HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. 25-205

RESOLUTION

RENAMING THE PEARL CITY DISTRICT PARK POOL AT PEARL CITY DISTRICT PARK TO THE KEN SUENAGA PEARL CITY DISTRICT PARK POOL.

WHEREAS, Section 22-9.3(a)(3)(B), Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("ROH"), states, in relevant part, that in exceptional cases, a portion of an existing City and County of Honolulu ("City") park, site, or facility may be named for a living individual if that person has contributed 50 or more years of service to the community; 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, consistent with the requirements set forth in ROH Section 22-9.5, by adoption of an appropriate resolution; and

WHEREAS, Ken Suenaga was born in Honolulu, Hawai'i, on August 18, 1931, and has led an exemplary life, including 59 years of service to the community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Suenaga graduated from Farrington High School and later proudly served his country as a United States Army combat medic during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Suenaga began his coaching career in 1967 with the Palama Swim Club, where he mentored over a dozen swimmers, and in 1968 he established Pearl City Aquatics, Inc., with a mission to provide recreational opportunities for young people and encourage them to stay out of trouble and maintain healthy lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, although Mr. Suenaga was initially the only coach for Pearl City Aquatics, Inc., within 10 years the organization grew to have five coaches and more than 100 swimmers that practiced at three different City pools; and

WHEREAS, Coach Suenaga founded Pearl City High School's swim team in 1972 and led the swimming program for many years, winning several O'ahu Interscholastic Association titles and coaching many boys and girls to achieve individual awards and recognition; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Suenaga has dedicated many years of service to a sport that he loves and has played an integral role in advocating for the growth of competitive swimming in the City, serving on the Hawaiian Swimming Local Swim Committee of USA Swimming as general chair, technical planning chair, and safety coordinator; and

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WHEREAS, Coach Suenaga played an integral role in the establishment of the annual Western Zone Swimming Championship and served over 30 times as the Western Zone Coach and Coordinator for the Team Hawaii all-star swimming team; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Suenaga's mentorship has produced numerous Hawai'i State ("State"), regional, Junior Olympic, and collegiate champions, including the late United States Representative Mark Takai, who was a four-time high school swimming State champion under Mr. Suenaga's tutelage; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Suenaga also played a role in advocating for the development of the K. Mark Takai Veterans Memorial Aquatics Center, a world-class aquatic center in the Patsy T. Mink Central O'ahu Regional Park, which opened in 2003; and

WHEREAS, on November 3, 2012, Mr. Suenaga was inducted into the Hawai'i Swimming Hall of Fame for his contributions to Hawai'i's swimming community; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that renaming the Pearl City District Park Pool after Ken Suenaga would appropriately recognize Coach Suenaga's 59-year legacy of mentorship and advocacy, his service to his country in the United States Army, and his significant contributions not only to his community but also to the City; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the Pearl City District Park Pool at Pearl City District Park be renamed the "Ken Suenaga Pearl City District Park Pool"; 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 Pearl City District Park Pool to reflect the new name of the pool; 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, and Mr. Ken Suenaga.

INTRODUCED BY:

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

JUL 22 2025
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 25-205

Introduced: 07/22/25 By: VAL OKIMOTO Committee: HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS & PARKS (HHP)

Title: RENAMING THE PEARL CITY DISTRICT PARK POOL AT PEARL CITY DISTRICT PARK TO THE KEN SUENAGA PEARL CITY DISTRICT PARK POOL.

Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

07/22/25	INTRO	Introduced.
08/19/25	HHP	Reported out for adoption. CR-273 5 AYES: CORDERO, NISHIMOTO, TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER
09/03/25	CCL	Committee report and Resolution were adopted. 9 AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO, TULBA, TUPOLA, WATERS, WEYER

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.

GLEN I. TAKAHASHI, CITY CLERK

TOMMY WATERS, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER