EDITH KANAKAʻOLE FOUNDATION

to commemorate the release of the Edith Kanakaʻole Quarter

The Council of the County of Hawaiʻi honors the Edith Kanakaʻole Foundation for continuing the legacy of Edith Kekuhikuhipuʻu o nā aliʻi o Kohala Kanakaʻole, affectionately known as “Aunty Edith.”

Since 1990, the Edith Kanakaʻole Foundation has maintained and perpetuated the teachings, beliefs, practices, philosophies, and traditions of Aunty Edith. A venerated cultural icon, she dedicated her life to preserving and sharing the natural land and traditional culture of Hawaiʻi. As an educator, she assisted in developing the first Hawaiian language program for public school students at Keaukaha School. In addition, she created college courses and seminars on various subjects related to the Hawaiian language, history, genealogy, chant, and mythology. As an artist, Aunty Edith was an award-winning composer and kumu hula who founded the renowned Hālau o Kekuhi. Finally, as a leader, she inspires generations with her knowledge, passion, and grace.

In celebration of Aunty Edith’s accomplishments and contributions, the United States Mint honored her with a commemorative quarter as part of its American Women Quarters Program, which recognizes the women who have shaped and enriched the nation’s history and progress. Depicting a portrait of Aunty Edith morphing into the elements of a Hawaiian landscape, the quarter design symbolizes her life’s work of preserving the natural land and traditional Hawaiian culture. In addition, its inscription, “E hō mai ka ‘ike,” which translates as “granting the wisdom,” refers to the intertwined role hula and chants continues to play in this preservation.

The Council of the County of Hawaiʻi recognizes and commends the Edith Kanakaʻole Foundation for its valuable work in honoring Aunty Edith’s legacy and enriching the lives of Hawaiʻi residents and visitors. We express our gratitude and appreciation for its dedication and service to the community by elevating Hawaiian intelligence.

Dated this 6th day of May, 2023.

Susan L.K. Lee Loy, District 3, Sponsoring Member
Ashley L. Kierkiewicz, District 4
Matt Kanealiʻi-Kleinfeld, District 5
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