



Proclamation

Presented to

Richard "Buffalo" Keaulana

WHEREAS, Richard "Buffalo" Keaulana, a prominent "Waterman of the Waianae Coast," is a true "son of Hawai'i"; he was nicknamed "Water Buffalo" by his mother because he could always be found in the ocean; he traces his genealogy to King Kamehameha (on his paternal side) and King Kekaulike (on his maternal side); and

WHEREAS, Richard "Buffalo" Keaulana was raised on the Waianae Coast; after serving in the United States Army, he worked as a beach boy in Waikiki with Duke Kahanamoku and Rabbit Kekai, and began his first civilian job as a Makaha Beach live-in park keeper; and

WHEREAS, Richard "Buffalo" Keaulana won the Makaha International Surf Championship in 1960 and gained a reputation as a skilled waterman; while continuing to serve as a park keeper in Waianae, he used his unique understanding of Waianae coast's surf, tides and swells to save numerous swimmers as an unofficial lifeguard; as a result of his efforts, City and County of Honolulu's Mayor Neal S. Blaisdell created and appointed him to the position of "Lifeguard of Makaha Beach"; and

WHEREAS, Richard "Buffalo" Keaulana served as the steersman on Hokule'a's historic maiden voyage to Tahiti in 1976; and to promote his love for surfing, started the "Buffalo's Big Board Surfing Classic" with the support of his wife, Momi; co-founder Adam Holbron; and friends from Makaha; this big board surfing classic is held annually in February each year; and

WHEREAS, Richard "Buffalo" Keaulana was inducted to the Hawai'i Sports Hall of Fame in 2010 and The Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation's Hawai'i Waterman Hall of Fame in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Richard "Buffalo" Keaulana will be honored with a David Malo Award at the Rotary Club of West Honolulu's 57th David Malo Award ceremony on November 8, 2013;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Neil Abercrombie, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor for the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim November 8, 2013, as

"RICHARD 'BUFFALO' KEAULANA DAY"

in Hawai'i and encourage the people of the Aloha State to join us saying *mahalo* to Buffalo for his contributions to the sport of paddling, his courage and decisive action while protecting others in the ocean, and inspiring our youth to perpetuate the culture and values of their ancestors.

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

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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