
HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING MASTER NAVIGATOR MAU PIAILUG AND THE CREW OF THE
INAUGURAL VOYAGE OF THE HOKULE'A FOR THEIR SIGNIFICANT
CONTRIBUTION TO THE PERPETUATION OF HAWAIIAN AND POLYNESIAN
HERITAGE AND CULTURE.

1 WHEREAS, the Polynesian Voyaging Society was founded in 1973 to
2 research how Polynesian seafarers discovered and settled nearly every
3 inhabitable island in the Pacific Ocean before European explorers
4 arrived in the 16th century, and how a Polynesian voyaging canoe was
5 navigated using ancient wayfinding techniques over the long, open
6 ocean migration routes of Polynesia; and
7

8 WHEREAS, wayfinding involves navigating on the open ocean
9 without a sextant, compass, clock, radio reports, or satellite
10 reports, but relies on observations of the stars, sun, ocean swells,
11 and other signs of nature to find clues to the direction and location
12 of a vessel at sea, and was used in voyaging for thousands of years
13 before the invention of European navigational instruments; and
14

15 WHEREAS, a double-hulled masted sailing canoe was constructed by
16 the Polynesian Voyaging Society and appropriately christened the
17 Hokule'a, the Hawaiian term for the bright star Arcturus that passes
18 directly over the island of Hawai'i; and
19

20 WHEREAS, because no present-day Polynesians knew how to navigate
21 according to the ancient methods, MAU PIAILUG, a traditional master
22 navigator from the Satawal Island of Micronesia, was chosen to guide
23 the canoe using methods similar to wayfinding; and
24

25 WHEREAS, the Hokule'a was launched at Honolua Bay, Maui, on May
26 1, 1976, with a 14-man crew under the expert direction of MAU PIAILUG,
27 and after 34 challenging days, including days when solid cloud cover
28 hid the sun, moon, and stars, and after travelling approximately 2,400
29 miles, they kept their course and finally reached Tahiti safely on
30 June 4, 1976, effectively demonstrating and kindling a new
31 appreciation for how the Polynesians used voyaging canoes and



1 traditional methods of navigation to travel vast distances; now,
2 therefore,

3
4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
6 of 2006, that this body hereby congratulates and commends master
7 navigator MAU PIALUG, and the crew members of the Hokule'a's
8 inaugural voyage, CAPTAIN KAWIKA KAPAHULEHUA, CLIFFORD AH MOW, SHORTY
9 BERTELMANN, BEN FINNEY, TOMMY HOLMES, SAM KALALAU, BOOGIE KALAMA,
10 BUFFALO KEAULANA, JOHN KRUSE, DUKIE KAUHULU, DAVID LEWIS, DAVE LYMAN,
11 BILLY RICHARDS, and RODO WILLIAMS, some of whom are no longer with us,
12 for their significant contribution to the perpetuation of Hawaiian and
13 Polynesian heritage and culture, and extends to them its warmest aloha
14 and very best wishes.
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OFFERED BY:

Cindy Evans

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Budd Weir
Kameo Tenaka
Alc n.s.

