HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. 26-174

RESOLUTION

NAMING THE TENNIS COURTS AT KALIHI VALLEY DISTRICT PARK TO THE VAILIMA WATSON KALIHI VALLEY DISTRICT PARK TENNIS COURTS.

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 the individual 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, or memorial, consistent with the requirements set forth in ROH Chapter 22, Article 9, by adoption of an appropriate resolution; and

WHEREAS, Vailima Watson has dedicated decades of her life to serving the community, particularly the youth and families of Kalihi Valley, through mentorship, education, and the promotion of tennis as a positive and life-changing activity; and

WHEREAS, Vailima Watson was born in the City of Calcutta, Republic of India, to Samoan and Indian parents, and later moved to Samoa and eventually to the State of Hawai'i ("State"), where she would make lasting contributions to the community; and

WHEREAS, Vailima Watson and her family discovered tennis at the Diamond Head Tennis Center (now known as the Donald A. Andrews Diamond Head Tennis Center), where they learned the sport together and developed a lifelong passion for the game; and

WHEREAS, Vailima Watson's love for tennis inspired her to introduce the sport to young people in Kalihi Valley, believing that tennis could build discipline, teamwork, trust, and meaningful bonds among teammates; and

WHEREAS, from 1975 to 1979, Vailima Watson co-managed one of the State's first shelters for abused spouses and children, where she trained volunteers, developed outreach and case management protocols, and emerged as a leading advocate for domestic violence prevention; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, Vailima Watson began working with Kōkua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services ("KKV"), a community-based nonprofit corporation established in 1972 to address the health and social needs of Kalihi Valley's diverse

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Asian and Pacific Islander communities, to establish recreation programs for children in Kalihi Valley; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Vailima Watson launched the KKV's Tennis Program at Kalihi Valley Homes ("Program"), which was open to children of all ages and became the most popular of the recreation programs she established; and

WHEREAS, as a youth advisor and tennis instructor with the KKV, Vailima Watson spent more than a decade teaching tennis and mentoring youth, while also organizing free tennis clinics for children at Kalihi Recreation Center and Governor Wallace Rider Farrington High School ("Farrington High School"); and

WHEREAS, at a time when youth programs were limited in the area, Vailima Watson's efforts helped introduce thousands of children in Kalihi Valley to the sport of tennis, creating opportunities for physical activity, personal growth, and community connection; and

WHEREAS, as the Program grew from a small-scale weekend activity into a multi-day weekly program, Vailima Watson placed a strong emphasis on academics, requiring that participants prioritize their schoolwork and maintain good grades; and

WHEREAS, Vailima Watson also created innovative programs such as Tennis Without Tobacco, a health education and social development initiative that encouraged young participants to discuss important life topics, including goal setting and personal health; and

WHEREAS, Vailima Watson implemented and oversaw food bank resources for youth and families at Kalihi Valley District Park, further demonstrating her commitment to the holistic well-being of the Kalihi Valley community; and

WHEREAS, Vailima Watson's dedication helped build a pipeline of young athletes for Farrington High School's tennis program, and in 2006, she became the head coach of Farrington High School's varsity and junior varsity teams, implementing a no-cut policy to ensure that every interested student had the opportunity to participate; and

WHEREAS, Vailima Watson has always emphasized that the main goal of her efforts was to foster a love for the sport of tennis and to cultivate a sense of character, leadership, and community among Kalihi Valley's youth; and

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WHEREAS, Vailima Watson's impact has extended across generations, with former students returning to volunteer and mentor younger players, continuing the legacy of community service that she helped to establish; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Vailima Watson led youth athletes to compete in tournaments on the mainland, where participants gained valuable experiences that furthered their development as athletes, students, and individuals; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, Vailima Watson received a scholarship to attend the United States Tennis Association National Tennis Teachers Conference, in recognition of her significant contributions to the development and growth of community tennis programs in the State; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Vailima Watson was inducted into the Hawai'i Tennis Hall of Fame in the nonplayer category in recognition of her extraordinary service and dedication to the sport of tennis and to the community; and

WHEREAS, throughout her life, Vailima Watson has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to youth development, community service, and the belief that sports can be a powerful tool for education, empowerment, and positive change; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that naming the tennis courts at Kalihi Valley District Park after Vailima Watson would appropriately recognize her outstanding contributions to the Kalihi Valley community and her lifelong dedication to teaching and promoting the sport of tennis among the State's youth; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the tennis courts at Kalihi Valley District Park be named the "Vailima Watson Kalihi Valley District Park Tennis Courts"; 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 tennis courts at Kalihi Valley District Park to reflect the new name of the tennis courts; and

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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director Designate, the Director of Parks and Recreation, and Vailima Watson.

INTRODUCED BY:

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

JUL 30 2026
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 26-174

Introduced:	07/30/26	By:	TYLER DOS SANTOS-TAM	Committee:	HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS & PARKS (HHP)

Title: NAMING THE TENNIS COURTS AT KALIHI VALLEY DISTRICT PARK TO THE VAILIMA WATSON KALIHI VALLEY DISTRICT PARK TENNIS COURTS.

Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

07/30/26	INTRO	Introduced.
08/25/26	HHP	Reported out for adoption. CR-228(26) 5 AYES: CORDERO, NISHIMOTO, TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER
09/09/26	CCL	Committee report and Resolution were adopted. 8 AYES: DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO, TULBA, TUPOLA, WATERS, WEYER 1 ABSENT: CORDERO

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.

CHADD KADOTA, ACTING CITY CLERK

TOMMY WATERS, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER