



# Proclamation

In Recognition of

## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Gannenmono

**WHEREAS**, the first group of Japanese immigrants to Hawai'i were referred to as *gannenmono*, "people of the first year," because they came to Hawai'i in *Meiji Gannen*, the first year in the reign of Emperor Meiji of Japan; and

**WHEREAS**, the *gannenmono* left Yokohama, Japan on May 17, 1868, on the *Scioto* with courage, determination, dreams and hopes of a better life, and their perseverance, sacrifice and hard work helped shape Hawai'i's diverse landscape today; and

**WHEREAS**, the *gannenmono*, which included tailors, barbers, cooks, potters, even a former samurai, were recruited to work on sugarcane plantations; and

**WHEREAS**, 148 *gannenmono* arrived in Hawai'i on June 19, 1868, among whom were six women and two children; and

**WHEREAS**, the *gannenmono* were hired by various employers or plantation owners and dispersed throughout the Hawaiian Islands – 71 sent to Maui, 51 to Oahu, and 22 to Kaua'i; and

**WHEREAS**, some *gannenmono* moved to the mainland after contracts ended; some returned home to Japan; and about 50 remained in the islands, choosing to start a new life, marrying Hawaiian women, learning the native language, and laying the foundation for Japanese immigrants in later years; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1968, many memorials were placed in the Hawaiian Islands to commemorate the centennial of the *gannenmono* – memorial plaques at the Honolulu International Airport, a Buddha statue at Foster Botanical Garden, a five-storied stone pagoda in Honolulu, a stone Buddha in Lahaina, stone lanterns at the Lili'uokalani Gardens in Hilo, and the Byodo-In Temple was built in Kāne'ohe; and

**WHEREAS**, the 150<sup>th</sup> commemoration is organized by Kizuna Hawai'i, a consortium of 20 organizations, along with the Association of Nikkei & Japanese Abroad and the Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu, to celebrate and perpetuate the history of Japanese-Americans in Hawai'i and foster friendship between Hawai'i and Japan; and

**WHEREAS**, 150<sup>th</sup> commemoration events include the 59<sup>th</sup> Convention of Nikkei & Japanese Abroad, symposium, exhibits at Bishop Museum and the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, and a visit by Prince Fumihito and Princess Kiko of Japan;

**THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, DOUGLAS S. CHIN, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby recognize 2018 as the**

### "150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE GANNENMONO"

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in celebrating this auspicious occasion and recognizing the cultural legacy of the *gannenmono*, a true and compelling story of inspiration.

Done at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this thirtieth day of May 2018.

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i