

Resolution

No. 25-227

EXTENDING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE FLORENCIO LAWRENCE CABANILLA

WHEREAS, Florencio Lawrence Cabanilla, known throughout West Maui for his kindness, humility, and dedication to his 'ohana and community, passed away on November 6, 2025, at the age of 81; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cabanilla was a pillar of the community, reflecting a life well lived, shaped by aloha, perseverance, and service to others; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cabanilla was born in Lahaina, Maui, Hawai'i on April 28, 1944, to Juan Cabanilla and Kiiko Shimabukuro at the Pioneer Mill Hospital; and

WHEREAS, before graduating Lahainaluna High School in 1962, he had worked as a gas station night manager at the age of 14 and had begun his first business repairing his teachers' cars; and

WHEREAS, his diligence and determination continued as he owned and operated the Cabanilla Lahaina Shell for 27 years and then opened Cabanilla Body & Fender in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cabanilla was also a successful farmer, establishing a pig farm in Olowalu in 1995, which operates today as LB Farm, LLC; and

WHEREAS, tireless in spirit, Mr. Cabanilla spent his retirement farming, raising goats, gardening, and landscaping; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cabanilla is remembered as a teacher in every sense of the word, passing down knowledge to the next generation through farming, mechanics, problem solving, or simply sharing life lessons with patience, humor, and clarity; and

WHEREAS, as the head of his family, he fostered unity through family gatherings and laid the foundation for future generations by reminding everyone to stay connected, care for one another, and to stick together no matter what happens; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Cabanilla was unafraid to speak his mind, and when he did, others listened because his words carried experience, wisdom, truth, and aloha; and

WHEREAS, he had tremendous love for West Maui, serving his community by annually volunteering at the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission's Obon Festival and faithfully attending every Lahaina community meeting following the August 2023 wildfires, opening the gatherings with pule—lifting up the people with prayer, respect, and a calm presence; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cabanilla's legacy of aloha and service to his community lives on through his five daughters, 14 grandchildren, 38 great grandchildren, and eight great-great grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the people of the County of Maui have benefited greatly from Mr. Cabanilla's dedication to community, and his life is worthy of honor, gratitude, and remembrance; now, therefore,

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

1. That it extends its condolences and deepest sympathy to the family of the late Florencio Lawrence Cabanilla; and
2. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to his wife, Rebecca Cabanilla; his daughters, Lorry Vierra, Alicia Leopoldino, Melissa Okano, Letitia Cabanilla, and Surficia Mowat; Reverend Ai Hironaka, Lahaina Hongwanji Mission; and the Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor, County of Maui.

INTRODUCED BY:

Tamara A. M. Paltin

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