



RESOLUTION

PLACING A MEMORIAL SCULPTURE, BENCH AND PLAQUE AT KAPIOLANI PARK
HONORING LITA COOK.

WHEREAS, Section 22-9.5(e), Revised Ordinances of Honolulu ("ROH"), requires the Council to approve all naming or renaming of City parks, sites or facilities or any portion thereof by resolution; and

WHEREAS, Section 22-9.5(f), ROH, allows the Council to initiate the designation of a name for a new or existing park, site, facility or any portion thereof, or memorial by resolution; and

WHEREAS, Section 22-9.3(a)(3), ROH, outlines certain eligibility criteria that must be met when a new or existing park, site facility or any portion thereof is proposed to be named for a deceased individual; and

WHEREAS, Lita Cook devoted her life to the revitalization of the art of pa'u riding, which originated in the 1800's, bringing aloha to the world and an appreciation of Hawaiian culture; and

WHEREAS, the term pa'u stems from the early days of horses in Hawaii when women as well as men rode astride. To protect party clothes from the dust and mud of the road, the women covered their clothes with a long garment or pa'u. From protective covering, the garment evolved into elegant attire; and

WHEREAS, born in 1938, Lita Cook began practicing the tradition of pa'u riding in the 1970's, participating in her first King Kamehameha Day Parade in 1979, subsequently followed by the Aloha Festivals Parade, and other invitation-only Hawaii parades; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, she established the Hawaii Pa'u Riders, a group dedicated to perpetuating the cultural tradition throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, over more than three decades, she participated in more than 100 parades locally, nationally and internationally, including the New York Veteran's Day Parade, the Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena, the Kentucky Derby Festival Pegasus Parade, and the Father Damien Centennial Parade in Belgium; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, she participated in her final parade, the Pasadena Rose Bowl Parade, before passing away in 2003; and



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WHEREAS, family members of Lita Cook wish to give to the city a memorial sculpture, bench and plaque to memorialize Lita Cook; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that placing a memorial sculpture, bench and plaque at Kapiolani Park in a spot close to where the Pa'u Riders typically finish their local parades through Waikiki is an appropriate way to honor Lita Cook's life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the Department of Parks and Recreation is requested to work with the Cook family in providing and installing a memorial sculpture, bench and plaque honoring Lita Cook at Kapiolani Park at an appropriate location determined by the Department of Parks and Recreation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the memorial plaque be inscribed, at a minimum, as follows: LITA COOK, Queen of the Pa'u Riders, 1938-2003; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Parks and Recreation is requested to collaborate with the Cook family to incorporate additional language, regarding Lita Cook's personal background and major accomplishments to be inscribed on the memorial plaque; and



RESOLUTION

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Director of Parks and Recreation, and the family of Lita Cook.

INTRODUCED BY:

[Handwritten signature]

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

APR 11 2016

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers