

MAR 08 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO ISSUE A
COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMP IN HONOR OF ALFRED AHOLO APAKA.

1 WHEREAS, Alfred Aholo Apaka was born on March 19, 1919, in
2 Honolulu on the island of Oahu in the Territory of Hawaii and
3 was a renowned Hawaii vocalist and engaging performer whose
4 music has been a lasting presence delighting listeners and
5 nurturing an appreciation for hapa haole music, a Hawaii-born
6 and -inspired music genre featuring songs about Hawaii or some
7 aspect of Hawaiian culture with English lyrics; and

8
9 WHEREAS, the son of Alfred A. Apaka, Sr., who was himself
10 an accomplished musician, and the grandnephew of Lydia
11 Ka'onohiponiponiokalani Aholo, who was the hānai daughter of
12 Queen Liliuokalani, Alfred Apaka's musical influences began
13 early in life; and

14
15 WHEREAS, Alfred Apaka's early musical training and
16 performances included playing the ukulele and string bass and
17 singing in the Roosevelt High School chorus and the Mormon
18 Church choir; and

19
20 WHEREAS, with his romantic baritone vocals and appealing
21 performances, Alfred Apaka is known as "The Golden Voice of
22 Hawaii"; and

23
24 WHEREAS, Alfred Apaka performed his first professional
25 engagement as a singer for Don McDiarmid, Sr. at the Royal
26 Hawaiian Hotel in Waikiki in 1938; two years later he performed
27 as part of Ray Kinney's band at the Hotel Lexington in New York
28 City and made "Hawaii's Charm," his first recording under his
29 own name; and

30
31 WHEREAS, Alfred Apaka's music extended beyond Hawaii's
32 shores where it garnered interest and appreciation from people
33 nationally and worldwide; and



1 WHEREAS, in 1952, Alfred Apaka performed on Bob Hope's
2 national television show and Bing Crosby's radio show, recorded
3 with the Andrews Sisters and Danny Steward and His Islanders for
4 Decca Records, and was featured in appearances on Ed Sullivan's
5 Talk of The Town and The Dinah Shore Show; and

6
7 WHEREAS, in 1954, after making other recordings and
8 performing in numerous locations on the mainland United States,
9 Alfred Apaka returned to Hawaii to work at Henry Kaiser's
10 Hawaiian Village Hotel in Waikiki, where he entertained Hawaii
11 residents and visitors; and

12
13 WHEREAS, one of the greatest Hawaiian vocalists of the
14 Twentieth Century, Alfred Apaka's remarkable career was cut
15 short by death from a heart attack in 1960 at the young age of
16 40, but to this day, he remains a cultural icon with fans around
17 the world; and

18
19 WHEREAS, Alfred Apaka's music and talents have endured with
20 such memorable recordings as "Aloha Oe," "Sleepy Lagoon," "I
21 Will Remember You," "Hawaiian Wedding Song," "Far Across the
22 Sea," "Forever," and "Hapa Haole Hula Girl"; and

23
24 WHEREAS, in 1999, an album of Alfred Apaka's lost
25 recordings was released as "Lost Recordings of Hawaii's Golden
26 Voice," which was subsequently awarded the prestigious Na Hoku
27 Hanohano Award; and

28
29 WHEREAS, Alfred Apaka's legacy continues to promote Hawaii
30 worldwide and unify people through shared appreciation and bonds
31 of his lasting music; and

32
33 WHEREAS, the United States Postal Service recognizes the
34 lives and accomplishments of outstanding Americans with
35 commemorative postage stamps; and

36
37 WHEREAS, March 19, 1919, marks the centennial of Alfred
38 Aholo Apaka's birth and his musical contributions to Hawaii, the
39 nation, and the world, are worthy of recognition and honor
40 through a United States Postal Service commemorative postage
41 stamp; and



1 WHEREAS, a stamp commemorating Alfred Apaka's birth
 2 centennial would be only the second commemorative stamp issued
 3 to honor a Native Hawaiian and Polynesian-American; now,
 4 therefore,
 5

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
 7 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the United
 8 States Postal Service is requested to issue a commemorative
 9 postage stamp recognizing Alfred Aholo Apaka on March 19, 2019;
 10 and
 11

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Postal
 13 Service is requested to first release the commemorative stamp in
 14 Waikiki, the place where Alfred Apaka established himself as a
 15 performer, and then to the rest of the nation; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the people of Hawaii are urged
 18 to support this effort to recognize Alfred Apaka for his
 19 accomplishments and talents that bring pride to our State and
 20 Nation and continue to forge goodwill through the love and
 21 enjoyment of music; and
 22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 24 Resolution be transmitted to the Postmaster General of the
 25 United States; Chair of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee;
 26 Postmaster General of Hawaii; members of Hawaii's Congressional
 27 Delegation; the Governor; and Mayors of the City and County of
 28 Honolulu, and Counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui.
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 31

OFFERED BY: 

 

 
 

