

# Resolution

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

## HONORING THE LIFE OF THE LATE CHAD KĀLEPA BAYBAYAN

WHEREAS, Chad Kālepa Baybayan, master Pwo navigator, educator, leader, visionary, and mentor, passed away on April 8, 2021, at the age of 64; and

WHEREAS, Kālepa was born on August 15, 1956, to Lillian Kālepa and Llewellyn Baybayan Sr., and raised in Lāhainā, Maui, where he graduated from Sacred Hearts School and Lahainaluna High School; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, Kālepa married his loving wife, Audrey Kaide; and

WHEREAS, Kālepa was a passionate paddler and coach for Lāhainā and Nāpili canoe clubs and became involved with the building and sailing of the wa'a kaulua, Mo'olele; and

WHEREAS, he first set his eyes upon the voyaging canoe Hōkūle'a in Lāhainā at age 19, an experience that would change his life; and

WHEREAS, he served as a Hōkūle'a crew member on the 1980 voyage from Hawai'i to Tahiti and back; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1980s, Kālepa fulfilled the role as an integral captain and navigator for the Polynesian Voyaging Society on board Hōkūle'a; and

WHEREAS, he navigated his first long-distance voyage from Hawai'i to Tahiti in 1992, followed by the "Voyage of Rediscovery," "No Nā Mamo," "Nā 'Ohana Holomoana," "West Coast and Alaska," "Voyage to Rapanui," "Ku Holo Komohana," and "Mālama Honua;" and

WHEREAS, Kālepa was an inspiring leader and speaker, who gave a powerful address four years ago during a University of Hawai'i at Hilo commencement ceremony, reflecting upon his unwavering personal values stating:

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Don't let anyone tell you what you should be. Don't let others define you. Be responsible for owning your own dream and vision of where you want to arrive at. Be persistent and relentless in working that sail plan so that you arrive at your destination; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Kālepa was inducted into the rank of Pwo, a 2,000-year-old society of deep-sea navigators in Micronesia, along with four other Hōkūle'a navigators by their teacher Mau Piailug; and

WHEREAS, Kālepa received a bachelor's degree in Hawaiian Studies from Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and a master's degree in Education from Heritage College and was fluent in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, Kālepa served as the Site Director of Honuakai, the Exploration Sciences Division of 'Aha Pūnana Leo, and built and launched the voyaging canoes Kea'eloa, Maiau, and Hōkūalaka'i, which served as floating classrooms for Hawaiian education as part of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo; and

WHEREAS, Kālepa was the Navigator-in-Residence at the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center and University Hawai'i at Hilo; and

WHEREAS, Kālepa served on the board of directors of Kahu Kū Mauna, Perpetuating Unique Educational Opportunities (PUEO), and Islands of Opportunity Alliance: Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (IOA-LSAMP); and

WHEREAS, a memorial service for Kālepa was held in Hilo on May 6, 2021, and his ashes were ceremonially scattered makai of Wahikuli on August 14, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Kālepa is survived by his mother, Lillian Kālepa Suter; his wife, Audrey Baybayan; his daughters, Pā'anaākala and Pukanalā; his son, 'Aukai; his siblings, Clayton, Ann Marie, Lyle, and Ted; and his grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, through his extraordinary work and perpetuated by the way he lived life, Kālepa was a guiding light for the people of Maui and communities across Hawai'i and around the world; now, therefore,

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

1. That it honors the life of the late Chad Kālepa Baybayan and extends its condolences and deepest sympathy to his family, friends, and admirers; and
2. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to his mother, Lillian Suter; his wife, Audrey Baybayan; his children, Pā'anaākala, Pukanalā, and 'Aukai; Lahainaluna High School; the Polynesian Voyaging Society; 'Aha Pūnana Leo; Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language and 'Imiloa Astronomy Center at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo; Heritage College; Kahu Kū Mauna; Perpetuating Unique Educational Opportunities (PUEO); Islands of Opportunity Alliance; Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (IOA-LSAMP); and the Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui.