



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Mahatma Gandhi was born on October 2, 1869. He dedicated his life to the principles of truth, nonviolence and peace becoming a beacon of inspiration for people around the world; and

WHEREAS, Gandhi's tireless efforts to promote social justice, eradicate poverty, and advance the cause of civil rights continue to resonate with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Gandhi's enduring legacy reminds us of the power of individuals to bring about positive change through nonviolent means and the importance of standing up for justice, equality, and human rights; and

WHEREAS, following the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001, Dr. Raj Kumar founded the Gandhi International Institute for Peace. Dr. Kumar and the members of Peace Institute have been raising awareness about nonviolence and promoting peace in communities across O'ahu; and

WHEREAS, in October 2006, Dr. Kumar organized a peace walk and ceremony at the Gandhi statue in Waikīkī; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the United Nations General Assembly established the International Day of Nonviolence, which is globally observed to promote nonviolence through education and public awareness and held on October 2nd in honor of Mahatma Gandhi's birthday; and

WHEREAS in 2015, Senate Bill 332, which made Hawai'i the first state to proclaim October 2nd as "Mahatma Gandhi Day," passed unanimously and was signed into law by Hawai'i Governor David Ige; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 18th year of this special ceremony organized by Dr. Kumar at the Gandhi statue in Waikīkī to promote peace and nonviolence in our communities. It is fitting and proper that we, as a community and a nation, honor the life and work of Mahatma Gandhi by dedicating a day to celebrate his contributions to humanity,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK BLANGIARDI, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, do hereby proclaim October 2, 2023, to be

**MAHATMA GANDHI DAY
and
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NONVIOLENCE**

to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's 154th birthday and celebrate his promotion of tolerance, the full respect for human rights, peace on earth, and to extend our deepest appreciation to the Gandhi International Institute for continuing to organize this very important event.



Done this 2nd day of October, 2023,
in Honolulu, Hawai'i.

Rick Blangiardi
RICK BLANGIARDI