

# The Senate

RECOGNIZES AND HONORS

## THE GANDHI INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR PEACE IN CELEBRATION OF THE 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY IN WAIKĪKĪ

*"Yoga is a holistic approach to health and well-being,  
It is a spiritual path to control the mind and senses,  
and to know one's higher self and a purpose in life."  
- Dr. Raj Kumar*

The Senate of the State of Hawai'i proudly recognizes and honors the Gandhi International Institute for Peace for its distinguished leadership and steadfast commitment in establishing and advancing the observance of the 8th Annual International Yoga Day throughout Hawai'i, a global movement that uplifts humanity through the timeless and transformative practice of yoga.

First proclaimed by the United Nations in 2014 at the initiative of the Republic of India, and embraced worldwide since 2015, International Yoga Day stands as a profound affirmation of the enduring power of yoga to strengthen the body, center the mind, and elevate the human spirit, uniting millions across the globe in a shared pursuit of wellness, peace, and collective harmony.

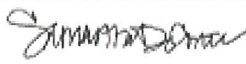
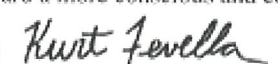
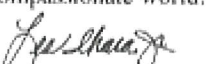
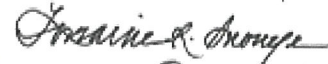

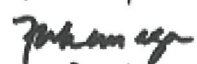
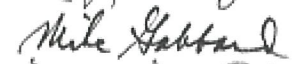
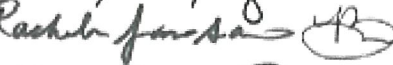

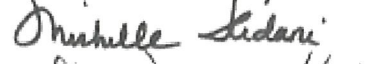
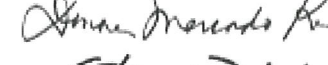
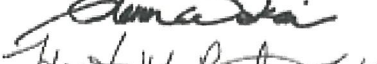
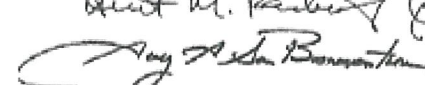
In 2019, the Hawai'i State Legislature gave lasting voice to these ideals through the enactment of Act 102, codified as Hawai'i Revised Statutes § 8-31, officially designating June 21 of each year as International Yoga Day in Hawai'i, thereby positioning our State among the first in the nation to enshrine this global observance into law and affirm its deep commitment to health, mindfulness, and cultural appreciation.

Through the vision, dedication, and enduring leadership of Dr. Raj Kumar, Founder of Gandhi International Institute for Peace, in continued partnership with the City & County of Honolulu and the Consulate General of India, San Francisco, International Yoga Day has taken root and flourished across Hawai'i, inspiring communities, and creating a powerful platform for cultural exchange, unity, and the advancement of peace through mindful living.

The 2026 Waikīkī celebration, themed "Yoga for Physical, Mental, and Spiritual Transformation," brings this vision vividly to life through an integrative yoga class led by Sun Yoga Hawai'i Founder Michele Santos, uplifting remarks from keynote speaker, Dr. Veena Howard from California State University, Fresno and other community leaders, dynamic posture demonstrations for strength and vitality by Robin Shepard and Amber Ricci, breathing practices for heart health, meditation for inner peace, sound healing and a cultural dance—through these collective expressions, International Yoga Day rises beyond observance, standing as a living testament to the enduring power of balance, mindfulness, and compassion to transform lives and strengthen communities.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i that we honor the 8th Annual International Yoga Day on June 21, 2026, and extend our highest commendation to the Gandhi International Institute for Peace for its visionary leadership in cultivating and sustaining this observance in Hawai'i; and that we celebrate a movement whose enduring spirit will continue to shape the character of our communities, deepen our shared humanity, and call future generations toward a more conscious and compassionate world.



Done this 21st day of June 2026  
State Capitol, Honolulu, Hawai'i

  
Sharon Y. Moriwaik, Sponsoring Senator

  
Ronald D. Kouchi, President of the Senate

  
Carol Taniguchi, Clerk of the Senate