Resolution in Support of Developing Strong Island Councils and an Association of ‘Aha Moku Island Councils

WHEREAS Puwalu ‘Umi, Ola Honua I ke Kupa‘a kānaka convened on November 17 and 18, 2017, in Honolulu with 60 ‘Aha Moku practitioners and experts from the islands of Kaua‘i, Mano Kalanipo; O‘ahu, Ke One O Kukuihewa; Moloka‘i Pule O‘o; Maui, Na Hono A‘o Pi‘ilani and Aha Moku, Inc.; Kaho‘olawe, Kohe Malamalama O Kanaloa; and Hawai‘I, Moku O Keawe;

WHEREAS the ‘Aha Moku island councils are recognized in HRS §171.4.5 Aha moku advisory committee; established:

“(b) The [‘Aha Moku Advisory Committee (AMAC)] shall consist of eight members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate from a list of nominations submitted by the aha moku councils of each island. Oversight of the aha moku advisory committee shall be by the chairperson of the board of land and natural resources. The committee members shall select the committee chairperson from among the members”;

WHEREAS island councils are community organizations separate and independent from rules governing the AMAC and State Boards and Commissions;

WHEREAS the future of the ‘Aha Moku and the ‘Aha Moku Advisory Committee is contingent on the continued, independent and autonomous functioning of the island councils;

WHEREAS the successful functioning of the island councils is dependent on their ability to receive direct funding for their operations and administration, funding is necessary for the effective administration, operation and management of island councils;

WHEREAS ‘Aha Moku island councils seek stronger representation and a greater voice in the management of natural and cultural resources in the Pae‘aina O Hawai‘i in order to fulfill;

WHEREAS the ‘Aha Moku Advisory Committee (AMAC) has not provided the representation required pursuant to HRS §171 4.5;

WHEREAS island councils need to be organized and recognized as a legal structure, business or nonprofit entity to successfully participate in fund-raising opportunities and, if organized as a nonprofit, may seek tax exempt donations;
WHEREAS a nonprofit designation does not mean that the organization does not intend to make a profit, rather it means that the organization has no owners and that funds realized in the operation of the organization will not benefit owners;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this day, in the Malama of Welehu and the rising of Hilo, November 18, 2017, that the islands of Kauaʻi—Mano Kalanipo; Oʻahu—Ke One O Kakuhihewa; Molokaʻi Pule Oʻo; Maui—Na Hono Aʻo Piʻilani and Aha Moku, Inc.; Kahoʻolawe—Kohe Malamalama O Kanaloa; and Hawaiʻi—Moku O Keawe implement actions to develop the ‘Aha Moku island councils with legal organizational structures capable of receiving direct funding and conduct fiscal management and administration to incorporate appropriate Native Hawaiian knowledge and protocols for the preservation, cultivation and management of all Native Hawaiian natural and cultural resources for future generations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the islands of Kauaʻi—Mano Kalanipo; Oʻahu—Ke One O Kakuhihewa; Molokaʻi Pule Oʻo; Maui—Na Hono Aʻo Piʻilani and Aha Moku, Inc.; Kahoʻolawe—Kohe Malamalama O Kanaloa; and Hawaiʻi—Moku O Keawe join together in an association of ‘Aha Moku island councils in the implementation of their island kuleana, and that island councils be inclusive, organize and recruit members to expand the ‘Aha Moku initiative, for example, by providing for presentations on the ‘Aha Moku initiative and traditional cultural resources management to organizations and at events.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to ‘aha moku island Councils, Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Hawaiʻi State Legislature Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs and House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources & Hawaiian Affairs, the Governor of the State of Hawaiʻi, and Mayors of all Counties in Hawaiʻi.