

Resolution

No. _____

EXTENDING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE DENNIS "DANNY" A. MATEO

WHEREAS, Dennis "Danny" A. Mateo, a former Councilmember, Council Chair, and County Clerk, passed away on September 25, 2019, at the age of 68; and

WHEREAS, the story of Danny Mateo is one of the American dream, rising from the plantation camps of old Maui to leading the Maui County Council and becoming the County Clerk of the County of Maui; and

WHEREAS, Danny was born in Puunene, Maui, Hawaii, on August 21, 1951, the eighth of nine children born to Vicente and Nora Mateo, who lived in The Store Village Plantation Camp in Paia before moving to Makawao Ranch Acres in 1959; and

WHEREAS, Danny attended Paia Elementary School and St. Joseph School in Makawao before graduating from St. Anthony High School in Wailuku in 1970; and

WHEREAS, he then attended the University of Hawaii at Hilo, where he received an Associate of Science Degree in Human Resources, and he also received a Certificate in Early Childhood Education from Maui Community College; and

WHEREAS, at age 28, Danny moved to Molokai where he met and married his "Molokai Girl," Clarissa Ponimoi "Poni" Ka`upu; and

WHEREAS, together they raised three children, Dennis "Kaneala" Mateo, Jr., Heidi Tomas, and Nora Koahou, and from there the family has grown to include 17 grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Danny's professional career included Tropical Rent-A-Car/Tropical Rent-A-Mule General Manager; Molokai Economic Development Coordinator; Kaluakoi Resort Public Relations and Community Liaison; and, for five years starting in 1997, Executive Assistant to Council Chair Patrick S. Kawano; and

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WHEREAS, Danny's political career was launched 17 years ago when he was appointed to the County Council in 2002 to fill the vacancy left upon the death of Council Chair Patrick S. Kawano, who held the Molokai residency seat; and

WHEREAS, Danny was subsequently elected to five consecutive Council terms to serve the citizens of Molokai and Maui County; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure in office, he served two terms as Council Chair, one term as Council Vice-Chair, and also chaired the Water Resources Committee, the Housing and Human Services Committee, and the Policy Committee; and

WHEREAS, as Council Chair, Danny was honored in 2009 as one of the "20 Outstanding Filipinos Abroad" by the Fil-Am Image Magazine based in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, after his tenure on the Council, Danny was appointed Executive Assistant and Legislative Liaison for the County by Mayor Alan M. Arakawa; and

WHEREAS, in December 2013, Danny was appointed to serve as County Clerk of the County of Maui, where he served until his retirement in January 2019; and

WHEREAS, Danny and fellow Councilmembers Joe Pontanilla and Mike Molina were affectionately known as the "Three Amigos" after their hit performance as a trio at the Kaunoa Senior Center; and

WHEREAS, the holidays were always near and dear to Danny's heart, as he enjoyed decorating his office and providing his staff with trinkets in recognition of each holiday; and

WHEREAS, Danny will always be remembered for his sense of humor, quick wit, gift of gab, and colorful stories that will remain in our hearts and minds while bringing a smile to our faces; and

WHEREAS, a generous and unselfish public servant, Danny had a distinguished record of leadership and dedicated service to the people of the County of Maui and the State of Hawaii; and

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WHEREAS, Danny exemplified the importance of family through his dedication to his wife, children, and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, his family confirms they are truly blessed to have had an amazing husband, father, and papa; and

WHEREAS, family meant the world to Danny, and the love and encouragement he imparted to them will be everlasting; now, therefore,

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

1. That it hereby extends its condolences and deepest sympathy to the family of the late Dennis "Danny" A. Mateo; and
2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to his wife, Clarissa "Poni" Mateo; children Dennis "Kaneala" Mateo, Jr., Heidi Tomas, and Noralyn Koahou; granddaughter Tiara Mateo; sisters Norma Leite, Lourdes "Ludy" Garcia, Marie Souza, Carol Fernandez, and Janet Fernandez; the Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui; the Honorable David Ige, Governor, State of Hawaii; the County's delegation to the State Legislature; and the State of Hawaii's delegation to the United States Congress.