COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, HISTORIC PRESERVATION, YOUTH AND RECREATION

BILL NO. 30-0191

Thirtieth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

August 19, 2013

A Resolution petitioning the United States Congress to establish a Virgin Islands Truth and Reconciliation Commission to investigate, discover and reveal past wrongdoings by the Danish government and provide answers to historical questions relating to the Danish occupation and rule of the Danish West Indies, which are now the United States Virgin Islands, between 1672 and 1917

PROPOSED BY: Senator Sammuel Sanes

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Co-Sponsor: Judi Buckley

1 WHEREAS, the Danish formed a Board of Trade in 1668 and secured a commercial treaty with 2 Britain, providing for the unmolested settlement of uninhabited islands in the Leeward Islands of the 3 Lesser Antilles; and 4 WHEREAS, in 1916 the islands of the Danish West Indies were sold to the United States by 5 Denmark in the Treaty of the Danish West Indies, and in 1917 the islands of the Danish West Indies 6 became the United States Virgin Islands, an unincorporated territory of the United States of America; 7 and 8 WHEREAS, the citizens of the United States Virgin Islands seek answers to historical questions 9 relating to the Danish occupation and rule of the islands between 1672 and 1917; and

1	WHEREAS, the establishment of a Virgin Islands Truth and Reconciliation Commission will
2	serve to investigate, discover and reveal past wrongdoing by the Danish government, in the hope of
3	resolving conflict left over from the past; and
4	WHEREAS, the reconciliation process will allow the people of the Virgin Islands to put the
5	events of the past behind us for the greater good of the community; and
6	WHEREAS, the Legislature of the Virgin Islands strongly supports the establishment of a Virgin
7	Islands Truth and Reconciliation Commission; Now, Therefore,
8	Be it resolved by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:
9	SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the United
10	States Virgin Islands, respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to establish a Virgin Islands
11	Truth and Reconciliation Commission to investigate, discover and reveal past wrongdoing by the Danish
12	government and provide answers to historical questions relating to the Danish occupation and rule of the
13	Danish West Indies, which are now the United States Virgin Islands, between 1672 and 1917.
14	(b) An official copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to the President of the United States,
15	each member of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, and the Virgin Islands Delegate
16	to Congress.
17	BILL SUMMARY
18	This Resolution petitions the United States Congress to establish a Virgin Islands Truth and
19	Reconciliation Commission to investigate, discover and reveal past wrongdoing by the Danish
20	government and provide answers to historical questions relating to the Danish occupation and rule of the
21	Danish West Indies, which are now the United States Virgin Islands, between 1672 and 1917.
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