

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE OF REPRESENTATIVE GENE
R. WARD, Ph.D.**

WHEREAS, Gene Ward was born in Conneaut, Ohio on March 9, 1943;

WHEREAS, Gene Ward served as Hawaii's National Committeeman from 2016 to 2024, and served 27 years in the Hawai'i State House of Representatives on behalf of his beloved community of East Honolulu, spanning terms from 1990-1998 and 2006-2025;

WHEREAS, Gene Ward, while in the House, held multiple leadership roles, including House Minority Leader, House Minority Leader Emeritus, House Minority Policy Leader, House Minority Caucus Leader, and chaired caucuses related to small business, aerospace, and the Pacific Islands;

WHEREAS, Gene Ward while not Native Hawaiian by birthright, made it his life's mission to advocate for Native Hawaiian rights, believing "ethnicity is defined by that with which you identify within your heart." He desired this dedication to be a key part of his legacy through his Broken Promises series, documenting the over 100-year struggle to return Native Hawaiians to their lands;

WHEREAS, Gene Ward believed the number one job of the Legislature was to ensure every family could put a roof over their head and food on their table, often advocating for providing opportunities for the working poor to better their circumstances;

WHEREAS, Gene Ward was drafted into the United States Army to serve in the Vietnam War with the Military Assistance Command in 1969 as a translator-interpreter;

WHEREAS, Gene Ward while studying at the East-West Center in 1970 met the love of his life and Speaker of his House, Faredah Shamsudin Ward, partnering in life and in business, owning two clothing boutiques which sold hand-painted batik fabrics from Malaysia;

WHEREAS, Gene Ward and Faredah in 1995 opened their arms and hearts to raise Johanna Mei Ping Ward, their life's joy, whose successes and accomplishments he shared often with a beaming smile and immense pride; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Republican National Committee mourns the death of the irreplaceable GENE WARD and honors his lifetime of accomplishments and contributions to the Republican Party and his immeasurable impact on the State of Hawai'i.

