

Resolution

No. _____

RECOGNIZING THE 166TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF LAHAINA STATESMAN WILLIAM PUNOHU‘AWEOWEO‘ULAOKALANI WHITE

WHEREAS, William Punohu‘aweoweo‘ulaokalani White was a Hawaiian lawyer, sheriff, politician, newspaper editor of the first nupepa of Hui Kalai‘aina and became a political statesman and orator during the final years of the Kingdom of Hawaii and the beginning of the Territory of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, White represented Lahaina in the legislative assemblies of 1890 and 1892, became a political leader for the Liberal faction in the government and established himself as a leader in the opposition to the Bayonet Constitution of 1887; and

WHEREAS, White co-authored the January 14, 1893 proposed draft Constitution with Queen Lili‘uokalani that would have restored power to the monarchy; and

WHEREAS, White was a decorated Knight Commander of the Royal Order of Kalākaua for his services, contribution to the monarchy and loyalty to Queen Lili‘uokalani before the monarchy was illegally overthrown, and to the Territory of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, Queen Lili‘uokalani was quoted as saying that White could “never be induced to compromise principles, nor did he for one moment falter or hesitate in advocating boldly a new constitution which should accord equal rights to the Hawaiians, as well as protect the interests of the foreigners. The true patriotism and love of country of these men had been recognized by me;” and

WHEREAS, During the illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii on January 17, 1893 and the Provisional Government of Hawaii and the Republic of Hawaii that followed, White remained loyal to the monarchy; and

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WHEREAS, Returning to Lahaina, White helped organize native resistance on Maui, was elected in 1896 as honorary president of the Hui Aloha 'Āina (Hawaiian Patriotic League), a patriotic organization established after the overthrow to oppose annexation, and was an advocate for the Ku'e petition; and

WHEREAS, White was an active member of Waine'e Church now known as Waiola Church of Lahaina and has brought pride and honor to the people of the County of Maui as a Hawaiian national hero for his services to the Kingdom of Hawaii and the Territory of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, August 6, 2017 a celebrated day of acknowledgement was held on O'ahu at the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, and the honorary headstone of William Punohu'aweoweo'ulaokalani White will be introduced at the Ka'ahumanu Society Cemetery; now, therefore,

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

1. That it hereby recognizes the 166th anniversary of the birth and extraordinary legacy of Lahaina statesman William Punohu'aweoweo'ulaokalani White; and
2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to Dennis Alger, Interim Minister, Waiola Church; Anela Rosa, Lay Minister, Waiola Church; and descendants of William Punohu'aweoweo'ulaokalani White: Douglas K. White, Jeanne Ilona White Gunther, and Valerie White Chun.