

Resolution

No. 25-200

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH AND HONORING THE COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS OF FILIPINOS IN MAUI COUNTY

WHEREAS, October is recognized nationally as Filipino American History Month, commemorating the first recorded presence of Filipinos in what is now the United States, when Filipino sailors in a Spanish galleon arrived ashore at Morro Bay, California, on October 18, 1587; and

WHEREAS, in 1906, the first group of *sakadas*—migrant farm laborers from the Philippines—were recruited by the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association to work on Hawai'i's sugar and pineapple plantations; and

WHEREAS, by 1932, Filipinos comprised 70 percent of Hawai'i's plantation workforce, enduring racial discrimination, harsh conditions, and hours of back-breaking labor; and

WHEREAS, having experienced colonization and displacement in their homeland, *sakadas* and their descendants stood against injustices and joined other plantation workers to organize labor unions to fight for fair wages and working conditions; and

WHEREAS, in 1946, Filipino workers played a vital role in the historic 79-day Hawai'i Sugar Strike organized by the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) Local 142, helping to transform Hawai'i's economy, politics, and social structures, and pave the way for improved worker rights; and

WHEREAS, Filipinos in Maui County have continued to make significant contributions to the labor movement, including during the 1951 Lāna'i Pineapple Strike led by Pedro Dela Cruz and ILWU Local 152, and more recently in labor strikes involving Kyo-ya Hotels and Resorts and Maui Health System, A Kaiser Foundation Hospitals LLC; and

WHEREAS, people of Filipino ancestry comprise approximately 26 percent of Hawai'i's population, 28 percent of Maui's population, 31 percent of Molokai's population, and 64 percent of Lāna'i's population; and

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WHEREAS, over the years, Filipinos have furthered Maui County's vitality through notable work in healthcare, agriculture, education, entrepreneurship, the service industry, labor, law, finance, government, social services, and volunteerism; and

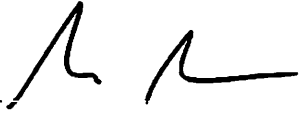
WHEREAS, as the community continues to recover from the devastating August 8, 2023, Maui wildfires, where in Lahaina, an estimated 40 percent of the pre-fire population was Filipino, exhibiting qualities such as *bayanihan* and *panagkakaysa*—the spirit of mutual aid and civic unity—and *kapwa*—a sense of identity emphasizing shared humanity and mutual obligation—are more important than ever; and

WHEREAS, the shared values and intertwined histories of Filipinos, Kānaka Maoli, Pacific Islanders, and immigrants provide opportunities for cultural exchange and enrichment, and help to build a foundation for solidarity in Maui County in the pursuit of equity and collective well-being; now, therefore,

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

1. That it recognizes October as Filipino American History Month and honors the community contributions of Filipinos in Maui County; and
2. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to Arnel Alvarez, President, Binhi At Ani; Tante Urban, President, Fil-Am Voice; Rev. Sam Domingo, Board Chair, Hawai'i Workers Center; Stephen West, Maui Division Director, ILWU Local 142; Nestor Ugale, Jr., President, Kaibigan ng Lahaina; Alice Ka'ahanui, President, Kaunakakai Filipino Association; Noemi Barbadillo, President, Lāna'i Filipino Community Coalition; Dominic Suguitan, President, Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce; Madelyne Pascua, President, Maui Filipino Community Council; Nadine Ortega, Executive Director, Tagnawa; Gemma Weinstein, President, UNITE HERE Local 5; Marnelli Joy B. Ulep, Pamantasan Director, University of Hawai'i; Lui Hokoana, Chancellor, University of Hawai'i Maui College; and Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor, County of Maui.

INTRODUCED BY:

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GABE JOHNSON