

MAR 10 2010

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY ON JUNE 19 OF EACH  
YEAR.

1           WHEREAS, more than one hundred thirty years old, Juneteenth  
2 National Freedom Day is the oldest and only African-American  
3 holiday observance in the United States; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, also known as Emancipation Day, Emancipation  
6 Celebration, Freedom Day, Jun-Jun, and Juneteenth, Juneteenth  
7 National Freedom Day commemorates the strong survival instinct  
8 of African-Americans who were first brought to this country  
9 stacked in the bottom of slave ships in a month-long journey  
10 across the Atlantic Ocean known as the Middle Passage; and  
11

12           WHEREAS, approximately eleven and one-half million African-  
13 Americans survived the voyage to the New World - the number that  
14 died is likely greater - only to be subjected to whipping,  
15 castration, branding, and rape, and forced to submit to slavery  
16 for more than two hundred years after arrival in the United  
17 States; and  
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19           WHEREAS, events in the history of the United States that  
20 led to the Civil War of 1861 centered around sectional  
21 differences between the North and South that were based on the  
22 economic and social divergence caused by the existence of  
23 slavery; and  
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25           WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as President of  
26 the United States in 1861, and as President, Lincoln believed  
27 and stated that the paramount object of the Civil War was to  
28 save the Union rather than save or destroy slavery; and  
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30           WHEREAS, yet Lincoln also stated his wish that all men  
31 everywhere could be free, thus adding to a growing anticipation  
32 by slaves that their ultimate liberation was at hand; and  
33



1 WHEREAS, in 1862, the first clear sign that the end of  
2 slavery was imminent came when laws abolishing slavery in the  
3 territories of Oklahoma, Nebraska, Colorado, and New Mexico were  
4 passed; and

5  
6 WHEREAS; in September of that same year, President Lincoln  
7 warned the eleven rebellious Confederate States that if they did  
8 not return to the Union by January 1, 1863, he would declare  
9 their slaves forever free via the celebrated Emancipated  
10 Proclamation; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation,  
13 however, only occurred in Confederate States once under Union  
14 Army control and Congress subsequently passed the Thirteenth  
15 Amendment to the Constitution on January 31, 1865, abolishing  
16 slavery throughout the United States and its territories; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, news of this action reached the states at  
19 different times, and it was not until June 19, 1865, that the  
20 message of freedom reached the slaves in Texas, Oklahoma,  
21 Louisiana, Arkansas, and California; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, spontaneous celebrations erupted throughout the  
24 country when African-Americans learned of their freedom; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, Juneteenth National Freedom Day celebrates the  
27 abolishment of slavery with excitement and great joy and is a  
28 reminder to all Americans of the status and importance of  
29 Americans of African descent as American citizens; now,  
30 therefore,

31  
32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
33 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the  
34 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii State  
35 Legislature recognizes Juneteenth National Freedom Day on June  
36 19 of each year; and

37  
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
39 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor.

40  
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42

OFFERED BY: Greg L. Aam  
*Randy H. Bahr* *Clarence H. Hishikawa*  
*[Signature]*

