



Proclamation

Presented

In Recognition of the Bodhi Tree Dharma Center Fifth Anniversary Celebration

WHEREAS, the Bodhi Tree Dharma Center raises awareness about the Bodhi Tree, whose scientific name is *Ficus religiosa* (sacred fig), a direct descendant of the tree under which Prince Siddhartha Gautama, in the sixth century B.C., achieved enlightenment to become the world's first Buddha; and

WHEREAS, the Bodhi Tree Dharma Center was the vision of one woman, Mai Frascarelli, a Vietnamese refugee who upon arriving in Hawai'i saw the need for people to have a place in which they could have physical and spiritual sustenance, so she single-handedly built the center; and

WHEREAS, the Bodhi Tree Dharma Center has throughout the years provided social and spiritual services to the Vietnamese, Burmese, and local populations of Honolulu; this unique Center offers classes and meditation and a gather place for people where the teachings of the Buddha express themselves in service; and

WHEREAS, the Bodhi Tree Dharma Center, now with the help of several community supporters, has grown into a vital place where every day on the campus there is a social and/or spiritual gathering that gives joy and peace to the people who come to the Center to learn or meditate; and

WHEREAS, the Bodhi Tree Dharma Center will celebrate five years of service to the community with a community event featuring a Vietnamese vegetarian and Burmese dinner buffet, Bodhi Tree's Expanding Network award presentations, Thai and Burmese dancing, hula, and Chinese martial arts;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2014, as

"BODHI TREE DHARMA CENTER DAY"

in Hawai'i, and ask all citizens of the Aloha State to join us in congratulating the Bodhi Tree Dharma Center for providing a place for people of our community to gather in peace and harmony, and explore Dharma, or the "teachings of Buddha."

DONE at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this third day of May 2014.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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