
HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING THE MERRIE MONARCH FESTIVAL ON THE HISTORIC OCCASION OF
ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY.

1 WHEREAS, thousands of people in Hawaii and throughout the
2 world learn about the history and culture of Hawaii through the
3 Merrie Monarch Festival; and

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5 WHEREAS, this week-long festival is committed to
6 perpetuating the traditional culture of the Hawaiian people; and

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8 WHEREAS, through workshops, demonstrations, exhibitions,
9 and performances, the Merrie Monarch Festival contributes to the
10 development and augmentation of a living knowledge in Hawaiian
11 arts and crafts; and

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13 WHEREAS, the Merrie Monarch Festival is also dedicated to
14 enriching the lives of future generations of Hawaii's children
15 and strives to reach those who might not otherwise have the
16 opportunity to participate; and

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18 WHEREAS, the Merrie Monarch Festival is considered the
19 world's premier forum for people of all ages to display their
20 skills and knowledge in the art of ancient and modern hula; and

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22 WHEREAS, the Merrie Monarch Festival was created in the
23 early 1960s by the late Helene Hale along with the late George
24 Naope and Gene Wilhelm, who sought a way to attract tourists to
25 the Island of Hawaii after experiencing the negative impacts
26 from a tidal wave and an economic downturn; and

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28 WHEREAS, in 1968, the late Dorothy Thompson, fondly known
29 as "Auntie Dottie", became the Executive Director for the
30 festival and replicated King David Kalakaua's past work by
31 bringing the best hula dancers from throughout Hawaii to the
32 Island of Hawaii to perform and share hula; and



1 WHEREAS, in 1971, "Auntie Dottie" Thompson and George Naope
2 introduced a hula competition including women halau, and later
3 in 1976, opened the festival competition to male halau; and
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5 WHEREAS, this festival helped revive the Island of Hawaii's
6 economy with significant increases in hotel reservations,
7 restaurant bookings, and car rentals; and
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9 WHEREAS, each year the Merrie Monarch Festival honors the
10 memory of King David Kalakaua through events, including a
11 parade, art exhibits, craft fairs, demonstrations, performances,
12 and the three-day hula competition that has received worldwide
13 recognition for its historic and cultural significance; and
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15 WHEREAS, through an ongoing learning process in preparation
16 for the Merrie Monarch Festival, hula students gain knowledge of
17 and an appreciation for the unique harmony and balance the
18 ancient Hawaiian people maintained with their island
19 environment; and
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21 WHEREAS, since "Auntie Dottie's" passing in March of 2010,
22 her daughter Luana Kawelu has continued her legacy as the
23 current President of the Merrie Monarch Festival; and
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25 WHEREAS, from March 31 through April 6, 2013, the Merrie
26 Monarch Festival will celebrate the joyous and momentous
27 occasion of its 50th Anniversary in Hilo, Hawaii; now, therefore,
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
31 Session of 2013, that this body hereby honors the Merrie Monarch
32 Festival on the historic occasion of its 50th Anniversary,
33 recognizes its role as a catalyst to support and draw together
34 an extensive network of people who are committed to the
35 perpetuation and advancement of Hawaiian history and culture,
36 and expresses its warmest aloha and best wishes for continued
37 success.
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OFFERED BY:

Ray Hansen
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[Signature]
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HR- HMS 2013-2339



Mark Nakahima

MAR 08 2013