

Proclamation *Presented to*

Reverend Dennis David Kahekilimamaoikalanikeha Kamakahi

WHEREAS, Reverend Dennis David Kahekilimamaoikalanikeha Kamakahi began studying music theory while attending Aliamanu Middle School, and played the trombone with the school band under the direction of William Kaneda; at the age of 14, Reverend Kamakahi entered Kamehameha Schools as a freshman and continued his study of music theory, arrangements and transcriptions, and composition under the guidance of David Lorch. After four years with the high school band, became its drum major and student conductor in his senior year; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dennis David Kahekilimamaoikalanikeha Kamakahi, while at Kamehameha Schools, befriended two fellow classmates—Dr. Kalena Silver, Professor of Ethnomusicology and Director of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikoani, College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo—and former Royal Hawaiian Bandmaster Aaron Mahi; the three of them would each play an integral part in the Hawaiian Cultural Renaissance of the early 1970s; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dennis David Kahekilimamaoikalanikeha Kamakahi, after graduating from Kamehameha Schools in 1971, became a student of Hawaiian language and poetry under Dr. Mary Kawena Pukui; under her guidance, Reverend Kamakahi launched his music career by writing poetic Hawaiian songs in the style of Queen Lili'uokalani and Hawaiian poet and songwriter Sam Li'a Kalainaina; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dennis David Kahekilimamaoikalanikeha Kamakahi entered Leeward Community College where he majored in advanced music theory and orchestration under the direction of Charles Brennan, and minored in sociology and psychology; he left college in 1972 to pursue a professional musical career and joined Hawaiian music group Na Leo O Nu'uau, whose members included Aaron Mahi, Cyril Pahinui, Daniel Akaka, Jr., Kaipo Asing, and Bruce Spencer; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dennis David Kahekilimamaoikalanikeha Kamakahi's first recording with Na Leo O Nu'uau was a 1972 album entitled 'Ia 'Oe E Ka La-Volume I on the Nakahili Productions label with Palani Vaughan; he went on to compose 500 songs, many becoming Hawaiian classics, including Pua Hone, E Hihiwai, and Wahine 'Ilikea; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dennis David Kahekilimamaoikalanikeha Kamakahi worked with the Hawai'i Visitor's Bureau promoting Hawai'i in 1974, touring Canada; he was then employed by Aloha Airlines in their Public Relations Department; that year, Reverend Kamakahi joined the "Sons of Hawai'i," replacing slack key guitar legend Gabby Pahinui; and

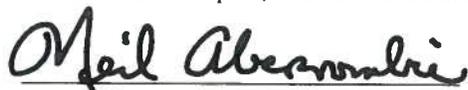
WHEREAS, Reverend Dennis David Kahekilimamaoikalanikeha Kamakahi was nominated for five Grammy Awards from 2007 through 2011, winning three; in 2009, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Hawai'i Academy of Recording Arts and was inducted into the Hawaiian Music Hall of Fame; in 2011 Reverend Kamakahi was a Hawai'i Music Awards winner for Best Contemporary Album of the Year for his partnership with Amy Hanai'ali'i and Slack Key Masters of Hawai'i; in 2012, he won the Na Hoku Hanohano Award for Best Slack Key Album of the Year; in 2013, he won the Kiho'alu Foundation Award for the perpetuation of the art of slack key guitar; and was the first Native Hawaiian musician to donate his guitar to the Smithsonian Museum of American History;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Neil Abercrombie, Governor, and **I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI**, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim March 20, 2014, as

"REVEREND DENNIS DAVID KAHEKILIMAMAOIKALANIKEHA KAMAKAHI DAY"

in Hawai'i and encourage the people of the Aloha State to join us in saying *mahalo* to Reverend Kamakahi for his contributions to culture and the arts, and his legacy of mastering the art of slack key guitar, and inspiring the next generation of Hawaiian composers and musicians to perpetuate the culture, language, and values of their ancestors.

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


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i


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