

Resolution

No. _____

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GANNENMONO'S ARRIVAL IN HAWAII

WHEREAS, in recognition of the unique friendship between Japan and Hawaii and the arrival of Japanese immigrants 150 years ago, the Kizuna Group and the Gannenmono Committee were created to perpetuate the history of Japanese-Americans in Hawaii; foster friendship between Japan and Hawaii; and celebrate what their ancestors brought, established, and nourished in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, King Kamehameha IV proposed a friendship treaty between Japan and the Kingdom of Hawaii after Japanese delegates visited Honolulu in 1860; and

WHEREAS, in 1865, Japan-based American businessman Eugene Van Reed was appointed Consul General of Hawaii in Japan by the Kingdom of Hawaii, and he set out to recruit Japanese laborers for Hawaiian sugar plantations; and

WHEREAS, shortly thereafter, the shogunate government of Japan gave way to the Meiji government, which banned overseas travel; and

WHEREAS, in May 1868, despite the rules of the Meiji government, about 150 Japanese nationals boarded the ship *Scioto* and departed the port of Yokohama to work in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the first organized and documented group of Japanese immigrants, the Gannenmono or "first-year folks," landed in Honolulu port on June 20, 1868; and

WHEREAS, in 1927, the Gannenmono Memorial was built at the Makiki Cemetery by the Japanese Friends of Hawaii to honor their Japanese pioneers; and

WHEREAS, in celebration of the centennial of the Gannenmono's arrival in 1968, Prince and Princess Hitachi of Japan visited Hawaii and the Convention of the Overseas Japanese was held in Honolulu; and

Resolution No. _____

WHEREAS, also in commemoration of the centennial of this auspicious event, memorial plaques were placed at Honolulu International Airport, the Byodo-In Temple was built in Kaneohe, a Buddha statue donated by Kanagawa Prefecture was placed in Foster Gardens, a large Buddha statue was erected in Lahaina, and stone lanterns were donated to the Liliuokalani Japanese Garden in Hilo; and

WHEREAS, twenty organizations in Hawaii have come together to form the Kizuna Group to foster friendship and connect people between Hawaii and Japan; and

WHEREAS, the Kizuna Group formed the Gannenmono Committee to represent the Japanese-American community in Hawaii and, with guidance from the Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu, to coordinate events and activities to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Gannenmono in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the Maui Gannenmono Committee includes individuals from the Alexander and Baldwin Sugar Museum; the County of Maui, Office of the Mayor; the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii; the Japanese Cultural Society of Maui; the Maui County Sister Cities Foundation; Maui Matsuri; the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai; the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center; the State of Hawaii; and the University of Hawaii Maui College; and

WHEREAS, Maui will kick off its celebration of the Gannenmono's arrival with the opening of the Maui Matsuri at the Queen Kaahumanu Shopping Center in April followed by festivities in May at the University of Hawaii Maui College Campus; and

WHEREAS, the *Kaiwo Maru*, a Japanese four-masted training barque tall ship, will be docked at Kahului Harbor to participate in this celebration; and

WHEREAS, in honor and celebration of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center, the movie premiere of Stacey Hayashi's "Go For Broke: A 442nd Origin Story" will be played at the historic Iao Theater; and

Resolution No. _____

WHEREAS, the 150th Anniversary Commemoration Ceremony and Symposium will take place on June 7, 2018, at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel; and

WHEREAS, the exceptional dedication, passion, and teamwork of the Gannenmono Committee and the Kizuna Group, in collaboration with the Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu, to preserve and perpetuate the Japanese culture and the history of Japanese-Americans in Hawaii have brought pride and honor to the people of the County of Maui; now, therefore,

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

1. That it hereby commemorates the 150th Anniversary of the Gannenmono's arrival in Hawaii; and
2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Maui Gannenmono Committee; the Kizuna Group; Koichi Ito, Consul General of Japan in Honolulu; Captain Kiminobu Kumada and the crew of the *Kaiwo Maru*; the Honorable David Ige, Governor, State of Hawaii; and the Honorable Alan M. Arakawa, Mayor, County of Maui.