



The Senate

HONORS AND COMMENDS

THE GANDHI INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR PEACE UPON THE CELEBRATION OF MAHATMA GANDHI DAY IN HAWAII AND THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NON-VIOLENCE

The Senate of the State of Hawai'i proudly recognizes the Gandhi International Institute for Peace for its extraordinary leadership and unwavering dedication to advancing the observance of Mahatma Gandhi Day and the International Day of Non-Violence throughout Hawai'i, preserving a legacy that has affirmed the enduring power of courage, compassion, and nonviolent action.

Born on October 2, 1869, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, revered throughout the world as Mahatma Gandhi, emerged as one of the most consequential figures in modern history. At a time when violence, conquest, and coercion were widely regarded as the instruments of political change, Gandhi advanced a revolutionary vision founded upon truth, conscience, and self-sacrifice. Through his principles of *Ahimsa* and *Satyagraha*, he demonstrated that the human spirit possesses a power greater than armies, empires, and oppression itself. His life forever changed humanity's understanding of leadership, proving that one individual, armed only with truth and courage, can alter the destiny of nations.

Among Gandhi's many historic achievements, none carried greater global significance than the Salt March of 1930. What began as a 240-mile march against the British salt monopoly became a defining moment for freedom movements worldwide. Its impact transcended India, crossing borders and generations. In recognition of Gandhi's enduring contribution to humanity, the United Nations General Assembly, through Resolution A/RES/61/271, proclaimed October 2—Gandhi's birthday—as the International Day of Non-Violence on June 15, 2007.

Together, Mahatma Gandhi Day and the International Day of Non-Violence commemorate a legacy that reshaped the modern world, providing a timeless blueprint that continues to inspire freedom and human rights across the globe. His philosophy profoundly influenced Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the American Civil Rights Movement, helping advance equality through peaceful resistance. His example inspired Nelson Mandela and those who worked to dismantle apartheid in South Africa. His vision echoed through democratic movements and struggles for justice on every continent.

In Hawai'i, these universal ideals have found enduring expression through the vision, dedication, and distinguished leadership of Dr. Raj Kumar, Founder of the Gandhi International Institute for Peace. Through his efforts, the Hawai'i State Legislature unanimously adopted Senate Bill 332, designating October 2 of each year as Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi Day, and on April 9, 2015, Governor David Ige signed the measure into law as Act 5, making Hawai'i the first state in the nation to formally honor Gandhi through state law and affirming the enduring values of peace, nonviolence, and human dignity that define his legacy.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i that we honor Mahatma Gandhi Day and the International Day of Non-Violence on October 2 and extend our highest commendation to the Gandhi International Institute for Peace for cultivating and sustaining these observances in Hawai'i. Let these observances stand not only as a tribute to the past, but as a beacon for the future—and as a reminder that the greatest force known to humanity is not the power to dominate, but the power to uplift; not the capacity to destroy, but the courage to heal; and that no child should ever be taught to hate, and no human life should ever be deemed less worthy of peace.

Carol Johnson

Sharon Y. Morioka
Mike Sabatell
Karl Rhoads
Danae H. H. H. H.
Rachelle P. P. P.
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Honorable
Done this 2nd day of October 2026
State Capitol, Honolulu, Hawai'i
Sharon Y. Morioka, Sponsoring Senator
Ronald D. Kouchi, President of the Senate
Carol Taniguchi, Clerk of the Senate

