
HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING AND COMMENDING HERB LEE, JR., FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO
EDUCATION, CULTURAL PRESERVATION, AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
IN THE STATE OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, established in 1993, the Pacific American
2 Foundation is a Native Hawaiian non-profit organization that has
3 developed highly successful and innovative education and
4 leadership projects benefiting over 150 schools, trained over
5 6,000 teachers, and formed over 200 community and industry
6 partnerships; and
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8 WHEREAS, since 2018, HERB LEE, JR., served as the President
9 and Chief Executive Officer of the Pacific American Foundation,
10 leading transformative educational initiatives and cultural
11 preservation efforts across the State of Hawai'i; and
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13 WHEREAS, in 1995, HERB LEE, JR., assisted in the
14 establishment of the Waikalua Loko Fishpond Preservation Society
15 to protect and steward one of the few remaining 400-year-old
16 ancient Hawaiian fishponds, showcasing his steadfast commitment
17 to preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage; and
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19 WHEREAS, HERB LEE, JR., also played a key role in
20 developing Nā Hopena A'o, a framework of outcomes adopted by the
21 Hawai'i Board of Education in 2015, reflecting his commitment to
22 enhancing cultural responsiveness among students and staff; and
23

24 WHEREAS, as Chief of Staff to Honolulu City Council Chair
25 Patsy T. Mink, HERB LEE, JR., was responsible for legislative
26 matters, policy research and writing, and representing the
27 Council Chair on issues involving federal, state, and city
28 government, the Hawai'i State Association of Counties,
29 neighborhood boards, community organizations, constituents, and
30 the business sector; and



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2 WHEREAS, HERB LEE, JR., also contributed to the community
3 as a recording artist, Hawaiian musician, and cultural
4 practitioner; he won a Nā Hōkū Hanohano Award in 1986, released
5 five Hawaiian music albums, composed numerous songs, and
6 performed worldwide; and
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8 WHEREAS, HERB LEE, JR., has been honored with numerous
9 prestigious awards, including the Historic Hawai'i Foundation's
10 Preservation Honor Award; the Native Hawaiian Chamber of
11 Commerce's 'Ō'ō Award; the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs'
12 Ka Mana o ke Kanaka, the Spirit of the Hawaiian Award; and the
13 Rotary Club of Honolulu's Jerry Chang Peacemaker Award; and was
14 recognized as a Cesar E. Chavez Champion of Change by President
15 Obama in 2014; and
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17 WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished career at the Pacific
18 American Foundation and elsewhere, HERB LEE, JR., has
19 exemplified an unwavering dedication to educational excellence,
20 cultural preservation, community service, and the perpetuation
21 of Native Hawaiian values and traditions; now, therefore,
22

23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session
25 of 2025, that this body hereby honors and commends HERB LEE,
26 JR., for his contributions to education, cultural preservation,
27 and community development in the State of Hawai'i and extends to
28 him its warmest aloha and best wishes for a happy and fulfilling
29 retirement.
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OFFERED BY: 

MAR 14 2025

