

COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

Proclamation

WHEREAS *Wataru Kohashi was born in Keaukaha, on September 9, 1922, to Yosaburo and Momoyo (Murakami) Kohashi, the ninth of ten children, and enjoyed a childhood in Shinmachi, running around with his friends, swimming in Wailoa River and Hilo Bay, and graduating from Hilo High School in 1940 while working at his parents' tempura-ya; and*

WHEREAS *Wataru enlisted in the United States Army in 1943 and trained at Camp Shelby, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, before serving with the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Company F, in France and Italy as an Infantry Sergeant, getting wounded twice and awarded two Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star, the Distinguished Unit Badge, and the Good Conduct Medal; and*

WHEREAS *Wataru returned to Hilo in late 1945 and began working at Hilo Electric Light Co., where he was employed for 34 years and retired as a millwright. He met and married Kikuye Shiraki in 1952, and they raised their four children on Palai Street; and*

WHEREAS *Wataru has been a steady, contributing citizen in Hilo, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend, a leader in the 442nd Veterans Club and AJA Veterans Council, a member of the Church of the Holy Apostles, and an overall very good guy; and*

WHEREAS *longevity of life is a blessing for an individual and an entire community which benefits from the knowledge, creativity, and experiences this individual brings to all. Wataru Kohashi will celebrate his auspicious 100th birthday on September 9, 2022.*

NOW, THEREFORE I, Mitchell D. Roth, Mayor of the County of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim September 9, 2022, as

WATARU KOHASHI DAY

in the County of Hawai'i, and salute Wataru for his fearless service in the United States Army, and wish him good health, happiness, prosperity, and many more blessed years to come.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and caused The Seal of the County of Hawai'i to be affixed. Done this 9th day of September 2022, in Hilo, Hawai'i.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M D Roth".

MITCHELL D. ROTH

Mayor