



Proclamation *Presented*

In Recognition of the Late Fred Korematsu

WHEREAS, Fred Korematsu was born in Oakland, California on January 30, 1919, as the third of four sons to Japanese immigrant parents, attended public schools and worked in his family' flower nursery in Oakland, California where he encountered racism as a young man; and

WHEREAS, Fred Korematsu registered for military duty under the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 and tried to enlist in the U.S. Navy to demonstrate his loyalty to the nation but because of stomach ulcers was not selected; he instead worked as a welder in the Oakland shipyards in order to contribute his services to the country's defense; however, following the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor by the Imperial Japanese Navy, he lost his job in the shipyards, following the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Imperial Japanese Navy on December 7, 1941; and

WHEREAS, Fred Korematsu became one of the thousands of Japanese American citizens living on the West Coast during World War II, who were ordered interned, as a result of President Franklin D. Roosevelt issuing Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, which authorized the Secretary of War and his military commanders to remove all persons of Japanese ancestry, including American citizens, from the West Coast, and

WHEREAS, Fred Korematsu refused to heed orders issued by General John L. DeWitt, commander of the Western Defense, which designated in sending Japanese Americans to concentration camps, and continued to live and work in Oakland until his arrest on May 30, 1942, and incarceration at a jail in San Francisco; he was asked by Ernest Besig, the director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California if he would be willing to use his case to test the constitutional legality of the internment of Japanese Americans; he was assigned Wayne M. Collins as his defense attorney; and

WHEREAS, Fred Korematsu appealed his case all the way to the Supreme Court and on December 18, 1944 in the landmark decision of *Korematsu v. United States*, the high court ruled against him in a 6-3 decision that declared the incarceration was justified by "military necessity" and claims that Americans of Japanese ancestry were radio-signaling enemy ships from shore and were prone to dishonesty; and

WHEREAS, Fred Korematsu's conviction was formally vacated on November 10, 1983 by U.S. District Judge Marilyn Hall Patel of the U.S. District Court of Northern California in San Francisco on the grounds of government misconduct and material evidence that had been suppressed, altered and destroyed at the time of the 1944 U.S. Supreme Court decision, an action considered to be a pivotal movement in civil rights history which cleared Mr. Korematsu's name but did not overturn the 1944 U.S. Supreme Court decision; and

WHEREAS, Fred Korematsu remained an activist throughout his life; in 1998 he received the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President William J. Clinton for his contributions to raising awareness about the challenges that were faced by Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Fred Korematsu was recognized on September 23, 2010 when Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger of California signed into law a bill that designates January 30 of each year as the day to recognize Fred Korematsu for his contributions;

NOW, THEREFORE I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, hereby proclaim January 30, 2013 as

"FRED KOREMATSU DAY"

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-fifth day of January, 2013.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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