

- In Memoriam -

State Senator Gilbert Kahele

WHEREAS, Senator Gilbert Kahele was born on May 15, 1942, in Kalihi, near the Hawaiian fishing village of Miloli'i in South Kona, in a place and time when Hawaiian was still the predominant language; at the age of five, the Kahele family moved to Hilo, but he maintained close ties to the Miloli'i and Ka'ū communities throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, Senator Gilbert Kahele graduated from Hilo High School before serving four years in the United States Marine Corps; he went on to graduate from Laney College in Oakland, California, and working for the state Department of Defense for the next 33 years, where he eventually became the director of public works at the Pōhakuloa Training Area; and

WHEREAS, Senator Gilbert Kahele was a committed Democratic Party activist and a respected campaign strategist who worked to help elect many Democrats to office; and

WHEREAS, Senator Gilbert Kahele was appointed to the Hawai'i State Senate by Governor Neil Abercrombie in 2010 to represent Hilo, Puna and Ka'ū, where he went on to win his election to Hawai'i Island's District One seat representing Hilo in 2012; and

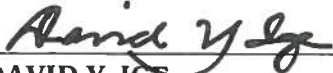
WHEREAS, Senator Gilbert Kahele played an instrumental role in helping to arrange for the necessary funding to build the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, was a strong supporter of a plan to create a school of aviation at Hilo Airport and the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and served as chair of the Tourism and International Affairs committee; and

WHEREAS, Senator Gilbert Kahele signed three final bills to be introduced under his name during the 2016 Legislative Session, one that would create a future college of aviation in East Hawai'i and another that would advance plans to have the state purchase a small beach area at Kapua Bay south of Miloli'i that is rich in petroglyphs and other archeological features, with the hope that it would be incorporated into the South Kona wilderness area he helped create in his first year in office; and

WHEREAS, Senator Gilbert Kahele is survived by his wife, Linda; sons, Gibby, Kai and Imaika; daughters, Noelani, Ilima and Ihilani; siblings, Ron, Leighton and Corrine; eleven grandchildren, great-grandson and extended family;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DAVID IGE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai'i, extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to the Kahele 'ohana on the passing of a husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend; and as a mark of respect for the memory of State Senator Gilbert Kahele, hereby order, by the authority vested in us by the Constitution and laws of the State of Hawai'i, that the National Flag and Hawai'i State Flag be flown at half-staff at all state offices and agencies as well as the Hawai'i National Guard from sunrise to sunset on February 8, 2016.

DONE at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this eighth day of February 2016.



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i



SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i