

By: Kuempel

H.R. No. 1664

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas House of Representatives is pleased to
2 welcome the staff of the Parker Ranch, located on the Big Island of
3 Hawaii, to the Lone Star State this summer; at this time it is also
4 fitting that we recognize this remarkable enterprise, which
5 encompasses approximately 200,000 acres of land, making it the
6 largest private ranch under single ownership in the United States;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, For more than 150 years, Parker Ranch has played an
9 instrumental role in the advancement of cattle ranching in Hawaii
10 and has been considered the birthplace and home of the *paniolo*, the
11 Hawaiian cowboy; six generations of these courageous islanders have
12 helped to build the Parker Ranch empire, which today includes a vast
13 array of holdings in commercial leasing, real estate, and tourism
14 and visitor activities, as well as in its core business of livestock
15 management and its continued existence is a testament to the hard
16 work and exceptional commitment of its many owners and employees
17 during this time; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1992 the ranch began a notable new chapter in its
19 history when the ownership was transferred to a trust foundation
20 that supports health care, education, and charitable endeavors; and

21 WHEREAS, The Parker Ranch can trace its beginnings to 1815,
22 when King Kamehameha granted permission to John Parker to thin the
23 herds of cattle that had populated Hawaii since the arrival of the
24 first five head in 1793; however, it was not until 1832, when King

1 Kamehameha III invited Spanish vaqueros from the mainland to visit
2 the islands, that the Hawaiians learned the time-tested techniques
3 of ranch management that had been developed by cowboys in South
4 Texas in the late 17th century, long before the first cows, horses,
5 or vaqueros had ever arrived on the fair islands of the 50th state;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, It has been wisely observed that imitation is the
8 sincerest form of flattery, and the Texas House of Representatives
9 humbly accepts the compliment that Hawaiians have paid to us by
10 adopting the unique style of mounted herdsmanship that Texans
11 perfected so long before 1832; we are glad that our achievements as
12 cowboys and ranchers have helped to spur on Hawaii's own cowboys and
13 ranchers, and we genuinely hope that the Aloha State will not
14 hesitate to request further assistance from us in the future; and

15 WHEREAS, All jesting aside, the cowboys of the past, whether
16 vaquero or *paniolo*, mainlander or islander, would be immensely
17 pleased to see their legacy live on in the hearts and minds of the
18 cowboys of today, and our visitors from Hawaii can be justifiably
19 proud of the fascinating and unique place that the Parker Ranch
20 occupies in the history of these United States; now, therefore, be
21 it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
23 Legislature hereby welcome the staff of the Parker Ranch, "Hawaii's
24 Cattle Kingdom," to the State of Texas and extend to them warmest
25 best wishes for an enjoyable, informative, and productive visit;
26 and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for Parker Ranch as an expression of high regard by the
2 Texas House of Representatives.