



Proclamation

Presented

In Recognition of the 30th Anniversary of 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Inc.

WHEREAS, 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Inc. began 30 years ago with the vision of E Ola Ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i - The Hawaiian Language Shall Live, at a time when there were less than 50 children under the age of 18 able to speak Hawaiian; today, the number of children fluent in Hawaiian has grown fifty fold, and the 'Aha Pūnana Leo is the world leader in indigenous language revitalization; and

WHEREAS, 'Aha Pūnana Leo is much more than a preschool program; by working with the Hawai'i Department of Education, 'Aha Pūnana Leo led the establishment of the first K-12 education programming conducted in a native language within the United States, and it did not simply lobby the department for a program but provided the state with the curriculum materials, teacher candidates, and teacher in-service for the programming - and continues to do so; and

WHEREAS, 'Aha Pūnana Leo worked with the University of Hawai'i to develop the first native college in the United States, the Hawaiian language college at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, which now provides the first graduate level program, the first teacher-training program, and the first P-12 laboratory school program in a native language in the United States; and

WHEREAS, 'Aha Pūnana Leo served as the initial funding source and continues to support these many initiatives and landmark achievements; and

WHEREAS, 'Aha Pūnana Leo can take pride in that there is now a preschool-to-doctorate program in the Hawaiian language and students in the Hawaiian language high schools are graduating and attending college in higher proportions than their peers in other public schools; and

WHEREAS, 'Aha Pūnana Leo has affected federal legislation such as the Native American Languages Act, which establishes schooling through native languages in the United States such as Hawaiian as a goal for children; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim March 16, 2013, as

“‘AHA PŪNANA LEO DAY”

in Hawai'i and encourage the people of the Aloha State to celebrate the many achievements this remarkable pioneer in indigenous language education and leader in the renaissance of Hawaiian language and culture in our community and State.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this fifteenth of March, 2013.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i