



## MESSAGE FROM MAYOR KIRK CALDWELL



Aloha!

There was a time in our city's history when Oahu's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community was forced into the shadows and shunned simply because of who they were and what they represented. But just as societies evolve, so has our great city, and today we can honestly say that the meaning of "aloha" extends to all people, regardless of their sexual orientation, race or religion.

The 2017 Honolulu Pride Parade is yet another opportunity for us to come together to celebrate the diversity that I believe makes the City and County of Honolulu the best place in the world to live, work and play, and I thank the Hawai'i LGBT Legacy Foundation for perpetuating the concept of hope, equality and unity throughout Oahu's many communities. We are a people that judges a person by the quality of their character and not how they choose to live their lives, or who to love.

This was the idea behind The Glades, a nightclub in Chinatown in the 1970s at the corner of Hotel and Maunakea streets "Where boys will be girls," as was stated proudly on the marquee out front. Despite acts of violence and harassment against those who performed and visited The Glades, the doors remained opened and the commitment to diversity endured. It's extremely heartening that the Hawai'i LGBT Legacy Foundation is honoring The Glades during this year's parade and shining a spotlight on what this unique enclave was able to achieve.

On behalf of everyone at the City and County of Honolulu, I once again take great joy in wishing the best to all of the organizers and participants of the 2017 Honolulu Pride Parade, and extend my deep appreciation to the Hawai'i LGBT Legacy Foundation for helping us to realize the true meaning of aloha.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirk Caldwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kirk Caldwell