

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

A RESOLUTION

NO. 2025 - 88

UPHOLDING, SUPPORTING, AND PROTECTING THE WILL AND LEGACY OF KE ALI'I PAUAHI

WHEREAS, Ke Ali'i Bernice Pauahi Pākī Bishop was born on December 19, 1831, the daughter of Abner Pākī and Laura Konia, in their family home known as 'Aikupika in Honolulu; and

WHEREAS, her father, Abner Pākī, was a high chief from Moloka'i; he served in numerous high positions in the kingdom government, including as a member of the House of Nobles and as an Assistant Judge of the Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, her mother, Laura Konia, was the daughter of Luahine and Ka'ōleiokū, the first son of Kamehameha I; she was an ali'i who served in the House of Nobles; and

WHEREAS, under the Hawaiian tradition of hānai, Ke Ali'i Pauahi was raised by Kīna'u, the eldest daughter of Kamehameha I, one of the highest-ranking chiefesses of her time, who served as Kuhina Nui following the passing of Ka'ahumanu; Kīna'u and her husband, Mataio Kekūanāo'a, who served as governor of O'ahu and a judge, raised the princess as their own; and

WHEREAS, Ke Ali'i Pauahi was educated for ten years until the age of 18 at the Chiefs' Children's School in Honolulu, alongside future monarchs such as Lot Kapuāiwa, Alexander Liholiho, Emma Rooke, William Lunalilo, David Kalākaua and Lydia Lili'uokalani, where she lived in residence and studied in close companionship with her chiefly peers; and

WHEREAS, in 1850, Ke Ali'i Pauahi married American businessman and banker Charles Reed Bishop, and together they became social, cultural and philanthropic leaders in Hawai'i, welcoming government and community leaders as well as dignitaries from around the world to their Honolulu home, called Haleakalā; and

WHEREAS, Ke Ali'i Pauahi was a devout Christian whose faith guided her life of service, while she remained steadfast in her kuleana as an ali'i, dedicating her time, resources and aloha to the well-being and advancement of her people; and

WHEREAS, Ke Ali'i Pauahi inherited lands passed down from generations of royal lineages, including 'āina once belonging to Ruth Ke'elikōlani, Lot Kapuāiwa, Mataio

Kekūanāo‘a, Victoria Kamāmalu, Moses Kekūāiwa, William Pitt Leleiōhoku, William Lunalilo, Abner Pākī, Laura Konia, ‘Akahi and Mahune; and

WHEREAS, Ke Ali‘i Pauahi signed her will in 1883, dedicating her private estate to uplift Native Hawaiians through education; and

WHEREAS, she named Kamehameha Schools in honor of her great-grandfather, Kamehameha I, who united the islands as a single nation; she declared her kauoha within the Hawaiian Kingdom, a decade before the illegal overthrow and fifteen years before the occupation of Hawai‘i by the United States; and

WHEREAS, for nearly 140 years, Kamehameha Schools has fulfilled Pauahi’s vision, shaping generations of ‘ōiwi leaders who have strengthened their ‘ohana, kaiāulu and the lāhui; and

WHEREAS, Kamehameha Schools today serves over 5,400 haumāna from kindergarten to grade 12 across three campuses and more than 1,650 keiki in 30 preschools, and invests more than \$83.9 million annually in community programs, grants and scholarships; and

WHEREAS, Kamehameha Schools’ policy is to give preference to applicants of Hawaiian ancestry to the extent permitted by law; and

WHEREAS, on October 20, 2025, the Virginia-based Students for Fair Admissions filed a federal lawsuit challenging Kamehameha Schools’ admissions policy; and

WHEREAS, Kamehameha Schools is a private charitable trust that does not receive state or federal funds, and its admissions policy has been upheld by the courts, including the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians maintain a special political and trust relationship with the United States, recognized through more than 250 federal statutes and administrative programs, and have rights as aboriginal and indigenous peoples under international law; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, founded by Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana‘ole in 1918, has long supported the self-determination, education, and empowerment of Native Hawaiians; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 66th Annual Convention in Keauhou, Hawai‘i, in the malama of Welehu and the rising of Mōhalu, this 1st day of November 2025, upholding, supporting, and protecting the will and legacy of Ke Ali‘i Pauahi; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs calls on Hawaiian Civic Clubs, its partner organizations including the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and

other Native Hawaiian organizations, and elected officials to support Kamehameha Schools' efforts to honor, advance and safeguard the will and legacy of Ke Ali‘i Pauahi; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs encourages all Hawaiian Civic Clubs and club members to raise awareness of Kamehameha Schools' private trust, share information about the political status of Native Hawaiians, and help counter efforts that might undermine this vital institution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to Kamehameha Schools, Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Hawaiian Homes Commission, Board of Land and Natural Resources, Superintendent of the Hawai‘i Department of Education, the Hawai‘i Attorney General, as well as the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, and all County Mayors.

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted in the malama of Welehu and the rising of Mōhalu, on the 1st day of November 2025, at the 66th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Keauhou, Hawai‘i.



DreanaLee Kalili
DreanaLee Kalili, President