

# Honolulu to celebrate Gandhi Day on Oct. 2

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The Gandhi International Institute for Peace will mark its 20th annual celebration of Mahatma Gandhi's birthday on Oct. 2 at Kapiolani Regional Park, outside the Honolulu Zoo.

The event runs from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and coincides with United Nations International Day of Nonviolence,

established in 2007.

State Sen. Mike Gabbard (D, Kapolei-Makakilo-Kalaeloa) will be guest of honor.

The program includes a Hawaiian blessing by kahu Kaleo Patterson and Veda Das, reflections on nonviolence by local advocates and University of Hawaii professors, yoga and meditation demonstrations and cultural performances.

Classical Indian dance will be performed by Janani Lakshmanan and Elizabeth Mager, while the Royal Hawaiian Band will play peace music.

Gandhi is remembered worldwide for his principles of ahimsa, or nonviolence, and satyagraha, truth force, which shaped India's independence movement and influenced global leaders including Martin Luther King

Jr. and Nelson Mandela.

Dr. Raj Kumar, who founded the Gandhi International Institute for Peace in 2001, has led efforts to spread Gandhi's message of peace in Hawaii, including legislation making Oct. 2 "Mahatma Gandhi Day."

Passed unanimously in 2015, Hawaii became the first U.S. state to officially recognize the day.