

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. _____

Designating September 2026 as “Hawaiian History Month” to recognize the history, culture, and contributions of Native Hawaiians and reaffirm the United States Federal trust responsibility to the Native Hawaiian Community to support their well-being.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Designating September 2026 as “Hawaiian History Month” to recognize the history, culture, and contributions of Native Hawaiians and reaffirm the United States Federal trust responsibility to the Native Hawaiian Community to support their well-being.

Whereas Native Hawaiians are the indigenous people of Hawai‘i with a rich history and cultural legacy rooted in centuries of self-sufficiency, land stewardship, innovation, and community-building across the Hawaiian archipelago;

Whereas 19th century Native Hawaiian historians and scholars, including Samuel Mānaiakalani Kamakau, Davida (David) Malo, Zepherin (Kepelino) Kuhōpū Kahō‘āli‘i Keauokalani, and Ioane (John) Papa ‘Ī‘Ī, documented Hawaiian history and literature on Native Hawaiian

genealogies, practices, and stories that contemporary historians and cultural practitioners draw upon today;

Whereas the Kingdom of Hawai‘i was an internationally recognized sovereign nation, maintaining diplomatic and economic relations with the United States and other nations;

Whereas individual members of the royal families of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i demonstrated commitment to the welfare of the people of Hawai‘i and the advancement of the Native Hawaiian Community, including—

(1) Bernice Pauahi Pākī Bishop, a princess of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i whose will instructed the establishment of an institution to support the education and cultural stewardship of Native Hawaiian students;

(2) Queen Emma, born Emma Kalanikaumaka‘amano Kaleleonālani Na‘ea Rooke, who together with her husband, King Kamehameha IV, committed to provide quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all the people of Hawai‘i after epidemics decimated the population;

(3) King Kalākaua, born David La‘amea Kamanakapu‘u Māhinulani Nāla‘ia‘ehuokalani Lumialani Kalākaua, the first elected king of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, who commissioned the construction of ‘Iolani Palace as a symbol of Hawaiian innovation and sovereignty and championed Hawaiian traditional arts and culture; and

(4) Queen Lili‘uokalani, born Lydia Lili‘u Loloku Walania Kamaka‘eha, the last sovereign monarch of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, who promoted Hawaiian sovereignty through constitutional reform and preserved Native Hawaiian culture through her prolific musical compositions,

writings, and philanthropic efforts that support children and families;

Whereas the Kingdom of Hawai‘i was unlawfully overthrown by businessmen of the United States and Europe with support from the United States military forces in 1893;

Whereas, in 1993, Congress enacted Public Law 103–150 to acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, expressed regret for the role of the United States in the overthrow, and affirmed the inherent sovereignty of the Native Hawaiian people;

Whereas, by 1919, the Native Hawaiian population had significantly declined since Western contact due to disease and loss of culture, language, land, and political leadership;

Whereas Native Hawaiians have led efforts to revitalize their culture, language, and traditions across generations, including—

(1) George Jarrett Helm, Jr., a musician and activist who, as a founding member of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (which celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Protect Kaho‘olawe movement in 2026), protested the United States military bombing of Kaho‘olawe Island and advocated for aloha ‘āina, which translates to “love of the land”;

(2) Edith Kenao Kanaka‘ole, a revered kumu hula (hula teacher), composer, and educator who preserved Hawaiian traditions through chant, dance, and academic instruction, and whose legacy was honored with a United States mint quarter in 2023; and

(3) Mary Abigail Kawena‘ulaokalaniahī‘iakaikapoliopolekawahine‘aihonua-

ināleilehuaapele Wiggin Pukui, co-author of the Hawaiian Dictionary and a leading scholar of Hawaiian language, customs, and oral traditions;

Whereas Native Hawaiians have made contributions to the United States at all levels of the Federal Government and in the Armed Forces, including—

(1) Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalanianaʻole, elected as a delegate to the United States House of Representatives from the Territory of Hawaiʻi and the only royal-born member of the United States Congress, who led the passage of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920 (42 Stat. 108);

(2) Senator Daniel Kahikina Akaka, elected to the United States House of Representatives for 7 consecutive terms until he was appointed to the United States Senate, becoming the first Native Hawaiian to serve as a United States Senator; and

(3) Private First Class Herbert Kailieha Pililaʻau and Private First Class Anthony T. Kahoʻohanohano, Native Hawaiians who received the Medal of Honor;

Whereas Native Hawaiians have achieved success in their fields, including—

(1) Dr. Isabella Kauakea Yau Yung Aiona Abbott, the first woman on the biological sciences faculty at Stanford University, who in 1997 was awarded the Gilbert Morgan Smith medal, the highest award in marine botany from the National Academy of Sciences; and

(2) Duke Paoa Kahinu Mokoe Hulikohola Kahanamoku, a swimming champion who won 3 gold medals and 2 silver medals over 3 Olympic games and whose passion for surfing led him to be globally recognized as the “father of modern surfing” and also remem-

bered for his achievements as a lifeguard, sheriff, and ambassador of aloha;

Whereas the State of Hawai‘i has enacted legislation recognizing September as Hawaiian History Month to promote public awareness for Native Hawaiian history and culture;

Whereas today, there are over 680,000 Native Hawaiians living across the country, with the highest concentration living in Hawai‘i, followed by California, Washington State, Nevada, Texas, and Oregon;

Whereas Congress, over many decades, enacted hundreds of statutes to promote health, education, housing, history, the arts, and cultural preservation, recognizing and implementing the special political and trust relationship with the Native Hawaiian Community;

Whereas, in furtherance of the political and trust relationship with the Native Hawaiian Community, Congress has enacted annual appropriations bills to fund health, education, housing, history, the arts, cultural preservation, museums, libraries, and other programs;

Whereas, pursuant to the political and trust relationship, Federal law recognizes the continued importance of ancestral homelands for Native Hawaiians and sets aside such lands for them; and

Whereas Hawaiian History Month provides an opportunity to educate all people of the United States about Native Hawaiian history, celebrate their enduring contributions to the United States, and advance reconciliation: Now, therefore be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate designates September
2 2026 as “Hawaiian History Month”—

1 (1) to honor the history, culture, and contribu-
2 tions of Native Hawaiians to the State of Hawai‘i,
3 the United States, and worldwide;

4 (2) to recognize the importance of Public Law
5 103–150 and the ongoing efforts to achieve rec-
6 onciliation, including through consultation;

7 (3) to commend the revitalization of Native Ha-
8 waiian language, culture, and traditions as essential
9 to the well-being and identity of Native Hawaiian
10 communities;

11 (4) to encourage Federal agencies, educational
12 institutions, and civil society to observe Hawaiian
13 History Month with appropriate programs, cere-
14 monies, and educational activities; and

15 (5) to call on Federal agencies to promote pro-
16 grams established by Congress to recognize and im-
17 plement the special political and trust relationship
18 with the Native Hawaiian Community.