

Resolution

No. 23-198

EXTENDING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE ROBERT “BOB” WARNER HOBODY

WHEREAS, Robert “Bob” Warner Hobdy passed away on June 4th, 2023, in Makawao at the age of 81; and

WHEREAS, Bob is survived by his wife Doreen, his sons Byron and Nathan, and his grandchildren Kekoa, Elena, and Malia; and

WHEREAS, Bob was born on September 6th, 1942, in Honolulu, Hawai‘i, to William Warner Hobdy and Ruth Margaret Boye Hobdy; and

WHEREAS, Bob, along with his elder brother Bill Boyé Hobdy and his younger sister Elizabeth “Betty” Hobdy, moved to Lāna‘i in the summer of 1950 when their father transferred from Honolulu as the office manager and later superintendent with the Dole Company; and

WHEREAS, Bob grew up surrounded by nature and expressed his keen interest in plants and botany starting at the age of 15 which led to over 40 years of work protecting native and endangered species and their Hawaiian habitats; and

WHEREAS, Bob received his degree in Forestry at Oregon State University and went on to have a career in the Hawai‘i State Department of Land and Natural Resources (“DLNR”), Division of Forestry and Wildlife, spanning more than 37 years; and

WHEREAS, Bob made his way through the ranks at DLNR before retiring as the District Manager of Maui County, and then went on to be one of Hawai‘i’s leading environmental consultants in flora and fauna, wetland, and waters in the United States; and

WHEREAS, between 2005 and 2006, Bob helped to create a map of Lāna‘i for the book “Story of Lāna‘i” by George C. Munro, which contains a collection of all known Lāna‘i place names that have been recorded during the past 150 years intended to provide a window into the island’s culture, and link that culture to the land, the sea, and the heavens with which it is so intimately connected; and

Resolution No. 23-198

WHEREAS, Bob hoped that updating of the map would stimulate renewed interest in the knowledge of Lāna‘i’s many place names and encourage the return of their common usage as descriptors of these special places; and

WHEREAS, Bob freely and humbly shared his vast knowledge of conservation issues, the history of land management, his adventurous spirit, and his enthusiasm to explore and locate unique species, inspiring the hearts and minds of many professionals, individuals, and communities to take action and steward Hawai‘i’s precious species and ecosystems.

WHEREAS, Bob lived on Maui for over 50 years where he served his community by volunteering on many boards as a member or in an advisory capacity including the Maui County Arborist Advisory Committee, Maui Invasive Species Committee, Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, Mauna Kahālāwai Watershed Partnership, Hawai‘i Land Trust (“HILT”), and Federal Weed Risk Assessment Committee; and

WHEREAS, Bob was a naturalist and credited for discovering 12 species of native Hawaiian Plants, five of which are named after him by other botanists; and

WHEREAS, Bob was honored by HILT in 2020 as “Champion of the Land” for his substantial impact in conservation and sustainability and as a way to express Hawai‘i’s indebtedness to the way he went “above and beyond to protect what is so unique to Hawai‘i”; and

WHEREAS, Bob dedicated his life to study and protect Hawai‘i’s native ecosystem and became a distinguished community conservation leader; and

WHEREAS, Bob is revered for his contributions to the world’s understanding of native plants; now, therefore,

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

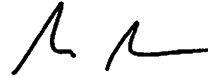
1. That the Council expresses its gratitude for the late Robert “Bob” Warner Hobdy’s hardwork and dedication to caring for Maui County’s land and wildlife; and

Resolution No. 23-198

2. That the Council extends its condolences and deepest sympathy to the family and dear friends of the late Robert "Bob" Warner Hobdy; and
3. That certified copies of the resolution be transmitted to his wife, Doreen Hobdy; his sons, Byron Hobdy and Nathan Hobdy; Chris Brosius, Program Manager, Mauna Kahālāwai Watershed Partnership; Dawn N. S. Chang, Chairperson, Department of Land and Natural Resources; and the Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor of the County of Maui.

reso:23-228a:pmg

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'G' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

GABE JOHNSON