April 19, 2022

Aloha,

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs has lifted and advocated for the voices of the Native Hawaiian community since Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalanianaʻole founded the organization’s movement in 1918. It is comprised of more than 60 clubs located throughout Hawai‘i and the United States, and nearly 4,000 members.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs recently adjourned its 62nd Annual Convention held online, and about 370 participants convened to consider and deliberate on issues that affect the Native Hawaiian community like education, natural and cultural resource management, economic development, healthcare, housing, and government consultation. Through the course of the convention, the delegates from each club adopted 83 resolutions that express positions on various issues, urge action, or honor the work of many who have contributed significantly to our community.

Enclosed you will find a resolution, or series of resolutions, adopted during our convention with the recommendation to notify you. We ask that you consider the content of the resolution.

Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact us:

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
P.O. Box 1135
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96807
www.aohcc.org
AHCC.Nuhou@gmail.com

Mahalo

Hailama V.K.K. Farden
Pelekikena
ASSOCIATION OF
HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

A RESOLUTION

NO. 2021 - 32

CONGRATULATING SUMMER LEE HAUNANI SYLVA ON HER APPOINTMENT AS SENIOR ADVISOR FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

WHEREAS, Summer Lee Haunani Sylva is a native Hawaiian raised in Waimanalo, Hawai‘i, whose parents are Wilmarie Anne King Eckart and Sydney Barry Sylva; and

WHEREAS, Summer attended Sacred Hearts Academy and later graduated from ‘Iolani High School; and

WHEREAS, Summer went on to earn her bachelor’s degree in Political Science from the Barnard College-Columbia University in May 1997, and a Juris Doctorate (public law certificate) from the Cornell Law School in May 2007; and

WHEREAS, Summer has more than a decade of experience litigating before federal and state courts in Hawai‘i, New York, and New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Summer most recently served as the Executive Director of the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation (NHLC), Hawaii’s only non-profit law firm dedicated exclusively to native Hawaiian rights; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure at the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation, she led litigation efforts on native Hawaiian rights issues, including water rights, state and federal government entitlement programs, public trust, and historic native land claims; and

WHEREAS, Summer has been an outstanding attorney, litigating on behalf of native Hawaiians; among her many achievements, she secured a landmark victory in the state’s largest and longest water rights litigation spanning 17 years that resulted in the full and permanent restoration of streams vital to native Hawaiian traditional subsistence practices and near shore environments previously decimated by a century-old commercial diversion project; and secured a unanimous Hawai‘i Supreme Court ruling on behalf of native Hawaiian cultural practitioners who sued the State for breaching its constitutional trust duties to protect and preserve public ceded lands from environmental damage and ruin caused by live-fire military exercises and training; and
WHEREAS, Summer is President of the Native Hawaiian Bar Association (NHBA), an association of lawyers, judges, and other legal professionals of Hawaiian ancestry that promotes excellence, unity, cooperation, education, and the exchange of ideas among its members and in the larger community; and

WHEREAS, through her leadership, both the NHLC and the NHBA are committed to work with the Conflict Resolution Alliance to support conflict resolution alternatives, particularly those similar to ho‘oponopono, which are culturally-based and that strengthen native Hawaiian identity, values, and cultural practices; and

WHEREAS, on September 2, 2021, the Department of the Interior announced the appointment by President Joe Biden of Summer Lee Haunani Sylva as Senior Advisor for Native Hawaiian Affairs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 62nd Annual Convention held online, in the malama of Kā‘elo and the rising of Hoku, this 16th day of January 2022, congratulating Summer Lee Haunani Sylva on her appointment as senior advisor for Native Hawaiian Affairs of the Department of Interior; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs thanks Summer Lee Haunani Sylva on her outstanding leadership of the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation and her achievements in litigating cases in the best interests of Native Hawaiians; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior; Mr. Sylva’s parents, Ms. Wilmarie Eckart and Mr. Sydney Sylva; the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation; the Native Hawaiian Bar Association; as well as the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and all County Mayors.

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted in the malama of Kā‘elo and the rising of Hoku, on the 16th day of January 2022, at the 62nd Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs held online.

Hailama V.K.K. Barden, President