



Proclamation

Presented

In Recognition of the Polynesian Voyaging Society

WHEREAS, the Polynesian Voyaging Society was founded in 1973 by nautical anthropologist Dr. Ben Finney, Hawaiian artist Herb Kawainui Kāne, and sailor Charles Tommy Holmes to demonstrate that ancient Polynesians purposefully settled the Polynesian Triangle in double-hulled voyaging canoes using non-instrument navigation; and

WHEREAS, the Polynesian Voyaging Society seeks to perpetuate the art and science of traditional Polynesian voyaging and the spirit of exploration through experiential educational programs that inspire students and their communities to respect and care for themselves and each other, and their natural and cultural environments; and

WHEREAS, the Polynesian Voyaging Society launched the first voyaging canoe built in 600 years, the Hōkūle'a, on March 8, 1975, departing on May 1, 1976 to retrace a traditional migratory route from Hawai'i back to Tahiti, navigated by Mau Piailug without instruments on a 33-day voyage; and

WHEREAS, the Polynesian Voyaging Society reminds us that Mau Piailug taught the traditional art of "wayfinding," non-instrument navigation, to Nainoa Thompson, who sailed the Hōkūle'a from Hawai'i to Tahiti and back in 1980, establishing a new tradition of wayfinding in Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, the Polynesian Voyaging Society emphasizes that the Hōkūle'a and other voyaging canoes have become important vessels for revitalizing Hawaiian knowledge and culture and have touched the lives of thousands of students through educational programs; and

WHEREAS, the Polynesian Voyaging Society highlights that the Hōkūle'a, and its escort vessel the Hikianalia, will embark in 2014 on a multi-year worldwide voyage named Mālama Honua (care for our earth) aiming to visit 26 countries and sail more than 50,000 miles to forge new relationships and perspectives on sustainability to better care for our "Island Earth," its many peoples and its natural resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim May 17, 2014, as

"MĀLAMA HONUA (CARE FOR OUR EARTH) DAY"

in Hawai'i, and ask all citizens of the Aloha State to join us in recognizing the importance of the Polynesian Voyaging Society and the Mālama Honua voyage in pioneering new ways to come together and address global issues such as climate change which have great relevance to our islands.

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


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i


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