

# Resolution

No. \_\_\_\_\_

## HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF THE LATE WILLIAM “WILLIE K” KAHAIALI‘I

WHEREAS, William Awihilima Kahaiali‘i, also known as “Willie K” or “Uncle Willie,” was a Maui native known as a Hawaiian music icon, who passed away on May 18, 2020, at the age of 59; and

WHEREAS, the passing of a person of such stature is a time to reflect upon and appreciate his many accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Willie K was born on October 17, 1960, in Lahaina, Maui, and was the second of nine boys and four girls; and

WHEREAS, he became a musical prodigy at an early age, performing alongside his brothers in his father’s family band; and

WHEREAS, Willie K was a proud 1979 graduate of Lahainaluna High School; and

WHEREAS, Willie K went on to become a wildly successful vocalist, songwriter, and producer, winning 19 Nā Hōkū Hanohano Awards; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, he displayed his diverse musical abilities through his performances of various genres including Hawaiian, blues, reggae, rock, jazz, and opera, forming separate musical partnerships with Amy Hānaiali‘i and Eric Gilliom, joining Mick Fleetwood’s Island Rumours Band, and performing with music legends such as Prince, Willie Nelson, and Steven Tyler; and

WHEREAS, Willie K performed around the world, sharing his aloha and bringing pride to the Hawaiian community; and

WHEREAS, Willie K was frequently a featured performer at prominent public events, such as the Maui County Council’s inauguration and the Hawai‘i State Association of Counties’ annual conference, and at fundraisers for meaningful community causes; and

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WHEREAS, the people of the County of Maui have benefited by this great community leader, a man whose life is a model worthy of emulation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it honors and celebrates the extraordinary life of the late William Awihilima Kahaiali'i and extends its condolences and deepest sympathy to his family; and
2. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to his wife, Debbie Kahaiali'i; his children, Karshaun, Max, Lycettiana, and Antoinette; Amy Hānaiali'i Gilliom, President, Hawai'i Academy of Recording Arts; Art Vento, President, Maui Arts and Cultural Center; Lahainaluna High School; and the Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui.