approved June 18, 1999.)