

JAN 23 2015

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE CULTURAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN HAWAII AND AFRICAN AMERICANS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that since the arrival of  
2 the first African Americans in Hawaii between 1778 and 1850, the  
3 African American people have contributed significantly to all  
4 phases of Hawaii's development. The rich culture and proud  
5 heritage of the African American people have been and continue  
6 to be positive influences upon life in Hawaii. However, little  
7 is known or preserved due to a lack of understanding and racial  
8 divides. Recognition of the contributions of the African  
9 American people and their culture is important to the promotion  
10 and awareness of Hawaii's diverse and multicultural society.

11           The purpose of this Act is to establish a commission on  
12 African American history and culture to recognize the  
13 contributions of the African American people in Hawaii and  
14 educate Hawaii's citizens.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
2 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to  
3 read as follows:

4 "§6E- Hawaii commission on African American history and  
5 culture. (a) There is established a commission to be known as  
6 the Hawaii commission on African American history and culture.

7 (b) The commission shall be temporarily placed within the  
8 office of the governor for administrative purposes.

9 (c) The Hawaii commission on African American history and  
10 culture shall consist of eleven members to be appointed by the  
11 governor without regard to section 26-34. The members shall  
12 include:

13 (1) Two members representing the African American  
14 Diversity Culture Center Hawaii;

15 (2) Two members representing the National Association for  
16 the Advancement of Colored People;

17 (3) One member representing the University of Hawaii; and

18 (4) Six at-large members.

19 (d) The chair of the commission shall be selected by the  
20 commission members.



# S.B. NO. 194

1        (e) The members shall not receive compensation for their  
 2 services but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses,  
 3 including travel expenses, incurred in the performance of their  
 4 duties under this section.

5        (f) The Hawaii commission on African American history and  
 6 culture may:

7        (1) Initiate, direct, and coordinate projects and events  
 8 to further the understanding of African American  
 9 history and culture;

10       (2) Educate residents and visitors to the State about the  
 11 significance and impact of the African American  
 12 experience in Hawaii; and

13       (3) Publish an annual report to the legislature with  
 14 recommendations to honor and recognize the  
 15 contributions of African American people in Hawaii."

16 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: Will Ezura  
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# S.B. NO. 194

**Report Title:**

Commission on African American History and Culture

**Description:**

Establishes the Hawaii commission on African American History and Culture to recognize the contributions of the African American people in Hawaii and educate residents and visitors to the State about these contributions.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

