

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, VETERANS
AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

BILL NO. 36-0058

Thirty-Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

March 28, 2025

An Act honoring and commending Dennis “Pumpa” Lennox Leroy Liburd, Jr. for his many contributions to the Virgin Islands culture and music industry as a Soca artist by awarding him the Official key to the Territory and naming the main entrance of 6-Y Peters Rest Road, Christiansted, St. Croix in his honor

PROPOSED BY: Senator Marise C. James

WHEREAS, on December 10, 1986, Dennis Lennox Leroy Liburd, Jr., better known as “Pumpa”, was born in Cayon, St. Kitts; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, Pumpa’s parents, who are originally from St. Kitts and Pumpa relocated to St. Croix; and

WHEREAS, Pumpa is one of twelve children between his biological parents and was raised in Peters Rest, Christiansted, St. Croix, where he spent his formative years; and

WHEREAS, Pumpa attended Lew Muckle Elementary School, Elena Christian Junior High School, and St. Croix Central High School, graduating in June 2005; and

WHEREAS, during his elementary school years, his classmates gave him the nickname “Pumpa” in recognition of his exceptional athletic abilities; a name that would later come to symbolize the boundless energy Pumpa brings to his musical performances worldwide; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in 2002, Pumpa’s passion for music led him to begin his musical career as
2 the lead singer of Rocking Vibe Band; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in 2003, Pumpa joined the Xtaushun Band, where he performed as a lead
4 singer until 2005; and

5 **WHEREAS**, in 2006, after the Xtaushun Band disbanded, Pumpa embarked on a
6 successful solo career, balancing his music with higher education and athletics; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Pumpa attended Bryant & Stratton College in Syracuse, New York, on a
8 soccer scholarship, earning an Associate’s Degree in Business Administration before
9 transferring to Monroe College in New Rochelle, New York, in 2007, where he completed his
10 Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Pumpa’s musical career was deeply inspired by Nicholas “Daddy” Friday
12 of the Awesome Jamband and Machel Montano; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Pumpa successfully established himself as a solo Soca artist; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Pumpa, as an accredited producer, co-produced his first international song,
15 “Massage” which was released in 2012; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Pumpa won the title of USVI Soca Monarch King with his hit song “Honk
17 Yo Horn”; and

18 **WHEREAS**, in the 2014 St. Croix Carnival, Pumpa’s performance of “VI Up” earned
19 him the title of 2014-2015 VI Soca Party Monarch; and

20 **WHEREAS**, throughout his career, Pumpa has won three Road March titles: in 2004,
21 with “Energy” while performing with the Xtaushun Band; in 2005, with “Babysitting Club”
22 (also known as “Gasoline”) with the Xtaushun Band; and in 2017, with “Back Together” as a
23 solo artist; and

1 **WHEREAS**, at the 2016-2017 St. Croix Crucian Christmas Festival, Pumpa made
2 history as the first solo Soca artist from the Virgin Islands to win a Road March title with his
3 song “Back Together”; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Pumpa has toured Antigua, Saint Maarten, St. Kitts, Anguilla, Grenada,
5 London, Trinidad, Florida, Texas, Georgia, New York, the British Virgin Islands, and
6 numerous other locations, proudly promoting the Virgin Islands through his music; and

7 **WHEREAS**, he became the first Virgin Islands Soca artist to achieve international
8 success, representing the Virgin Islands on the Uber Soca Cruise in 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023,
9 and 2024, with confirmed performances for the 2025 and 2026 sailings; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Pumpa’s international breakout song, “A-List”, has surpassed 1.5 million
11 views on YouTube, further solidifying his global recognition; and

12 **WHEREAS**, at the 2024 Caribbean Music Awards, Pumpa was honored with the Impact
13 Award in recognition of his influence and impact on Caribbean music; and

14 **WHEREAS**, for the 2025 Trinidad Carnival Season, Pumpa collaborated with Soca icon,
15 Machel Montano, who he has performed alongside multiple times, on the hit song “Her
16 Mudda”; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Pumpa is proud to represent the Virgin Islands wherever he goes—whether
18 through his music, the flag, or even the clothing he wears—always keeping the spirit of the VI
19 close to his heart; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Pumpa’s music is fueled by the love and support of his fans, his dedication
21 to Soca, and the unwavering encouragement of his fiancée, Larissa, and their two children,
22 Xidani and Xenga; and

5 **SECTION 1.** The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin
6 Islands, honors and commends Dennis “Pumpa” Lennox Leroy Liburd Jr. for his many
7 contributions to the Virgin Islands culture and music industry as a Soca Artist.

13 **SECTION 3.** The main entrance of 6-Y Peters Rest Road, Christiansted, St. Croix is
14 named the “Dennis “Pumpa” Liburd Drive”. The Department of Public Works shall erect a
15 sign bearing this name.

21 **BILL SUMMARY**

22 This bill honors and commends Dennis “Pumpa” Lennox Leroy Liburd Jr. for his many
23 contributions to the Virgin Islands culture and music industry as a soca artist and presents him
24 with the Official Key to the territory. This bill also names the main entrance of 6-Y Peters Rest

1 Road, Christiansted, St. Croix as the “Dennis “Pumpa” Liburd Drive”. The bill further
2 appropriates \$10,000 from the St. Croix Capital Improvement Fund to the Virgin Islands
3 Department of Public Works to erect the proper signage at the main entrance of 6-Y Peters Rest
4 Road and to hold a ceremony in his honor.

5 **BR25-0321/February 7, 2025/Revised March 3, 2025/GC**