



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) collaboration, involving over 200 scientists and 13 funding institutions, linked together eight radio telescopes in six strategic locations to form an Earth-sized telescope of unprecedented power; and

**WHEREAS**, this collective telescope was powerful enough to capture an image of a supermassive black hole at the center of the Messier 87 galaxy which lies at a distance of 53.5 million light years from Earth; and

**WHEREAS**, photographic proof of black holes has huge implications for the future of science, opening the door to one of the universe's greatest mysteries; and

**WHEREAS**, the success of the EHT experiment demonstrates Mauna Kea's critical role in the advancement of science and new capabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, Mauna Kea's remote location and conditions, which allow for prime observation at longer wavelengths, helped make this groundbreaking scientific breakthrough possible; and

**WHEREAS**, the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope and Submillimeter Array atop Mauna Kea have been a critical part of this experiment since its conception, pioneering the revolutionary technique needed to see tiny and faint objects; and

**WHEREAS**, in Hawai'i our long and rich history of naming celestial objects extends back thousands of years, rooted in the ancient traditions of our wayfinders, so astronomers worked with renowned Hawaiian language and cultural expert Dr. Larry Kimura to propose the name of Pōwehi, meaning "embellished, fathomless dark creation," drawn from the "Kumulipo," a Hawaiian creation chant; and

**WHEREAS**, the discovery of Pōwehi adds an indigenous perspective to modern science and opens pathways to interdisciplinary conversations about the intersection between cultural, ancestral, artistic and scientific understanding across all academic and cultural settings, helping audiences grasp and make sense of what it means for them, their communities and the world;

**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, JOSHUA B. GREEN, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim April 10, 2019 as**

## "PŌWEHI DAY"

in Hawai'i upon today's release of the world's first-ever image of a black hole by the Event Horizon Telescope collaboration, and to recognize the critical role of the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope and Submillimeter Array atop Mauna Kea in this achievement, the proposed Hawaiian name of Pōwehi and the international commitment of visionaries and scientists to furthering the world's understanding of the universe.

Done at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this tenth day of April 2019.

  
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JOSHUA B. GREEN  
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai'i

  
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DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i