

# ***ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS***

## ***A RESOLUTION***

No. 2019 -44

### **URGING THE DECLARATION OF THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER AS HAWAIIAN HISTORY MONTH**

WHEREAS, in the month of September, Queen Lili‘uokalani’s birth, life, and legacy is remembered and celebrated in the Hawaiian community, including at churches and organizations, such as Kawaiaha‘o Church’s Ali‘i Sunday, Lili‘uokalani Trust Kīpuka (children centers), and Kamehameha Schools; and

WHEREAS, in September 2019, Ali‘iōlani Hale King Kamehameha V Judiciary History Center hosted a temporary exhibit on the Kingdom’s diplomacy with foreign countries, the Kingdom’s Constitutions, the effects of foreign introduced disease in Hawai‘i and the history of laws pertaining to ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i (Hawaiian language); and

WHEREAS, in September 2019, the Pūko‘a Kani ‘Āina ‘Ike Hawai‘i Speaker Series at Punahou School hosted by the Hawai‘i Pono‘ī Coalition, presented ‘Ike Mōakaaka Revealing Native Agency in Unlikely Places: The 1894 Constitution of the Republic of Hawai‘i, an illustrated presentation by historian and archivist Ronald Williams, Jr. PhD; and

WHEREAS, each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September, and the United Nations General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and people; and

WHEREAS, although Queen Lili‘uokalani was deposed as queen, charged with crimes, and imprisoned by the provisional government, she maintained a personal directive of peaceful resistance, believing in God, and entrusting that the political process would return the sovereignty of the Hawaiian Kingdom, and to this day, Lili‘u remains an enduring symbol of hope for her people; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, a small hui (group) of members from the Hawaiian community including Kumu J. Keola Lake, Aaron Mahi, Beau Bassett, Kaho‘onei Panoke, Meleanna Meyer, and Vicky Holt-Takamine, planned for and successfully presented the first large-scale birthday celebration honoring Queen Lili‘uokalani as a world leader and exemplar of peace, on the grounds of ‘Iolani Palace; and

WHEREAS, in August 2007, a hui of Native Hawaiian organizations namely Alu Like, Inc., the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Friends of 'Iolani Palace, 'Ilio'ulaokalani Coalition, Kamehameha Schools, Lili'uokalani Trust, Nā Pua a Ke Ali'i Pauahi, Native Hawaiian Bar Association, Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, PA'I Foundation, and University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies, came together as founding members of the Hawai'i Pono'ī Coalition; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Pono'ī Coalition was formed to educate those who live in and visit the islands about Hawai'i's true history, the Native Hawaiian people, and the culture that makes Hawai'i a place like no other; and

WHEREAS, in September 2007, the Hawai'i Pono'ī Coalition launched its first commemorative event, 'Onipa'a (Steadfast): A Birthday Celebration for Queen Lili'uokalani, on the grounds of 'Iolani Palace, billed as "A Day of Learning and Recapturing the History of Hawai'i;" and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Pono'ī Coalition has commemorated Queen Lili'uokalani's birthday on the grounds of 'Iolani Palace in September of every year since 2007 in its annual signature event, the 'Onipa'a Celebration, to honor Queen Lili'uokalani as a leader of peace and justice, to appreciate our culture, and to educate the public on the true-history of Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, the annual 'Onipa'a Celebration held in September is designed to bring together a diversity of Hawaiian organizations and cultural practitioners to share their organizational purposes and cultural practices; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Pono'ī Coalition has sponsored the Mai Poina trilogy of dramas; Mai Poina: The Overthrow, The Trial of the Queen: 1895 Military Tribunal, and The Annexation Debate, as a creative way of retelling Hawai'i's true history; and

WHEREAS, Mai Poina: The Overthrow, living history walking tours on the grounds of 'Iolani Palace retracing four pivotal days leading up to and including the overthrow of the Hawaiian Monarchy are held for four days in September following the 'Onipa'a Celebration and have been since 2010; and

WHEREAS, although Prince Kūhiō Day is an official State holiday to mark the birth of Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole – heir to the throne of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, and Kamehameha Day is an official State holiday to honor Kamehameha I, there is no Hawai'i State observance or holiday recognizing Queen Lili'uokalani, Hawai'i's last ruling monarch; and

WHEREAS, designating September as Hawaiian History Month would be an appropriate way to honor Queen Lili'uokalani and recognize the contributions of the Native Hawaiian community, while also providing community building, educational, and economic opportunities through the previously listed and other events.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 60th Annual Convention in Lahaina, Maui, in the malama of Welehu and the rising of Lā‘au Pau, this 16th day of November 2019, urging the declaration of the month of September as Hawaiian History Month; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and all County Mayors.



The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted in the malama of Welehu and the rising of Lā‘au Pau on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of November 2019, at the 60th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Lahaina, Maui.

Handwritten signature of Hailama V. K. K. Farden in black ink.

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Hailama V. K. K. Farden, President