

# COUNTY OF HAWAII‘I

## *Proclamation*

WHEREAS Edith Kanaka‘ole, a venerated Hawaiian cultural icon, kumu hula, composer, chanter, educator, and a key influence in the Hawaiian renaissance of the 1970s, has been chosen as an honoree of the 2023 United States Mint’s American Women Quarters Program; and

WHEREAS Edith Ke‘kuhikuhipu‘uoneonāali‘iōkohala Kanaele Kenao was born October 30, 1913, in Honomū on the Hāmākua Coast of Hawai‘i to Mary Kekuewa Ahiena and John Kanaeleolualaka‘ikenao. She married Luka Kanaka‘ole in 1933, and they raised their six children in Keaukaha, immersed in the natural world and surrounded by ‘ohana; and

WHEREAS Aunty Edith made significant contributions to Hawaiian cultural and educational pursuits, including her tireless efforts to perpetuate and pass down traditional Hawaiian practices, customs, and language, helping to establish and support schools that teach entirely in ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i; and

WHEREAS a highly respected kumu hula, Aunty Edith instructed generations of dancers in the traditional ‘aiha‘a style of her family through Hālau O Kekuhi, whose leadership continues to pass through matrilineal succession. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs named her a “Living Treasure” to recognize the deep study of Hawaiian geneology, protocols, plants, language and history required for hula; and

WHEREAS, as an accomplished singer and composer of Hawaiian music, Aunty Edith penned many songs that are classics to the Hawaiian music canon and received numerous global awards. When she accepted her first Na Hōkū Hanohano Award for best traditional album, she accepted the award entirely in Hawaiian; and

WHEREAS the newly minted coin depicts a portrait of Aunty Edith with her flowing hair and lei po‘o morphing into the elements of the Hawaiian landscape, symbolizing her legacy of preserving the ‘āina and traditional Hawaiian culture. The inscription “E hō mai ka ‘ike,” translated as “Grant us the wisdom,” is a reference to the intertwined role hula, mele, and oli play in this preservation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MITCHELL D. ROTH, Mayor of the County of Hawai‘i, do hereby proclaim May 6, 2023, as:

### AUNTY EDITH KANAKA‘OLE DAY

in the County of Hawai‘i and encourage all residents to join together to honor Edith Kanaka‘ole’s life and legacy, perpetuated through the Edith Kanaka‘ole Foundation, as we renew our personal commitment to Hi‘ipoi I Ka ‘Āina Aloha – Cherish the Beloved Land.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused The Seal of the County of Hawai‘i to be affixed. Done this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May 2023, in Hilo, Hawai‘i.



MITCHELL D. ROTH  
MAYOR