

# COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

## *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS** Morris Kieo Nakaishi was born in Kumamoto, Japan on December 28, 1927. At a young age, his family immigrated to Hawai'i and, although his father eventually returned to Japan, his mother and siblings remained in Hawai'i; and

**WHEREAS**, after graduation from Hilo High School, Morris enlisted in the Army and was stationed in Okinawa during the Korean War. After his discharge from the Army, he studied architecture and became a carpenter; and

**WHEREAS**, after retirement in 1985, Morris became interested in the ancient practice of Bonsai- a beautiful art form that blends horticultural skills with Japanese aesthetics by growing trees and shrubs of many varieties in small shallow containers. This practice takes a calm presence, with every aspect being well thought out and every action precise and deliberate; and

**WHEREAS** Morris was a member of the Big Island Bonsai Association, and established his own club, Mokuhonua Bonsai Kai, selling bonsai tools and accessories not readily available locally, and keeping the tradition of bonsai alive by designing displays at the County Fair, at the annual Bonsai Exhibition at Wailoa Center, and at many other venues for the elderly and community; and

**WHEREAS**, in January 2015, Morris became the bonsai class instructor at Kamana Senior Center under the Parks & Recreation, Elderly Activities Division, sharing his wealth of knowledge with the students. The class made many field trips around Hawai'i Island collecting plants and rocks, and in 2018, traveled to Japan on a special bonsai tour; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017, Morris was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the County of Hawai'i and was nominated for the Hawai'i Island Older American Award for his contribution to the art and culture of bonsai; and

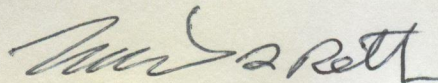
**WHEREAS**, on February 23, 2022, Morris passed away at the age of 94. His legacy and love of bonsai will continue to inspire all those that he touched during his time teaching.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, MITCHELL D. ROTH, Mayor of the County of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **July 1, 2022**, as

### **MORRIS KIEO NAKAISHI DAY**

in the County of Hawai'i as we join together in gratitude for the life and teachings of Morris Nakaishi, who presented us an opportunity to practice patience, effort, creativity, and personal expression, through his deep appreciation for the living art of bonsai.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused The Seal of the County of Hawai'i to be affixed. Done this **1<sup>st</sup> day of July 2022** in Hilo, Hawai'i.



MITCHELL D. ROTH  
MAYOR