

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION

06/02/2022-REPORTED OUT TO THE FLOOR

04/20/2022-REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

BILL NO. 34-0201

Thirty-Fourth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

March 4, 2022

A Resolution honoring and commending Kemit-Amon Lewis for his outstanding service and contributions to the marine science industry in the Virgin Islands

PROPOSED BY: Senators Kurt A. Violet, Genevieve R. Whitaker,
Franklin D. Johnson and Marvin A. Blyden
Co-sponsor: Samuel Carrión

1 **WHEREAS**, on January 12, 1983, Kemit-Amon Lewis was born on St. Croix, Virgin
2 Islands to Maria Thomas-Lewis and Moses Lewis;

3 **WHEREAS**, the middle child of three, he was raised in the historic town of
4 Frederiksted and graduated from the Central High School in 2000;

5 **WHEREAS**, Kemit holds both Bachelors and Masters of Science degrees in Marine
6 Science from Savannah State University;

7 **WHEREAS**, he has worked as a resource ecologist in conjunction with the
8 Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) Coastal Zone Management
9 Program, at the St. Croix Foundation as a disaster recovery manager, in the Marine Science
10 Program on the St. Thomas campus of the University of the Virgin Islands and as a
11 professor of science on the St. Croix campus;

1 **WHEREAS**, Kemit’s career as coral conservation manager with the Nature
2 Conservancy Caribbean Program led him to develop coral reef restoration programs across
3 the Caribbean and throughout the world, but most importantly in the Virgin Islands;

4 **WHEREAS**, one of Kemit’s greatest achievements has been applying these best
5 practices of coral reef restoration and using them as the template for assisting Cuba and
6 China in developing their coral nurseries, and another notable achievement in 2017 was
7 witnessing the natural reproduction of corals that he and his team planted at Green Cay in
8 2012;

9 **WHEREAS**, his passion for restoring life to our native waters blossomed into a
10 worldwide effort to assist with the establishment of coral nurseries in other countries, such
11 as the British Virgin Islands, the Bahamas, Curacao, the Dominican Republic, Grenada,
12 Guam, and Jamaica;

13 **WHEREAS**, Kemit also developed the Reef Responsible Sustainable Seafood
14 Initiative in the Territory, which educates chefs, fishermen, and the community in best
15 practices for fishing and sustaining the ocean environment;

16 **WHEREAS**, he also managed the St. Croix Jack and Isaac Bay’s sea turtle
17 conservation project;

18 **WHEREAS**, Kemit’s accolades and recognitions include International Coral Reef
19 Symposium Photography contest winner for best animal portrait and best in show (2012);
20 Scuba Diving Magazine’s Sea Hero (June 2013); The Nature Conservancy Caribbean
21 employee of the year (2013); Caribbean Journal’s “Twelve People Who Are Making The
22 Caribbean A Greener Place” (2015); and he was also featured in the St. Croix Women’s
23 Coalition Distinguished Men of the USVI calendar (2016);

