

Resolution

No. _____

EXTENDING CONDOLENCES TO
THE `OHANA OF THE LATE
RICHARD KEALOHA HO`OPI`I, SR.

WHEREAS, Richard Kealoha Ho`opi`i, Sr., a beloved Hawaiian music legend, recipient of the Hawai`i Academy of Recording Arts 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award, and founder of the Richard Ho`opi`i Leo Ki`eki`e Falsetto Contest, passed away on Malaki 3, 2018 (March 3, 2018) at his home in Kahakuloa, Maui at the age of 76; and

WHEREAS, the passing of a beloved Maui musician, entertainer, kumu, community organizer, collaborator of many Festivals of Aloha events, and an honored composer of such stature is a time to reflect upon and appreciate his numerous accomplishments and contributions; and

WHEREAS, Richard Kealoha Ho`opi`i, Sr. was born on Malaki 15, 1941 (March 15, 1941) to Frank Ho`opi`i and Abigail Lum Lung Ho`opi`i Kenolio and learned ukulele from his father at a young age, singing, and playing Hawaiian hymns at church; and

WHEREAS, Richard and his brother Solomon were drawn towards leo ki`eki`e (Hawaiian falsetto), learning the art from Aunty Genoa Keawe, and, by incorporating that style in their music, became mainstays at hula festivals and concerts across Hawai`i, recorded a series of albums, and received numerous awards and accolades; and

WHEREAS, some of those awards and accolades include Richard and his brother being honored with a National Endowment for the Arts Heritage Fellowship in 1996, the 1997 Nā Hōkū Hanohano Group of the Year Award, and later, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Hawai`i Academy of Recording Arts in 2015; and

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WHEREAS, Richard founded the Richard Ho`opi`i Leo Ki`eki`e Contest in 2002 to encourage and promote current and future generations of leo ki`eki`e singers, and the contest, having realized its 16th annual event in September 2017, continues to attract larger and larger numbers of musicians, singers, and community members; and

WHEREAS, with his many achievements and kuleana in the community, Richard Kealoha Ho`opi`i, Sr. was a beloved family man supported by the love and kokua of his wife Priscilla Ululani Ka`onohi Ho`opi`i; they were blessed with five sons, Kendall "Chico" Ka`onohi, Richard, Jr., Ramzey, Rueben "Kai," and Likeke; four daughters, Regina, Rozanne, Kamaile, and Kalena; twenty-one grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, he is also survived by brothers Ronald Kenolio and Herbert Kenolio and sisters Abigail Morris and Cyrilla Kealohanui; and

WHEREAS, the people of the County of Maui have benefited because of this great community leader, Hawaiian music promoter, musician, and innovator; who has shown by his life's example that one can come from simple beginnings to share a gift with not just Maui County or Hawai`i but also with the world; 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 Richard Kealoha Ho`opi`i, Sr.; and
2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to his wife, children, brothers, and sisters.