

COUNTY OF HAWAII

Certificate of Commendation

Awarded to

ERNIE GRAY

On behalf of the residents of the County of Hawai'i, it is with aloha and gratitude that we commend Ernie Gray for his dauntless actions while surfing Hilo Bayfront on Christmas Eve 2021.

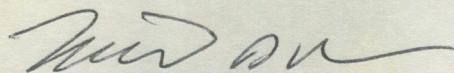
The surf conditions were dreamy, light offshore winds with a big north swell pumping. Ernie's friend and fellow surfer Chad Shibuya was stoked – until he wiped out, his leash broke, and his surfboard took off along with it.

Chad started the long, arduous, swim back to shore, battling a strong current. Thoroughly exhausted and stuck about 20 feet out, he just did not have the strength to make it to shore.

Ernie, observing that his friend was in trouble, quickly paddled over, hopped off his board, giving it over to Chad to rest and recover- then personally transported him safely to shore.

We recognize and acknowledge Ernie Gray for his humble, courageous, selfless action. He most certainly saved a life that day.

Done this 15th day of February 2022.



Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor