

# Resolution

No. 24-160

## EXTENDING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE LORRAINE "AUNTY LORI" GOMEZ-KARINEN

WHEREAS, Lorraine Gomez-Karinen, affectionately known as "Aunty Lori" by the Lahaina community, passed away on August 24, 2024, at the age of 82; and

WHEREAS, Aunty Lori was a lifelong educator and volunteer who was admired and loved for her kind and warm spirit, strong-willed personality, and passion to teach and perpetuate the "flame of learning"; and

WHEREAS, Aunty Lori was born in Lahaina, Maui, Hawai'i, on May 23, 1942, to Mariano and Basilia Gomez at Pioneer Mill Hospital on Front Street; and

WHEREAS, she was the oldest of eight children, with siblings Elizabeth, Phyllis, Letty, Josie, Ervin, Doris, and Carol, and loving aunt to 27 nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Aunty Lori wed Larry Karinen, her longtime partner of 49 years and a colleague at Lahainaluna High School; her travel partner having visited together many U.S. states, and Japan, Budapest, Prague, Australia, and New Zealand; and above all, her best friend; and

WHEREAS, Aunty Lori loved the sport of tennis, as a spectator and a player in her younger years, having been a member of the aptly named SPAM Club in Lahaina where she played during her free time; and

WHEREAS, having graduated from Lahainaluna High School in 1960, she was a pioneer for being the first in her family to attend college and attain a Bachelor's degree in Education from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls; and

WHEREAS, after graduation, Aunty Lori moved to Los Angeles, California, with younger sister Elizabeth and her husband James "Jim" Whitehead, where she taught English in South Compton; and

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WHEREAS, after returning home in the late 1960s, Auntie Lori taught 8th grade English at Lihikai Elementary School before joining the Lahainaluna High School staff where she taught 10th grade English for more than 20 years; and

WHEREAS, in teaching her students the value of communicating through the English language, she encouraged daily penséees to understand and learn about the ever-evolving question one asks themselves: “Who Am I”; and

WHEREAS, Auntie Lori was one of the original advisors to Lahainaluna’s Hawaiiana Club, which brought students together to learn culture through song and dance, and led to the iconic David Malo Day, an annual ho’olaule’a honoring Malo, a student of Lahainaluna High School’s first graduating class, school master, and Native Hawaiian historian and scholar; and

WHEREAS, Auntie Lori was also the advisor to Lahainaluna’s school newspaper, Ka Leo Luna, from 1969 until 1974, and served as a feature page editor; and

WHEREAS, she was a staunch supporter of Lahainaluna’s Boarding Program, advocating annually at the State level as she saw tremendous value in the program’s continuation; and

WHEREAS, Auntie Lori began helping and later leading the Boarders’ Chorus, where Sunday evenings were spent learning and singing “Ho’onani” and “Hawai’i Pono’ī”, and classic Lahainaluna songs, “O Kou Aloha,” and “Yonder Lahaina Mountains”; and

WHEREAS, Auntie Lori was key to teaching and conducting Lahainaluna’s football team in singing the school’s alma mater; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, Auntie Lori was inducted by the Lahainaluna High School Foundation as a “Legend of Lahainaluna” for perpetuating the Torch of Excellence and her ongoing contributions to the school and community; and

WHEREAS, after leaving the classroom in 1992, she completed her master’s degree while working as a curriculum coordinator, supporting educators across the County until her retirement in 2015; and

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WHEREAS, Aunty Lori's legacy as an educator, advisor, volunteer, and loving wife and aunty to her 'ohana will be forever cherished and remembered throughout the entire Lahaina, Maui, and Hawai'i communities; now, therefore,

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

1. That it extends its condolences to the family of the late Lorraine "Aunty Lori" Gomez-Karinen; and
2. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to her husband, Larry Karinen; sister, Elizabeth Whitehead; niece, Lisa Aipa; Richard Carosso, Principal, Lahainaluna High School; Dean Rickard and Robert Watson, Football Co-Head Coaches, Lahainaluna High School; the Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Governor, State of Hawai'i; the County's delegation to the State Legislature; the State's delegation to the United States Congress; and the Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor, County of Maui.

INTRODUCED BY:

*Tamara A.M. Paltin*

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TAMARA PALTIN