HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2020 STATE OF HAWAII H.R. NO. **185** 

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING ROBERT LOPAKA KAPANUI FOR HIS DEDICATION AND PASSION TO PERPETUATING HAWAI'I'S RICH CULTURAL LEGACY AND HISTORY THROUGH THE ART OF STORYTELLING.

1 WHEREAS, for 20 years, ROBERT LOPAKA KAPANUI has been
2 sharing more than Hawaiian ghost stories; he has helped to
3 preserve local culture, history, language, and folklore through
4 his storytelling and knowledge of the islands' history and
5 legends; and
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7 WHEREAS, ROBERT LOPAKA KAPANUI is a native Hawaiian
8 storyteller, writer, actor, kumu hula, and cultural
9 practitioner, as well as a husband, father, and grandfather, and
10 even a former professional wrestler; sometimes known as "The
11 Ghost Guy," he says his expertise has come through research,
12 personal experience, and others who share their stories with
13 him; and

WHEREAS, born and raised on O'ahu, he spent his childhood summers in Wainaku on Hawai'i Island and visited Maui frequently with his family; he grew up hearing legends and ghost stories from his kupuna, which were passed on to him through mo'olelo, mouth to ear, sitting at the feet of his mother and aunt; and aunt; and

21 WHEREAS, he learned of the night marchers who only appeared 22 during a particular moon phase and why to never share food with 23 anyone while walking through a haunted place; he learned the 24 proper prayers for ceremonial blessings, to enter or leave a 25 sacred place, to ask for protection or forgiveness, and the 26 importance of intent; he was also taught that this legacy would 27 be passed down to his family one day; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, ROBERT LOPAKA KAPANUI went on a ghost
tour with tour creator and renowned author of the "Obake Files"
and "Chicken Skin" ghost story series, Glen Grant; at the time,



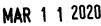
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he had no idea he was about to meet his future mentor, the man 1 2 who would change the course of his life; and 3 WHEREAS, ROBERT LOPAKA KAPANUI quickly realized the stories 4 Grant told were the same that his kupuna had shared with him, 5 but bolstered by documentation and history; Grant had spent 6 thirty years collecting stories about ghosts and spirits, 7 8 adamant about researching every story and fact and instilling 9 this practice in ROBERT LOPAKA KAPANUI, accepting nothing less than excellence; and 10 11 WHEREAS, through Mysteries of Hawai'i, ROBERT LOPAKA KAPANUI 12 followed in the footsteps of his friend and mentor to honor the 13 the man who meant so much to him, carrying on Hawai'i's rich 14 history of ha'i mo'olelo by sharing his tales and serving as a 15 repository of our culture and history; and 16 17 WHEREAS, Mysteries of Hawai'i also gives back to the 18 19 community by supporting the Special Olympics and Project 20 Graduation, storytelling at public schools and libraries to support literacy, and sharing at Camp 'Anuenue, a childhood 21 22 cancer program; now, therefore, 23 24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 25 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2020, that this body hereby honors ROBERT LOPAKA KAPANUI on his 26 standing as one of Hawai'i's foremost storytellers; commends him 27 28 for his dedication and passion for perpetuating Hawai'i's rich history through the treasured art of storytelling; and expresses 29 its heartfelt aloha, mahalo, and best wishes to him for 30 continued joy, fulfillment, and happiness in his endeavors. 31 32 33

OFFERED BY:

Bil Kolyeshi





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