COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES SENATE MOTION

Naming Manu ‘Ōʻō, The Earnest T. Morgan Hālau, the Old Gym, in honor of Earnest Theophilus Morgan

November 24, 2015

Whereas Earnest Theophilus Morgan, born in Waipahu, O‘ahu, in 1947, died 1992, in Hilo, Hawai‘i, was one of the premier dancers and dance teachers in Hawai‘i and the continental United States;

Whereas he was a graduate of Northwestern University and worked professionally as a dancer with the Gus Giordano Company of Chicago, wherein his work was recognized with an Emmy award; and the Paul Taylor international touring company; and in France, the Theatre Du Silence, founded and directed by Jacques Garnier and Le Cercle, founded and directed by Sheela Raj.

Whereas he established the dance program at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo in 1974, and his classes were taught in the “Old Gym” building, leading to providing a foundation for his colleagues and students to continue his efforts to create a thriving dance community on Hawai‘i Island;

Whereas he directed the Honolulu Ballet and started the first modern dance company in the state called Dance O Hawai‘i that fused ethnic roots into contemporary dance; and formed the Big Island Dance Council; and coordinated summer dance retreats in the Volcano for local, national, and international performers;

Whereas he conducted workshops and directed performances for thousands of Hawai‘i school-aged children statewide in the Department of Education; and co-founded his dream of a retreat center focused on nature, culture, and wellness, Kalani Honua in Puna;

Whereas he believed that dance was an expression of mana, the life energy that flows through all things;

Therefore be it resolved:

The CAS Senate endorses naming the newly renovated Old Gym in honor of Earnest T. Morgan and requests that the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo Administration strongly endorse and forward this recommendation to the University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents for action.