

BILL NO. 97

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE NAMING A BUILDING LOCATED AT THE HO'OLULU COMPLEX, COVERED BY TAX MAP KEY: 2-2-033:016, AND AMENDING CHAPTER 15, ARTICLE 8, SECTION 15-68.1 OF THE HAWAI'I COUNTY CODE 1983 (2016 EDITION, AS AMENDED) RELATING TO THE PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITY SCHEDULE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF HAWAI'I:

SECTION 1. The purpose of this ordinance is to name a building located adjacent to the Aunty Sally Kaleohano's Lū'au Hale at the Ho'olulu Complex, situated in Hilo, District of South Hilo, County of Hawai'i, State of Hawai'i, in honor of Dorothy Thompson, affectionately known as "Aunty Dottie."

"Aunty Dottie" was born Dorothy Mae Elizabeth Soares May 16, 1921, in Hilo and died March 19, 2010, in Hilo. A renowned multi-sport athlete in her youth, she was an employee with the Department of Parks and Recreation for more than 30 years, retiring in 1980 as head of the culture and arts division.

Planning for the first Merrie Monarch Festival, in 1964, began in 1963 under the direction of co-founders Helene Hale, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, her Executive Assistant Gene Wilhelm, and Promoter of Activities George Na'ope. The festival was established to honor the late King David Kalākaua, and to support Hilo's recovery from a devastating tsunami in 1960. Due to a change in executive administration, from 1965 to 1968, the festival became a project of the Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce. Declining interest in the festival after 1968 led the Chamber of Commerce to consider discontinuing the festival, when Aunty Dottie stepped up to form and lead a nonprofit organization dedicated to the Merrie Monarch Festival. The early years of the festival featured live entertainment, a King Kalākaua beard competition, and a barbershop quartet contest. After reaching an agreement with the leading hula masters of the time, she introduced the first hula competition in 1971, which took place at the Afook-Chinen Civic Auditorium (formerly the Hilo Civic Auditorium).

The Merrie Monarch Festival grew slowly at first, but exploded in popularity following the Second Hawaiian Renaissance in the 1970s, the addition of the Kāne Division in 1976, the move to the Edith Kanaka'ole Multi-purpose Stadium (formerly the Ho'olulu Tennis Stadium) in 1979, and the first live television broadcast in 1981. As the popularity of the festival spread, hula gained respect as an art form that is now practiced around the world. For the last 47 years of her exceptional life, Aunty Dottie led the festival as executive director. She was a strong leader who resisted pressure to raise ticket prices or move to a larger venue. Her wide-brim straw hat, bedecked with lei, was a constant presence at the side of the competition stage, but she always redirected attention from herself to the performances on stage. The Merrie Monarch Festival, now led by Aunty Dottie's family, continues her legacy.

Aunty Dottie was named a Living Legend in 1996 by the Department of Parks and Recreation and was awarded the 2000 Outstanding Non-Hawaiian Perpetuating the Hawaiian Culture Award by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs. "Auntie Dottie Thompson Day" was proclaimed in the State of Hawai'i on April 17, 2004, and she was named a Living Treasure by Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai'i in 2007. "Auntie Dottie Thompson Day" was proclaimed again on February 13, 2010, in the County of Hawai'i. She received the YWCA Hawai'i Island Remarkable Person award in 2010. A tree was planted in her memory in 2013 in Shibukawa City (formerly Ikaho-Machi), Japan, a Sister City to Hawai'i County and home of the "King Kalākaua 'the Merrie Monarch' Hula Festival."

SECTION 2. Pursuant to Chapter 15, Article 8, 15-67(a)(4)(B), which provides that any structure may be named after a person who has "contributed significantly to the recreational programs in the community in which the open area is located"; or "achieved significant recognition on the national or international level"; or "accomplished significant achievements in other fields of endeavor which have been of benefit to other persons," the unnamed building located on that real property covered by Tax Map Key: 2-2-033:016 shall be named the "Aunty Dottie Thompson Hale."

SECTION 3. Chapter 15, article 8, section 15-68.1 of the Hawai'i County Code 1983 (2016 Edition, as amended), is amended by adding a new facility to the "Hilo/Hāmākua" section to be appropriately inserted and to read as follows:

"Aunty Dottie Thompson Hale"

SECTION 4. New material is underscored. In printing this ordinance, the underscoring need not be included.

SECTION 5. If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the ordinance, which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

SECTION 6. This ordinance shall take effect May 16, 2018.

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan K. ...", is written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the text "COUNCIL MEMBER, COUNTY OF HAWAII" is printed.

_____, Hawai'i

Date of Introduction:

Date of 1st Reading:

Date of 2nd Reading:

Effective Date:

REFERENCE Comm. 704