
HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING EARL KAWA‘A FOR DEDICATING HIS LIFE TO PRESERVING
HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE, MENTORING FUTURE
GENERATIONS, AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT
HAWAI‘I.

1 WHEREAS, raised in Hālawā Valley on Moloka‘i by parents,
2 Walter and Georgina Kawa‘a, EARL KAWA‘A is one of the few
3 remaining mānaleo (native speakers of the Hawaiian language) in
4 Hawai‘i and has devoted his life to preserving and perpetuating
5 Hawai‘i's unique language, culture, and traditions, including
6 hale and rock wall construction, carving, farming, music, and
7 storytelling, all of which were a part of his upbringing; and
8

9 WHEREAS, building upon the foundational teachings and
10 lessons of his parents, who were respected ho‘oponopono healers,
11 EARL KAWA‘A also dedicated himself to pursuing higher education,
12 earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Hawai‘i
13 Pacific College in 1974 and Master of Social Work degree in
14 1982, with specialized training in community organizing; and
15

16 WHEREAS, EARL KAWA‘A's legacy includes service as a member
17 of the Moloka‘i National Guard as well as assisting homesteaders
18 on Moloka‘i with economic development; he provided valuable
19 support for the Acoma Indian Reservation in New Mexico under the
20 domestic Peace Corps program, where he helped build baseball
21 fields, organized Little League tournaments, and contributed to
22 initiatives in natural resources, economic development, and
23 early childhood education; and
24

25 WHEREAS, during this time, EARL KAWA‘A met his beloved wife,
26 Patricia, with whom he shared a daughter, Yahna Kaiulani Kawa‘a,
27 now a kaiapuni teacher who is dedicated to perpetuating Hawaiian
28 language and culture; and
29



1 WHEREAS, EARL KAWA'A has dedicated eighteen years of service
 2 as a cultural specialist with Kamehameha Schools, supporting
 3 educators, students, and families, while also collaborating with
 4 public school communities across O'ahu on 'āina and culture-based
 5 projects; and

6
 7 WHEREAS, in 2012, EARL KAWA'A introduced the concept of
 8 "Board and Stone in Every Home" in a TEDx talk at the University
 9 of Hawai'i at Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law to the
 10 public; since then, his lessons have been taught to thousands of
 11 individuals in communities throughout the State, including
 12 Nānākuli, Papakōlea, Waimānalo, and Moloka'i, through hands-on,
 13 multi-session workshops designed to deepen cultural
 14 understanding and strengthen family relationships; and

15
 16 WHEREAS, having provided over a decade of instruction at
 17 Keiki O Ka 'Āina, EARL KAWA'A continues to train and mentor the
 18 next generation of alaka'i across all ages in ho'oponopono and
 19 other traditional practices, ensuring that these cultural
 20 traditions are carried forward to future generations; now,
 21 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 2026, that this body hereby honors EARL KAWA'A for dedicating
 26 his life to preserving Hawaiian language and culture, mentoring
 27 future generations, and strengthening communities throughout
 28 Hawai'i, and extends to him its warmest aloha and deepest
 29 appreciation for his enduring legacy of service, leadership, and
 30 cultural stewardship.

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OFFERED BY: *Lisa Manta*

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