

# Resolution

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

## EXTENDING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE MELVIN TOMITA

WHEREAS, Melvin Tomita, a Maui County native and resident of the Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home on Hawaii Island, passed away on September 4, 2020, at the age of 87; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tomita was born on June 25, 1933, at the Pu‘unēnē Hospital on Maui, graduated Baldwin High School in Wailuku in 1951, and worked selling and repairing typewriters on Maui and O‘ahu before joining the Army National Guard in 1952; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tomita was a sansei—a third-generation American of Japanese ancestry—and the oldest of four siblings; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tomita learned to love to cook from his grandmother; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tomita married Catherine Itsuko Arai in 1952 and was married for 50 years before her passing in 2002; and

WHEREAS, he was later transferred to the U.S. Army Reserves and the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion 442<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, with his unit being activated for service in Vietnam in 1968; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tomita was a father to four children when he was shipped to a combat zone overseas, serving as a mess sergeant in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tomita served a total of 32 years in the National Guard, Army Reserves, and on active duty, ending his military career with the rank of warrant officer; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tomita received a Bronze Star for heroic and meritorious deeds performed in an armed conflict in Vietnam; and

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WHEREAS, after his return from Vietnam, Mr. Tomita joined the Honolulu Fire Department as an engineer and equipment operator; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tomita, known as “da BULL” at Hawai‘i Kai Station Number 34, was also described as the station’s “family cook,” and retired from the Fire Department in 1991; and

WHEREAS, he loved sports, worked as a golf course marshal, mixed top-tier poke and tako, enjoyed singing and playing the harmonica, and led tour groups to Las Vegas; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tomita is survived by his brother, Paul Tomita of California; his son, Mikey Tomita of Kahului; his daughters Gail Nakahara of Washington, Roxsanne Mie Ruff-Tomita of Hawai‘i Island, and Lauren Tomita of Washington; his hānai daughter, Trudy Morita of Georgia; his 11 grandchildren, and his nine great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the people of the County of Maui and State of Hawai‘i have benefited by this great community leader, a man whose life is a model worthy of emulation; now, therefore,

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

1. That it extends its condolences and deepest sympathy to the family of the late Melvin Tomita; and
2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to his brother, Paul Tomita; his son, Mikey Tomita; his daughters Gail Nakahara, Roxsanne Mie Ruff-Tomita, and Lauren Tomita; and his hanai daughter, Trudy Morita.