



Proclamation

In Recognition of

Labor Memorial Day in Hilo

WHEREAS, in 1935 the National Labor Relations Act explicitly recognizes the right of workers “to form, join or assist labor unions, to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, and to engage in concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection”; and

WHEREAS, about 30 young waterfront workers of different ethnicities formed the Hilo Longshoremen's Association under the leadership of Harry Kamoku on November 22, 1935, which spurred the organization of other labor unions in Hilo and other islands; and

WHEREAS, on May 24, 1938, the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union and the Inland Boatmen's Union in Honolulu went on strike against Inter-Island Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., the main artery of commerce between the islands; and

WHEREAS, after difficult and tough negotiations resulted in little to no cargo service to the neighbor island ports, Inter-Island announced restoration of the SS *Waialeale*'s cargo service to Kauai, Maui and Hilo; and

WHEREAS, on the morning of July 22, 1938, a peaceful demonstration by Hilo Longshoremen and their wives and children, who stood in support of the Inter-Island strikers in Honolulu, resulted in a stampede after police threw a tear gas bomb that exploded in a child's face; and

WHEREAS, on the morning of August 1, 2018, Harry Kamoku and men and women from various unions marched peacefully once again toward the pier where the SS *Waialeale* docked, and were met with tear gas grenades, birdshots and buckshots, resulting in over 50 injured people; and

WHEREAS, August 1, 2018 commemorates the 80th anniversary of a pivotal moment in Hawai'i's history, often known as the “Hilo Massacre” or “Bloody Monday” in reference to the injuries sustained at the demonstration and the struggle that has brought meaning to the notion of freedom of expression and worker rights; and

WHEREAS, the mural at Hilo Harbor on Hawai'i Island depicting the events of August 1, 1938, authorized and commissioned by Governor David Y. Ige, serves as a focal point of pride for our community and further commemorates the efforts of all who have contributed to the growth and betterment of our state;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, DOUGLAS S. CHIN, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim August 1, 2018 as

“LABOR MEMORIAL DAY IN HILO”

and ask the people all across the Aloha State to join us in recognizing the importance of Hawai'i's workforce in ensuring the quality of life for all communities on all islands.

Done at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-fifth day of July 2018.



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i



DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i