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COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

August 11, 2020

Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

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2020 AUG 11 AM 10:44

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Ms. Kathy L. Kaohu, County Clerk
Office of the County Clerk
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Ms. Kaohu:

**SUBJECT: RECOGNIZING JUNE 19 AS JUNETEENTH IN
MAUI COUNTY (PAF 20-222)**

I am placing the attached proposed resolution, entitled
"RECOGNIZING JUNE 19TH AS JUNETEENTH IN MAUI COUNTY," on the
next Council meeting agenda.

Sincerely,


ALICE L. LEE
Council Chair

paf:kmatt:20-222b

Attachment

COUNTY COMMUNICATION NO. 20-412

Resolution

No. _____

RECOGNIZING JUNE 19TH AS JUNETEENTH IN MAUI COUNTY

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, also known as “Juneteenth Independence Day,” “Emancipation Day,” “Emancipation Celebration,” and “Freedom Day,” is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, a name derived from a combination of the words “June” and “nineteenth,” signifies the date June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced the emancipation of enslaved people in the state, proclaiming General Order No. 3 more than two years after United States President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, many of the first Black people to arrive in the Hawaiian Islands came from Cape Verde, Africa, the Caribbean, and the United States in the early 1800s as deckhands on merchant and whaling ships and, after ending their maritime careers, many became leaders here in business, government, and other endeavors; and

WHEREAS, a decade before the United States Civil War and the Emancipation Proclamation, Article 12 of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i Constitution of 1852 stated:

Slavery shall, under no circumstances whatever, be tolerated in the Hawaiian Islands: whenever a slave shall enter Hawaiian territory he shall be free; no person who imports a slave, or slaves, into the King's dominions shall ever enjoy any civil or political rights in this realm; but involuntary servitude for the punishment of crime is allowable according to law; and

WHEREAS, in 1897, Black citizens of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i joined Kanaka Maoli in their fight for liberation by signing the Kū‘ē Petition, protesting the annexation of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i by the United States; and

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WHEREAS, among the many Black people who have made sustained and substantial contributions to Hawai'i's community throughout its history include:

- Anthony D. Allen, steward to King Kamehameha I;
- Oliver and George Washington Hyatt, the first two leaders of the Royal Hawaiian Band under King Kamehameha III;
- Betsey Stockton, founder of the first mission school in Lahaina open to all;
- Alice A. Ball, a chemist who was the first woman to earn a master's degree from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and discovered the first treatment for leprosy, known as the "Ball Method"; and
- Dr. Donnis Thompson, the University of Hawai'i's first women's athletic director, who started the Rainbow Wahine sports program, including the nationally successful volleyball team, and also the State school superintendent; and

WHEREAS, a contingent of the celebrated Buffalo Soldiers built the 18-mile trail to the summit of Mauna Loa;

WHEREAS, the African diaspora and indigenous island communities across the Pacific have exhibited historical solidarity with each other and liberation movements in the United States, as seen by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., future Congressman John Lewis, and other civil rights leaders wearing lei gifted to them by Reverend Abraham Akaka of Hawai'i during the historic 1965 for voting rights from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 1965, the Maui County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 65-31, introduced by Supervisor Goro Hokama, to denounce the violence used by governmental authorities in Alabama against civil rights demonstrators and urge Hawaii's congressional delegation to support the swift passage of voting rights legislation; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates African-American liberation, their reconnection to family and community, and community abundance and is a time for reflection, rejoicing, assessment, self-improvement, and planning for the future, and has been consistently

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celebrated in Maui County for more than 20 years under the leadership of the African Americans on Maui Association; and

WHEREAS, there has been an outpouring of aloha from Maui County residents to support the peaceful protests and liberation efforts of the “Black Lives Matter” movement in the face of structural and systemic racism in the United States; and

WHEREAS, “Juneteenth” remains an important day of observance in the Black community that celebrates resilience and strength, and reminds all people that it is possible to have radical change to oppressive structures of society, affirming freedom of all humanity; now, therefore,

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

1. That it recognizes June 19 as “Juneteenth” in Maui County; and
2. That certified copies be transmitted to Samantha Neyland, Miss Hawai‘i USA 2020; Gwyn Gorg, President, the African Americans on Maui Association; the Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor, State of Hawai‘i; and the Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui.