HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. 24-252

RESOLUTION

NAMING THE CAMPGROUND AT WAIMĀNALO BEACH PARK IN HONOR OF GEORGE KE'A MAHOE JR..

WHEREAS, Section 22-9.3(a)(3)(A), Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("ROH"), states that in exceptional cases, a new or existing City and County of Honolulu ("City") park, site, facility, or any portion thereof may be named for a deceased individual if the individual: (i) has a "significant association with the park, site, or facility"; or (ii) has "contributed significantly to the community or area in which the park, site, or facility is located"; and

WHEREAS, ROH Section 22-9.5(f) authorizes the City Council ("Council") to, on its own motion, designate a name for a new or existing park, site, facility, or any portion thereof, or memorial, consistent with the requirements set forth in ROH Section 22-9.5, by adoption of an appropriate resolution; and

WHEREAS, George Ke'a Mahoe Jr., fondly referred to as "Uncle George," was well known for his dedication to sharing aloha and hospitality with everyone he met throughout Waimānalo, its neighboring communities, the neighbor islands, and as far as the continental United States; and

WHEREAS, Uncle George started his career in 1957 as a groundskeeper at the then new Pali Golf Course, commuting daily on the old Pali Highway from Hālawa to Kailua, reporting to work early and establishing his dedication, work ethic, and integrity as an employee of the Department of Parks and Recreation ("DPR"); and

WHEREAS, in 1961, Uncle George started a new career as the groundskeeper for several beach parks in the Waimānalo area and eventually moved with his wife, Eleanor, and their children into the groundskeeper's residence located on the campground at Waimānalo Beach Park, a 37.56-acre City beach park, in 1969; and

WHEREAS, throughout his 40-year career in the DPR, Uncle George diligently performed his duties of park maintenance, beautification, and safety improvements at the Waimānalo Beach Park, Kaiona Beach Park, Kaupō Beach Park, and Makapu'u Beach Park; and

WHEREAS, Uncle George also assisted other DPR employees at Hūnānāniho (formerly known as Waimānalo Bay Beach Park or Sherwoods) and Waimānalo District Park from time to time, and on many occasions would also travel to assist at parks in Kailua, Kāne'ohe, and Kualoa as well; and

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WHEREAS, during the early 1980s, many Native Hawaiians called the campground at Waimānalo Beach Park their home, and Uncle George would make sure they were cared for until they were evicted in 1985; and

WHEREAS, Uncle George mentored and provided work experience for many at-risk youths, many of whom still reside in Waimānalo and continue Uncle George's legacy of community service; and

WHEREAS, while Uncle George officially served as groundskeeper, he supported many events that took place at the Waimānalo Beach Park and the campground, including the E.K. Fernandez Waimānalo Carnival, the George "Pops" Waiʻaleʻale Canoe Regatta, the Waimānalo Canoe Club Regatta, and Waimānalo Warriors Pop Warner Football League games; and

WHEREAS, on September 28, 1989, the Mahoe ʻohana moved into the Waimānalo Homestead, and the groundskeeper's residence was torn down and eventually replaced by the current canoe hālau; and

WHEREAS, even after moving from the groundskeeper's residence, Uncle George would still arrive at the park at 5:00 a.m. to clean the bathrooms before the campers woke up, playing his radio in his closet so that campers knew that he was around should they need assistance; and

WHEREAS, Uncle George continued to serve as a groundskeeper until his retirement in October of 1998 and thereafter served the Waimānalo community as a respected resident and volunteer; and

WHEREAS, George Keʻa Mahoe Jr. made a lasting impression on everyone he encountered while he served the Waimānalo community as a groundskeeper by providing love and emotional support, in addition to providing campers with a sense of comfort and safety during their stay at the campground at Waimānalo Beach Park; and

WHEREAS, the family and friends of George Keʻa Mahoe Jr. wish to honor the memory of their father and his 40 years of dedicated service to the Waimānalo community as a groundskeeper at several Waimānalo area parks and facilities, including the campground at Waimānalo Beach Park; and

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WHEREAS, the Waimānalo Neighborhood Board No. 32 unanimously supported the naming of the campground at Waimānalo Beach Park after George Keʻa Mahoe Jr.; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that naming the campground at Waimānalo Beach Park in honor of George Keʻa Mahoe Jr. would serve as a lasting tribute to Mr. Mahoe's commitment to the City, the DPR, and the community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the campground at Waimānalo Beach Park be named the "George Keʻa Mahoe Jr. Campground" to honor George Keʻa Mahoe Jr.'s contributions to the City and County of Honolulu, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council requests and authorizes the City Administration to erect appropriate signage and approves the placement of such signage at the campground at Waimānalo Beach Park to reflect its new name; and

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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Director of Parks and Recreation, the Waimānalo Neighborhood Board No. 32, and the family of George Ke'a Mahoe Jr.

INTRODUCED BY:

Esther Kiaʻāina

Councilmembers

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

OCT 08 2024

Honolulu, Hawai'i