

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 23-04
(Colonel Ronald P. Han, Jr. Hawai'i Semiquincentennial Commission)**

WHEREAS, in the 2022 legislative session, the Hawai'i State Legislature passed HCR 166, 31st Leg., Reg. Sess. (2022) ("HCR 166") that states, in part, "that the Governor is requested to establish a Hawai'i Commission on the United States Semiquincentennial by Executive Order", and that Commission is to "coordinate a statewide effort commemorating and celebrating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America";

WHEREAS, Section 3 of Act 178, as amended, expressly authorizes the Governor to fix by executive order the exact amount each agency is to transfer to OHA on a quarterly basis;

WHEREAS, through HCR 166, the Hawai'i State Legislature also stated that "to appropriately take part in America's semiquincentennial celebration, it is fitting that the State of Hawai'i establish a commission to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the United States of America by having the Hawai'i commission plan and coordinate commemorations and observances of this nationwide celebration";

WHEREAS, P.L. 114-196, July 22, 2016, 130 Stat. 685 ("P.L. 114-196"), established the United States Semiquincentennial Commission and its nonprofit partner, the America250 Foundation, to collaborate with affiliates at the local, territorial, state, tribal, regional, national and international levels to educate, engage and unite Americans throughout a commemorative period concluding in 2027;

WHEREAS, as of March 28, 2023, America250.org announced that thirty-two (32) states have established Semiquincentennial Commissions, noting this is “part of America250’s effort to form an America250 commission or state-designated entity in every U.S. state and territory to plan for the nation’s 250th anniversary”;

WHEREAS, in passing P.L. 114-196, Congress found that July 4, 2026 is the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, as marked by the Declaration of Independence in 1776, and the historic events preceding that anniversary, are of major significance in the development of the national heritage of the United States of individual liberty, representative government, and the attainment of equal and inalienable rights; and have had a profound influence throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Executive Order is to establish a Commission to provide for the coordinated observance and commemoration events and activities within the State of Hawai‘i commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Josh Green, M.D., Governor of Hawai‘i, pursuant to my executive authority under Article V of the Constitution of the State of Hawai‘i and all other applicable authority, do hereby order, effective immediately, the following:

- 1) There shall be established a commission to be known as the “Hawai‘i Semiquincentennial Commission”, also to be known as the “Hawai‘i America250 Commission” (“Commission”), to plan, encourage, develop and coordinate in the State of Hawai‘i the commemoration of the history of the United States leading to the founding of the United States celebrated on the 250th anniversary of the founding;

- 2) The initial membership of the Commission shall be composed of the following members:
 - a. Col. Arthur Tulak, USA-Ret, President, Hawai'i Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, or his designated representative;
 - b. Col. Robert P. "Rob" Moore, USAF-Ret, Vice President General, Western District, National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, or his designated representative;
 - c. Peter T. Young, Member, Hawai'i Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, or his designated representative;
 - d. Jane Mann, State Regent, Hawai'i State Organization, Daughters of the American Revolution, or her designated representative; and
 - e. Brig. Gen. (Ret) Bruce Oliveira, Interim Director, State Office of Veterans' Services, or his designated representative, shall serve on the commission on an interim basis until a new Director of Veterans' Services is appointed and can serve on the commission;
- 3) In addition to the named members above, leadership of the following people/entities shall designate a person as a representative of the person/entity on the Commission:
 - a. Hawai'i State Senate;
 - b. Hawai'i State House of Representatives;
 - c. Hawai'i State Organization, Daughters of the American Revolution;
 - d. University of Hawai'i;
 - e. Hawai'i Department of Education;

- f. Mayor, Kauai County;
 - g. Mayor, City and County of Honolulu
 - h. Mayor, Maui County; and
 - i. Mayor, Hawai'i County;
- 4) The Commission members shall select the Chairperson of the Commission;

5) HONORARY MEMBERS

The Honorary members of the Commission are:

- a. Josh Green, M.D., Governor of Hawai'i, Honorary Chair, or his designated representative;
 - b. Derek Kawakami, Mayor of Kauai County, Honorary Co-Chair, or his designated representative;
 - c. Rick Blangiardi, Mayor of City and County of Honolulu, Honorary Co-Chair, or his designated representative;
 - d. Richard T. Bissen Jr., Mayor of Maui County, Honorary Co-Chair, or his designated representative; and
 - e. Mitchell Roth, Mayor of Hawai'i County, Honorary Co-Chair, or his designated representative;
- 6) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS
- a. The Commission, by majority vote, may appoint additional members, including additional Honorary Members, to the Commission;

7) VACANCIES

- a. A vacancy on the Commission shall not affect the powers of the Commission and shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Commission;

8) QUORUM

- a. A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold community meetings;

9) DUTIES

- a. The Commission shall:
 - i. Prepare an overall program for commemorating in the State of Hawai'i the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States and the historic events associated with the founding; and
 - ii. Plan, encourage, develop, coordinate, and present respective observances and activities commemorating the historic events that are associated with the founding of the United States. These activities shall be presented preceding the anniversary;
- b. The Commission may include products, merchandise, activities, and events such as:
 - i. The production, publication, and distribution of merchandise, pamphlets, books, films, digital and other educational

materials focusing on the history, culture, and political thought of the period of the American Revolution;

- ii. Bibliographical and documentary projects and publications;
 - iii. Conferences, assemblies, lectures, seminars, webinars and other programs;
 - iv. The development of libraries, museums, historic sites, and exhibits; and
 - v. Ceremonies and celebrations commemorating specific events;
- c. The observances and commemorations shall be done with local, State, regional, national, and international entities in cooperation with the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission and other public and private authorities and organizations;

10) RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES

- a. The Commission may designate, coordinate and present live and virtual events and programs with respect to the semiquincentennial celebration and commemoration;
- b. Through the events, programs, products, digital and printed media, symposia, and educational outreach, the Commission should promote and encourage:
 - i. Awareness and understanding of the principles of the Declaration of Independence, of the winning of American independence in the American Revolutionary War, and of

the establishment of America's system of constitutional self-government;

- ii. Teaching students and increasing public knowledge and appreciation of the breadth of American history and the centuries-long quest for "liberty and justice for all," to include sharing the stories and contributions of the various people who have populated the land, from indigenous peoples, explorers, British colonists, seekers of religious freedom, enslaved African Americans and many others who are part of America's stories;
- iii. Advancing the cause of liberty and American self-government and of the meaning of "E Pluribus Unum" ("from many, one") through promoting civic knowledge and practice, including America's "Charters of Freedom" (the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights) and the constitutional features of self-government emphasizing the roles of active and engaged good citizens;
- iv. Emphasizing the service and sacrifices of the military (those in active duty, reserve, guard, and veteran) of all generations who have secured and preserved American independence and freedom and encouraging others to honor them; and
- v. Celebratory and commemorative events and activities throughout the State;

11) COORDINATION

- a. The Commission shall be authorized to consult, cooperate, and coordinate with the United States Semiquincentennial Commission and the America250 Foundation and other national, regional, state, and local organizations engaged in commemoration and celebration of the semiquincentennial, and other national, regional, state and local public and private organizations with compatible purposes; and
- b. In carrying out this Executive Order, the Commission shall be authorized to consult, cooperate and coordinate with, and seek advice and assistance from appropriate federal agencies, state, county and local public bodies, learned societies, and historical, patriotic, philanthropic, civic, professional and related organizations, and the general public;

12) RESPONSIBILITIES OF STATE AGENCIES

- a. State agencies shall cooperate with the Commission in planning, encouraging, developing, coordinating, and presenting appropriate commemorative events and activities;

13) POWERS

- a. The Commission may meet and act at such times and places receive public input and receive such information as the Commission considers advisable to carry out this Executive Order;

14) GIFTS, DONATIONS, SALES, EVEN ADMISSION FEES FOR COMMISSION USE

- a. The commission may accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of money, sale of produces or merchandise, event admission fees, property, or personal services for Commission-related activities, subject to disclosure according to Hawai'i Revised Statutes Section 84-11.5;

15) ADDITIONAL POWERS

- a. As determined necessary by the Commission, the Commission may:
 - i. Procure supplies, services and property;
 - ii. Make contracts;
 - iii. Expend in furtherance of this Executive Order funds donated or received in pursuance of activities/agreements under this Executive Order; and
 - iv. Take such actions as are necessary to enable the Commission to carry out efficiently and in the public interest the purposes of this Executive Order;

16) USE OF MATERIALS

- a. All books, manuscripts, miscellaneous digital and printed matter, memorabilia, relics, and other materials relating to the United States semiquincentennial, whether donated to the Commission or collected by the Commission, may be deposited for preservation in national, state, or local libraries or museums or be otherwise disposed of by the Commission;

17) Commission personnel matters

a. COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS

- i. The members of the Commission shall receive no compensation for service on the Commission;

b. TRAVEL EXPENSES

- i. A member of the Commission shall be allowed/reimbursed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for a state employee while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Commission;

c. STAFF

- i. The Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws (including regulations), appoint and terminate an executive director and/or secretariate and such other additional personnel as are necessary to enable the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission;

1. The engagement of an executive director and/or secretariat shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission;

- ii. The Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services at rates for individuals that do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed in state statutes and rules;

18) SECRETARIAT

a. The Commission may seek to enter into an arrangement with a nonprofit organization. Under such arrangement, such nonprofit organization shall:

- i. Serve as the secretariat of the Commission, that may include serving as the point of contact;
- ii. Investigate and implement ways for donations to the Commission to be processed through the secretariat;
- iii. House the administrative offices of the Commission;
- iv. Assume responsibility for funds of the Commission; and
- v. Provide to the Commission financial and administrative services, including services related to budgeting, accounting, financial reporting, personnel, and procurement;

b. PAYMENT FOR FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

- i. Payment for services shall be made in advance, or by reimbursement, from funds of the Commission in such amounts as may be agreed on by the Commission and the secretariat of the Commission;

19) EXPENDITURES OF COMMISSION

a. Expenditures of the Commission shall be made from donated funds, sales of products and merchandise, and event admission fees;

20) ADVISORY COMMITTEES

a. The Commission may appoint such advisory committees as the Commission decides necessary;

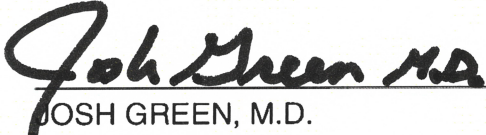
21) ANNUAL REPORT

- a. Once each year during the period beginning on the date of this Executive Order and ending on December 31, 2027, the Commission shall submit to the Governor a report of the activities of the Commission, including an accounting of funds received and expended during the year covered by the report; and

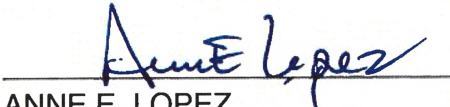
22) TERMINATION OF COMMISSION

- a. The Commission shall terminate on December 31, 2027.

DONE at the State Capitol, Honolulu,
State of Hawai'i, this 15th day of
December, 2023.


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor of Hawai'i

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


ANNE E. LOPEZ
Attorney General
State of Hawai'i