



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Edith Kanaka'ole was a Hawaiian composer, chanter, kumu hula, teacher, leader, and a custodian of native culture, traditions, and the natural land; and

WHEREAS, Edith Kanaka'ole's mo'olelo (stories), served to rescue aspects of Hawaiian history, customs, and traditions during a period in Hawai'i in which she was instrumental in its transition to a cultural renaissance; and

WHEREAS, Edith Kanaka'ole, or "Aunty Edith", as she was commonly known, was a renowned practitioner of and authority on modern Hawaiian culture and language; and

WHEREAS, Edith Kanaka'ole believed that oli (Hawaiian chants) formed the basis of Hawaiian values and history. When she began composing oli in 1946 she paid homage to those that came before her, including her mother, Mary Kekuewa Ahiena, from whom she learned hula; and

WHEREAS, In the 1950s, she toured the contiguous United States, Western Canada, and much of Asia with a hula group named after her daughter Nalani. She also founded her own hālau (hula school), Halau O Kekuhi; and

WHEREAS, Edith Kanaka'ole assisted in the development of the first Hawaiian language program for public school students at the Keaukaha School in Hilo. As a teacher at Hawai'i Community College and the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, she created college courses and seminars on subjects including ethnobotany, Polynesian history, genealogy, and Hawaiian chant and mythology; and

WHEREAS, Edith Kanaka'ole was voted the "Hawaiian of the Year" in 1977 by the State Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, and the chosen honoree for the state's highest honor, the Distinction of Cultural Leadership Award, in 1979; and

WHEREAS, Edith Kanaka'ole was born 110 years ago. Though she passed away on October 3, 1979, her legacy is continued through her family, students, hula 'ohana, and by the hard work of the Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Edith Kanaka'ole will grace U.S. commemorative quarters starting in 2023. One of her favorite lines of "E hō mai ka 'ike," meaning "Grant us knowledge," is inscribed next to her portrait as a reminder of her deep knowledge that she would often impart on everyone she met for the conservation of Native Hawaiian history and the revitalization of Native Hawaiian cultural practices.

THEREFORE I, JOSHUA B. GREEN, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim May 6th, 2023 as

"EDITH KANAKA'OLE DAY"

in Hawai'i and invite the people of Hawai'i to join me in celebrating Edith Kanaka'ole's legacy of inspiring others to share one's passions, gifts, talents, and aloha to make a difference.

Done at the State Capitol in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, on this twentieth day of April 2023.

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i