ASSOCIATION OF
HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

A RESOLUTION

NO. 2021 - 71

COMMENDING WITH ALOHA AND MAHALO PIHA MOSES HAIA AND ALAN MURAKAMI ON THEIR RETIREMENT AND THEIR STEADFAST WORK WITH THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN LEGAL CORPORATION

WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation was born during a period of reawakening for the Hawaiian people. During the 1970s, Native Hawaiians were engaged in monumental land struggles; and

WHEREAS, by the second half of that decade, Native Hawaiians were protesting the military’s use of the island of Kaho’olawe as a bombing target; and

WHEREAS, meanwhile, a renaissance in Hawaiian culture was blossoming. Native Hawaiians were learning how to navigate across the Pacific using traditional methods aboard Hokule’a, a replica of voyaging canoes used by pre-historic Polynesians; and

WHEREAS, they were revitalizing the indigenous language, which was outlawed shortly after the overthrow of the Hawaiian government; and

WHEREAS, this awakening was another phase of dealing with a legacy of colonization. The Native Hawaiian people, who inhabited these islands as early as 300 A. D. had a complete culture and land tenure system. Recognized as a nation in the international community, the Native Hawaiian monarchy had treatises with other countries. But with Western contact, their sovereignty slowly eroded until a group of businessmen, supported by U. S. overthrow the Native Hawaiian monarchy in 1893; and

WHEREAS, the loss of sovereignty and their lands have plagued Native Hawaiians. The U. S. recognized that lands set aside by the Hawaiian Monarchy for the benefit of the Hawaiian People (or ceded lands) retained a special character, and until today must be used for the Betterment of Native Hawaiians, and the U. S. also adopted a law, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act; and

WHEREAS, over many decades, Alan Murakami and Moses Haia worked zealously to advocate for Native Hawaiians and champion the advancement of Native Hawaiian rights in furtherance of the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation’s vision and mission to perpetuate, through legal and other advocacy, the rights, customs and practices that strengthen Native
Hawaiian identity and culture, in order to achieve a just Hawaiʻi, guided by Hawaiian values, customs, and ways of knowing;

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Association of Hawaiian Civic clubs passed Resolution 2017-53 recognizing the work of the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation in protecting Native Hawaiian Rights, Customs, and Practices; and

WHEREAS, Alan Murakami, who joined Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation in 1983, served the community in various advocate roles that included Staff Attorney, Litigation Director, and Community Engagement Officer, before retiring at the end of 2020; and

WHEREAS, Alan’s long and distinguished legal career includes creating important legal precedent to protect and enforce Native Hawaiian rights, including: Hustace v. Kapuni, which ensured that Native Hawaiian families named in quiet title lawsuits received notice that satisfied due process requirements to avoid losing their land without an opportunity to respond; Napeahi v. Paty, which established that submerged lands are not private lands but part of the public ceded lands trust and subject to land claims of Native Hawaiians; Pa’a Pono Miloli’i v. Land Use Commission, which protected the traditional fishing village of Miloli’i from massive development in Ka’ū that failed to account for the impacts of a planned marina on traditional fishing grounds; Aged Hawaiians v. Hawaiian Homes Commission, which resulted in long-awaited pastoral lease awards to kupuna Hawaiian Home Lands beneficiaries in Honoka’a on Hawai’i Island; and Kelly v. 1250 Oceanside Partners, which halted the development of the billion-dollar Hōkūli’a luxury project on 1,550 acres of land in Kailua-Kona.

WHEREAS, Moses Kalei Nahonoapiʻilani Haia, III began his service at Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation as a staff attorney in 2001 and then as its Executive Director from 2010 through 2019; and

WHEREAS, Moses advocated tirelessly on native rights cases seeking to protect and preserve traditional and customary Native Hawaiian subsistence, religious and cultural practices, and enforce state and county governments’ trust duties to Native Hawaiians, including but not limited to: Kelly v. 1250 Oceanside Partners, which held developers the billion-dollar Hōkūli’a luxury project responsible for their massive pollution of coastal waters, misidentification and desecration of scores of ancient Hawaiian burial sites, misappropriation of an ancient Hawaiian trail, and improper use of agricultural lands for resort residential use; Nā Moku Aupuni o Ko’olau Hui, representing kalo farmers in their early legal battles for stream water diverted by Alexander & Baldwin, Inc.’s East Maui Irrigation Co. on East Maui for commercial profits and to the injury of East Maui watersheds and Native Hawaiian ways of life; Hui Mālama I Nā Kūpuna o Hawai’i Nei v. Wal-Mart, advocating on behalf of recognized cultural descendants to protect iwi kūpuna found at the site of the Wal-Mart store on Ke’eaumoku Street; and Kaleikini v. Thielen, which protected burials at the Ward Villages Project in Kaka’ako and recognized that descendants of iwi kūpuna have a right to a contested case hearing to appeal burial council decisions that affect their legal interests.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 62nd Annual Convention held online, in the malama of Kāʻeʻelo and the rising of Hoku, this 16th day of January 2022, commending with aloha and mahalo pīha Moses Haia and Alan Murakami on their retirement and their steadfast work with the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs acknowledges a responsibility to support and encourage the continuation of the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation’s advocacy of Native Hawaiians, their rights, and their interests; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs acknowledges and appreciates the funding by the Hawaiʻi State government, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and others; and encourages continued, increased appropriations for Native Hawaiian legal services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawaiʻi, 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 Kāʻeʻelo 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.

Hāilama V.K.K. Farden, President