

Resolution

No. _____

EXTENDING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE MAYOR ELMER CRAVALHO

WHEREAS, first Speaker of the House of Representatives following statehood, and first Mayor of the County of Maui, Elmer Cravalho of Paia, Maui, Hawaii, passed away on June 27, 2016, at the age of 90 with an unparalleled record of public service to Maui County and the State of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, Elmer Cravalho was born in the old Paia Hospital on Baldwin Avenue to Manuel B. and Mary Pires Cravalho on February 19, 1926, and attended Keokea School, the old Maui High School, and the University of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, Elmer Cravalho's commitment to public service began in 1946 through 1953 as a school teacher with the Territorial Department of Public Instruction in Haiku, Paia, and Kula; and

WHEREAS, in 1954, along with six others, Elmer Cravalho opened the Kula Credit Union with \$35, and with the community always in mind, he was instrumental in growing its assets, which totaled \$40 million after merging with Maui Federal Credit Union in January 2014; and

WHEREAS, at the height of the Democratic Revolution, Elmer Cravalho was elected to the Territorial House of Representatives in 1954, serving as House Finance Committee chairman before being elected speaker in 1958; and

WHEREAS, Elmer Cravalho, as speaker, took the iconic phone call from John Burns in Washington, D.C., on March 12, 1959, reporting that Hawaii had won statehood with passage of the Hawaii Admission Act, and relayed the news to the House of Representatives in Iolani Palace; and

WHEREAS, in 1966, Elmer Cravalho returned to Maui and ran in a special election for the Board of Supervisors, winning the board chairmanship by 139 votes, and remained in that position until January 1, 1969; and

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WHEREAS, on January 2, 1969, Elmer Cravalho took office as the first mayor of the County of Maui after voters approved a mayor-council form of government, serving until July 24, 1979; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Cravalho was instrumental in the formation of many aspects of our community, including brokering the Central Maui Joint Venture, which pumped freshwater from Central Maui's Iao aquifer to arid South Maui, making possible resort-scale development in Kihei, Wailea and Makena; and

WHEREAS, after a sister-city visit to Bacarra, Ilocos Norte, Philippines in the early days of his administration, Mayor Cravalho had the vision to strengthen the county's relationship with immigrants by pioneering the Immigrant Services Division, which provides free immigration-related assistance to this day; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Cravalho also played a role in the creation of important social services in assisting the community, such as Hale Mahaolu and Maui Economic Opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the people of the County of Maui have benefited from this great community leader, a man whose life is worthy of emulation; now, therefore,

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

1. That it hereby extends its warmest condolences and deepest sympathy to the family of the late Mayor Elmer Cravalho, for his outstanding leadership and unselfish public service, and for touching the lives and hearts of the people of Maui County; and
2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to his niece, Rae Landes-Mizukami, and his sister, Theresa Browning.