

# Resolution

No. \_\_\_\_\_

## CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE JOSEPH E. CARDOZA UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE BENCH OF THE SECOND CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

WHEREAS, the retirement of the Honorable Joseph E. Cardoza, Chief Judge of the Second Circuit Court of the State of Hawai'i, provides an occasion to honor and celebrate his accomplishments and provide inspiration to others; and

WHEREAS, Judge Cardoza was born in Pu'unene, Maui, and attended school in Wailuku, Maui, first at St. Anthony Grade School, and then at Baldwin High School, where he graduated in 1968; and

WHEREAS, Judge Cardoza earned a bachelor of arts degree at Washington State University in 1972 and a juris doctor at the University of Puget Sound School of Law, now known as the Seattle University School of Law, in 1975; and

WHEREAS, after earning his law degree, Judge Cardoza returned to Maui in 1975, and built a distinguished legal career marked by more than 40 years of dedicated service to the people of the County of Maui and the State of Hawai'i by serving as Deputy County Attorney for one year, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for six years, County Prosecuting Attorney for eight years, partner in the law firm of Cardoza and Fukuoka for eight years, and judge of the Second Circuit Court for 20 years; and

WHEREAS, Judge Cardoza was named Chief Judge of the Second Circuit Court in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Judge Cardoza was a presiding judge of the Maui/Moloka'i Drug Court, which offers intensive treatment and rehabilitation instead of incarceration for nonviolent offenders through a court-supervised substance treatment program; and

WHEREAS, Judge Cardoza also presided over the Second Circuit Court's innovative Environmental Court, one of the first courts in the nation to focus on compliance with ordinances and statutes establishing standards for environmental protection; and

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WHEREAS, not only in his legal career, but throughout all aspects of his life, Judge Cardoza gave freely of his time and resources in service to the community, which included a position as a Maui Interscholastic League football referee and a volunteer and board member of community organizations including the Aloha Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, the Rotary Club of Kahului, the Maui Portuguese Chamber of Commerce, the Maui Catholic Youth Organization, the Maui County Bar Association, and the Hawai'i Prosecuting Attorneys' Association; and

WHEREAS, Judge Cardoza's legal prowess and wisdom have caused other attorneys to compare him to Star Wars legends Obi-Wan Kenobi and Yoda, according to a *Maui News* article published on June 20, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Judge Cardoza has been honored throughout his legal career, including being named 2018 Jurist of the Year by Hawai'i Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald; and

WHEREAS, the experience and dedication that the Honorable Joseph E. Cardoza has brought to the bench and to his community have greatly benefited and brought honor to the people of the County of Maui and the State of Hawai'i; now, therefore,

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

1. That it hereby congratulates the Honorable Joseph E. Cardoza upon his retirement from the bench of the Second Circuit Court of the State of Hawai'i; and
2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Joseph E. Cardoza; the Honorable John G. Roberts, Jr., Chief Justice of the United States; the Honorable Mark E. Recktenwald, Chief Justice, State of Hawai'i; the Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor, State of Hawai'i; and the Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui.

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