
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO A MAKAHIKI DAY COMMEMORATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. Makahiki was a significant time throughout
2 Polynesia. The rising of the makalii, Pleiades, marks the
3 beginning of the Makahiki season that covers four consecutive
4 months. Conflict and war were set aside and unity and peace
5 prevailed as the people paid tribute to the god Lono.

6 After harvesting their crops, the people rested and let the
7 land lay fallow. Food was offered in tribute to the chiefs and
8 Lono in thanks for their wise stewardship because without
9 wisdom, the land would be barren.

10 A white tapa banner that symbolized Lono made the circuit
11 of the island. In 1778, Captain James Cook sailed into
12 Kealakekua Bay, also known as the path of God. His arrival
13 coincided with the Makahiki observance. The sails of his ship
14 resembled the symbol of Lono. According to Hawaiian tradition,
15 one day Lono would return. Thus, the people welcomed Captain
16 James Cook as Lono. However, a seemingly minor incident led



1 from the deification of Captain James Cook to his demise and
2 changed the course of history forever.

3 To perpetuate the ancient wisdom of land conservation,
4 abundance, unity, and peace during the four months of Makahiki,
5 Polynesian regional governments celebrate the Makahiki season
6 and have designated November 20th as the start of the Makahiki
7 observance. Groups from Hawaii, Samoa, Tonga, New Zealand or
8 Aotearoa, Easter Island or Rapa Nui, Wallis and Futuna, and the
9 Marquesas Islands all gather in Tahiti to celebrate Matahiti Tau
10 Auhune, a time of harvest.

11 The legislature finds that the commemoration of this
12 culturally important season is fitting and that consultation
13 with knowledgeable native Hawaiian cultural practitioners should
14 be sought to ensure that establishing a set date for
15 commemorating the Makahiki season does not affect the ability to
16 perpetuate traditions associated with the Makahiki.

17 The purpose of this Act is to establish November 20th of
18 each year as Makahiki commemoration day.

19 SECTION 2. Chapter 8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
20 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
21 read as follows:



1 "§8- Makahiki commemoration day. November 20th of each
2 year shall be known and designated as Makahiki commemoration
3 day. This day shall not be construed as a state holiday."

4 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Makahiki; Commemoration

Description:

Establishes, in statute, each November 20th as the Makahiki commemoration day; requests that consultation with knowledgeable Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners be sought to ensure that establishing a set date for commemorating the Makahiki season does not affect the ability to perpetuate traditions associated with the Makahiki. (SD1)

