

Resolution

No. _____

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO COUNCIL CHAIR MIKE WHITE

WHEREAS, Council Chair Mike White will be leaving office on January 2, 2019, having served on the Council from the Makawao, Haiku, and Paia residency area for four consecutive terms; and

WHEREAS, Council Chair White is a sixth-generation kama'aina, born to Robert and Karen "Tookie" White and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Punahou School, Council Chair White received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in Travel Industry Management; and

WHEREAS, his career in the hotel industry began in 1969 at the Halekulani Hotel in Waikiki, bussing tables at the Hau Tree Terrace Restaurant; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, after succeeding in various managerial positions, Council Chair White was named general manager of the Kaanapali Beach Hotel; and

WHEREAS, he coordinated Project Pookela, a program designed to enhance Kaanapali Beach Hotel employees' understanding of the Hawaiian culture and the spirit of aloha; and

WHEREAS, with the success of Project Pookela, Kaanapali Beach Hotel received recognition as "Hawaii's Most Hawaiian Hotel"; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Council Chair White was appointed by Governor John Waihee to represent the seventh district in the State House of Representatives, where he served until 1998; and

WHEREAS, Council Chair White served as chair of the Economic Development, Agriculture and Recreation Committee (2011-2013 Council

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term) and Budget and Finance Committee (2013-2015 Council term), as vice chair of the Water Resources Committee (2013-2015 Council term) and Budget and Finance Committee (2015-2017 and 2017-2019 Council terms), and as Chair of the Maui County Council for the past two terms (2015-2019); and

WHEREAS, he also served as a member of the Transportation Steering Committee for the National Association of Counties (“NACo”) and a board member for NACo’s Western Interstate Region; and

WHEREAS, Council Chair White has continually supported a higher level of accountability and efficiency throughout the County of Maui and introduced legislation to establish the Office of the County Auditor, and led the effort to hire the first County Auditor; and

WHEREAS, Council Chair White is widely known for his fiscal responsibility and strong advocacy for counties receiving their fair share of the State Transient Accommodations Tax and had a frequent presence in the halls of the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, as Budget and Finance Committee chair, he simultaneously curbed tax increases without reducing government services and maintaining capital improvement projects; and

WHEREAS, Council Chair White has consistently scrutinized the inefficient use of County funds and questioned the demolition of the Old Wailuku Post Office and the purchase of lands in Launiupoko; and

WHEREAS, Council Chair White supported passing an alcohol consumption ban at County parks where youth centers are located, helping to establish safe and healthy environments for Maui County’s youth; and

WHEREAS, Council Chair White’s dedication to public service and tireless efforts have improved the lives of our citizens now and for generations to come; now, therefore,

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

1. That it hereby expresses its appreciation to Council Chair Mike White for his leadership and dedicated service on the Maui County Council, and for his outstanding public service to the people of the County of Maui and the State of Hawaii; and
2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to Council Chair Mike White; his wife, Whitney White; his children, Sinclair White, Sabrina White-English, Michael White, Mary Osborne, and Robert White; his mother, Karen "Tookie" White; the State's delegation to the United States Congress; the Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor, State of Hawaii; the County's delegation to the State Legislature; and the Honorable Alan M. Arakawa, Mayor, County of Maui.

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