
HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING ROBERT LOPAKA KAPANUI FOR HIS DEDICATION AND PASSION TO
PERPETUATING HAWAI'I'S RICH CULTURAL LEGACY AND HISTORY
THROUGH THE ART OF STORYTELLING.

1 WHEREAS, for 20 years, ROBERT LOPAKA KAPANUI has been
2 sharing more than Hawaiian ghost stories; he has helped to
3 preserve local culture, history, language, and folklore through
4 his storytelling and knowledge of the islands' history and
5 legends; and

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7 WHEREAS, ROBERT LOPAKA KAPANUI is a native Hawaiian
8 storyteller, writer, actor, kumu hula, and cultural
9 practitioner, as well as a husband, father, and grandfather, and
10 even a former professional wrestler; sometimes known as "The
11 Ghost Guy," he says his expertise has come through research,
12 personal experience, and others who share their stories with
13 him; and

14
15 WHEREAS, born and raised on O'ahu, he spent his childhood
16 summers in Wainaku on Hawai'i Island and visited Maui frequently
17 with his family; he grew up hearing legends and ghost stories
18 from his kupuna, which were passed on to him through mo'olelo,
19 mouth to ear, sitting at the feet of his mother and aunt; and

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21 WHEREAS, he learned of the night marchers who only appeared
22 during a particular moon phase and why to never share food with
23 anyone while walking through a haunted place; he learned the
24 proper prayers for ceremonial blessings, to enter or leave a
25 sacred place, to ask for protection or forgiveness, and the
26 importance of intent; he was also taught that this legacy would
27 be passed down to his family one day; and

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29 WHEREAS, in 1994, ROBERT LOPAKA KAPANUI went on a ghost
30 tour with tour creator and renowned author of the "Obake Files"
31 and "Chicken Skin" ghost story series, Glen Grant; at the time,



1 he had no idea he was about to meet his future mentor, the man
2 who would change the course of his life; and
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4 WHEREAS, ROBERT LOPAKA KAPANUI quickly realized the stories
5 Grant told were the same that his kupuna had shared with him,
6 but bolstered by documentation and history; Grant had spent
7 thirty years collecting stories about ghosts and spirits,
8 adamant about researching every story and fact and instilling
9 this practice in ROBERT LOPAKA KAPANUI, accepting nothing less
10 than excellence; and
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12 WHEREAS, through Mysteries of Hawai'i, ROBERT LOPAKA KAPANUI
13 followed in the footsteps of his friend and mentor to honor the
14 the man who meant so much to him, carrying on Hawai'i's rich
15 history of ha'i mo'olelo by sharing his tales and serving as a
16 repository of our culture and history; and
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18 WHEREAS, Mysteries of Hawai'i also gives back to the
19 community by supporting the Special Olympics and Project
20 Graduation, storytelling at public schools and libraries to
21 support literacy, and sharing at Camp 'Anuenue, a childhood
22 cancer program; now, therefore,
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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
25 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of
26 2020, that this body hereby honors ROBERT LOPAKA KAPANUI on his
27 standing as one of Hawai'i's foremost storytellers; commends him
28 for his dedication and passion for perpetuating Hawai'i's rich
29 history through the treasured art of storytelling; and expresses
30 its heartfelt aloha, mahalo, and best wishes to him for
31 continued joy, fulfillment, and happiness in his endeavors.
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OFFERED BY: B. L. Kobayashi

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