



Proclamation

- In Memoriam -

John Kapualani Koko

WHEREAS, John Kapualani Koko was born August 24, 1960, at St. Francis Medical Center and was raised in Nānākuli where he attended both Nānākuli Intermediate and High Schools; and

WHEREAS, John Kapualani Koko, becoming enthralled with Hawaiian arts and culture at a young age, began his music career by joining the group Na Leo O Nānākuli at the age of twelve; and

WHEREAS, John Kapualani Koko in 1982 joined the Mākaha Sons of Ni'ihau, providing the foundation for the group which, although originally formed in 1976, continued to evolve and refine its venerated musical style; and

WHEREAS, the Mākaha Sons of Ni'ihau, consisting of John Kapualani Koko, Jerome Koko, Louis "Moon" Kauakahi, and the late Henry Kamakawiwo'ole and Israel Kamakawiwo'ole wrote, recorded and performed music that was beautiful, magnetic and filled with a spirit that was genuinely Hawaiian; and

WHEREAS, the Mākaha Sons of Ni'ihau were among Hawai'i's most celebrated musicians with ten Na Hōkū Hanohano Awards in categories ranging from Best Engineering, Best Traditional Hawaiian Music Album, Best Song (3), Best Album, and Best Group (4); and

WHEREAS, since the untimely passing of two key members of the original group; the Mākaha Sons (so named after the passing of both Kamakawiwo'ole members) evolved into a trio, consisting of members Louis "Moon" Kauakahi on 6-string guitar, John Kapualani Koko on upright acoustic bass and Jerome Koko on 12-string guitar; and

WHEREAS, John Kapualani Koko with the Mākaha Sons has performed at Carnegie Hall in New York (twice) and for President and Mrs. Clinton; and John Kapualani Koko's contributions to the arts and culture of Hawai'i are immeasurable, with his artful bass playing matched only by the beauty of his voice; and

WHEREAS, John Kapualani Koko was a man devoted to his family and faith, and was the living embodiment of the "Hawaiian Heart," which is defined as "so special and beautiful; with no prejudice, no boundaries, and no limits"; and

WHEREAS, John Kapualani Koko passed away on June 27, 2012, and is survived by wife, Tonia; sons John Jr., Jordon, Jerman and Jerry; and two grandchildren;

NOW, THEREFORE I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, BRIAN SCHATZ, Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai'i, extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to the Koko 'Ohana and urge the people of Hawai'i to remember his contribution to our community.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this tenth day of August, 2012.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

BRIAN SCHATZ
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i