



# COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

## RESOLUTION COMMENDING MEKALA MANUS UPON HER RETIREMENT AUGUST 11, 2023

*WHEREAS, on September 18, 1989, Mekala Manus began her extraordinary 34-year career with Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services as an Eligibility Worker, and immediately established herself as professional, considerate, and customer-focused; and*

*WHEREAS, Mekala quickly promoted to Lead Worker, then Eligibility Supervisor, during which time she participated in numerous workgroups and took on many special projects to improve operations, as well leading a team through Welfare Reform, which included the implementation of Medi-Cal Section 1931(b), ensuring that access to Medi-Cal would not be decreased and providing important health care coverage to families leaving welfare for work; and,*

*WHEREAS, Mekala's expertise in the Medi-Cal Program, analytical abilities, and talent for synthesizing complicated information into articulate written documents with clear policy recommendations, allowed her to serve successfully as a Program Analyst, a role in which she implemented the Medi-Cal Continuing Eligibility for Children Program and developed a plan to expand Medi-Cal and aid program outreach in the community, as well as working on special assignment for the IHSS Program, which led to her becoming an expert on the Adult Services side of the Department; and*

*WHEREAS, by 2012, Mekala had promoted to the newly created Compliance Manager position and built the Compliance Division from the ground up, and had skillfully developed audit tracking, a Quality Assurance Unit, and taken over management of the IEVS/Fair Hearings/Collections Units, making significant process improvements along the way, and fulfilling the Division's mission to provide outstanding customer service with accuracy, efficiency, and uniformity; and*

*WHEREAS, in her role at the helm of the Compliance Division, Mekala has proven herself to be a dedicated, loyal, hardworking, and even-handed manager, remaining calm, cool and collected under pressure, and always maintaining her sense of fairness and kindness, as well as her playful sense of style; and*

*WHEREAS, Mekala's ability to see the big picture and break complex concepts and issues into smaller pieces, combined with her strong sense of personal responsibility and commitment to the community, made her a role model to her staff and colleagues, with an openness to new ideas, the courage to provide honest and constructive feedback, and a supportive and energetic leadership style.*

*WHEREAS, Mekala has proudly served our County, and her generous approach to mentoring will ensure her team will continue to thrive—and throw the best potlucks!—as she enters this new stage in her life, which will include many more adventures with her beloved husband and travel partner.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED** that this Board of Supervisors recognizes her 33 years and 11 months of service to the communities of Santa Barbara County, honors, commends and congratulates Mekala Manus upon her retirement on August 11<sup>th</sup> 2023.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, THIS 22<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2023 BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF ALL MEMBERS PRESENT.**



**ATTEST:**

*Monica Pappasato*  
Clerk of the Board

*Las Williams*  
Supervisor - 1st District

*Frank Cooper*  
Supervisor - 2nd District

*Joan Heath*  
Supervisor - 3rd District

*Bob Mills*  
Supervisor - 4th District

*St. Swann*  
Supervisor - 5th District