



21 'Okakopa 2020

Colette Machado, Chair
Board of Trustees
Office of Hawaiian Affairs
560 North Nimitz Highway, Suite 200
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

E pili ana i: Supporting the recognition of Dr. Claire Ku'uleilani Hughes

Aloha Nui Chair Machado and Honorable Trustees!

I send this letter of support for your resolutions #20 -09 honoring "...THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DR. CLAIRE HUGHES TO THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN COMMUNITY AND THE STATE OF HAWAI'I." On behalf of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs and its 62 club membership we join the Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in acknowledging and appreciating Dr. Claire Ku'uleilani Hughes for all of her contributions to her lāhui and to the betterment of all Hawai'i. We concur with your list of the many contributions of Dr. Hughes; and especially that connected to Native Hawaiian Health and well-being, dietary nutritional advocacy, civic engagement and her contributions to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs – to include her many articles over the past 23 years as a columnist.

Specific to the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, Dr. Hughes served many years as the Chair of the Association's Kōmike Mālama Ola or Health and Human Services committee; authoring many resolutions that were adopted over the years, encouraging and urging everything from healthy lifestyles to regular cancer screenings, to encouraging each club to develop Mālama Ola strategies that continue to be practiced among many. Between 1985 and 1986, Dr. Hughes even instituted the annual health screening program at the Association conventions. The screenings have served as key to the early diagnosis of serious medical issues for many Hawaiian Civic Club members over the years; that if they had not been screened at the convention, may not have been able to arrest the situation in time. Dr. Hughes also has served as the President of the Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu and President Pro Tem of the Kuini Pi'olani Hawaiian Civic Club, for which she currently serves as second vice president.

In her capacity as a kupuna, Dr. Hughes has earned the dignity the title "kupuna" commands. She is well respected and has been honored by the many organizations that you listed in your resolution. She is a model civic and servant leader who never shies away from work or challenges; even as she approaches 85 years of age; whether it be from jumping from a Hale O Nā Ali'i O Hawai'i meeting, to a Hawaiian Civic Club meeting to a Ke Ola Mamo hālāwai. In a little point of humor for me, I think about a meeting held this past Saturday. Kuini Pi'olani HCC had its caucus over resolutions and Dr. Hughes originally stated that she would not be attending the meeting because she had a Ke Ola Mamo meeting. During the zoom meeting Dr. Hughes popped in and gave her mana'o on resolution (jumping into the conversation, as if she had been there from the beginning of the meeting) and then jumped off. A text later from her confirmed that when Ke Ola Mamo was on break, she jumped into ours, and then back again to Ke Ola Mamo. In my opinion, this was an excellent example of Dr. Hughes' tenacity to task; assuring that the

work gets done! I personally knew her mother, Leilani Sweet Violet Kimokeo Hughes; an honored kupuna mānaleo whom I can still see in her daughter (both in likeness and in drive).

One again, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs joins you in your aloha and mahalo for Dr. Claire Ku`uleilani Hughes!

Me Ke Aloha!!

Hailama V.K.K Farden, Pelekikena
Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs