

# Resolution

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

## CONGRATULATING FORMER COUNCIL CHAIR GLADYS COELHO BAISA ON HER RETIREMENT

WHEREAS, former Council Chair Gladys Coelho Baisa retired on June 30, 2020, after more than 50 years of service to the Maui County community; and

WHEREAS, born in Pā'ia, to Thomas and Virginia Coelho, Ms. Baisa has one sibling and is a third-generation resident of the island; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Baisa was the class valedictorian for the Maui High School Class of 1958, and then went on to earn a Licensed Practical Nurse certificate from St. Francis School on Oahu and an Accounting Certificate from Maui Technical School; and

WHEREAS, she began a distinguished career at Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc., in 1969, then steadily advanced in the organization through her strong work ethic, management acumen, and demonstrated compassion, eventually serving as MEO's Executive Director from 1984 to 2005, helping to establish and oversee some of the County of Maui's most-cherished and most-needed family and community services; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Baisa was first elected to the Council in 2006, and led the passage of the Bed and Breakfast Home ordinance, oversaw approval of development entitlements for the new Kihei Police Station, and shepherded adoption of the first Maui Island Plan; and

WHEREAS, she served as Chair of the Maui County Council during the 2013-2015 Council term, a tenure in which she was credited with uniting the counties' mayors, council chairs, and other councilmembers in a combined effort to raise awareness among State of Hawai'i officials on the need to take into account the needs of county residents; and

WHEREAS, as Council Chair, she also initiated several projects to promote civic engagement, including the launch of the Council's Facebook and Twitter pages and the Council's regular column in *The Maui News*; and

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WHEREAS, in a *Maui Time* cover story on August 24, 2016, Ms. Baisa discussed “the joy” of serving on the Council and reflected on the opportunities to learn and serve she enjoyed in her decade as a Councilmember; and

WHEREAS, after leaving elective office on January 2, 2017, and having served on the Council from the Pukalani-Kula-Ulupalakua residency area for five consecutive terms, Ms. Baisa served as the Director of Water Supply and Executive Assistant to the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, she has been a member of dozens of boards and organizations, and currently is an active member of Kula AARP, Kula Community Association, Pukalani Community Association, Makawao Community Association, American Association of Retired Persons, Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce, Rotary District 5000, and Lahaina Honolua Senior Club; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Baisa has also been the recipient of numerous awards, including:

- Outstanding Alumni Award, Maui High School;
- Person of the Year, *Maui Weekly*;
- Lifetime Achievement Award, Association of Farmworker Organizations;
- 100 Outstanding Centennial Mauians, Maui County Centennial Committee;
- Grand Marshall, Maui Fair Parade; and
- Maui United Way Gold and Appreciation Awards; and

WHEREAS, as a retiree, Ms. Baisa is eager to spend time with Sherman, her husband of 55 years; her sister, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; and many dear friends, including cherished friends in the nation of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, former Council Chair Baisa’s dedication to public service and tireless efforts to support Maui County residents have helped to improve the lives of our community 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 congratulates former Council Chair Gladys Coelho Baisa on her retirement; and
2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to Gladys Coelho Baisa; her husband, Sherman F. Baisa; her sons, Alfred and Sherman Anthony; her daughter, Gladys; her sister, Virginia Coelho Scheeline; the Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui; and the Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor, State of Hawai'i.

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