

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 745

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 04 2021

RE: S.B. No. 939

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2021
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Government Operations and Ways and Means,
to which was referred S.B. No. 939 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO JUNETEENTH DAY,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish
June 19 of each year as Juneteenth Day in recognition of the
history and legacy of slavery in the United States and in honor of
the significant roles and contributions of African Americans in
the history of the United States.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure
from the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission, two members of the
Honolulu City Council, one member of the Hawai'i County Council,
one member of the Kaua'i County Council, Common Cause Hawaii, Young
Progressives Demanding Action, Punahou Black Student Union,
Community Alliance on Prisons, Hawaii for Juneteenth Coalition,
and nineteen individuals.

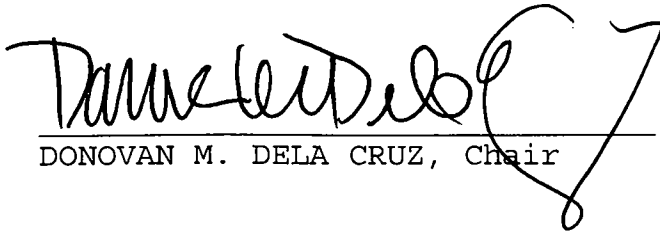
Your Committees find that Hawaii is one of only three states
that have not recognized Juneteenth as a state holiday or special
day of observance. Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, was the
day in 1865 that Union soldiers rode into Galveston, Texas,
declaring the end of the Civil War and that all slaves were free.
The holiday is a celebration of African American freedom and
achievement, encouraging continuous self-development and respect
for all cultures. Your Committees further find that as a state



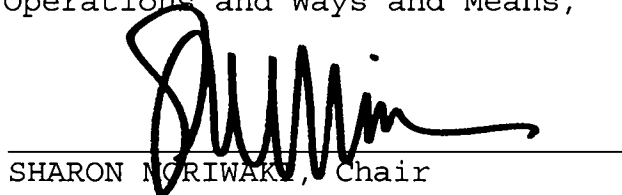
that prides itself on diversity and inclusivity, it is long overdue for the State to fully live out the Aloha spirit and stand with the forty-six states that have chosen to make Juneteenth an annual day of remembrance and celebration.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Government Operations and Ways and Means that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 939 and recommend that it pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committees on Government Operations and Ways and Means,



DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair



SHARON NORIWAKI, Chair



