

KĀHALA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2022 U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School

WHEREAS, it is a great honor and privilege for the House of Representatives to recognize the State's top performing schools that have successfully closed achievement gaps and serve as proof that all schools are capable of achieving a high level of success; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Education's National Blue Ribbon School program honors schools that have demonstrated progress in achieving academic goals and improving performance as measured by state or national assessments; and

WHEREAS, as a National Blue Ribbon awardee in 2005, KĀHALA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL solidified its merit as a top performing school, receiving the honor for the second time as a 2022 awardee by meeting the performance award criteria for Exemplary High Performing schools, ranking in the top 15 percent of Hawai'i schools in achievement and outpacing other performance averages statewide by 0.3 percentage point in English Language Arts and five percentage points in Math; and

WHEREAS, KĀHALA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL sustains its academic excellence through standards-based instruction to its student body of 342 learners, with English Language Learners making up 20 percent of students, in which learning opportunities allow the students to analyze, synthesize, and apply information; and through robust programs that focus on small group instruction, differentiation, and inclusionary practices; and

WHEREAS, KĀHALA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL is committed to raising leaders, innovators, artists, and community contributors by instilling a passion for learning through various educational experiences, including the Artist in Schools program, which uses drama to teach empathy and self-advocacy skills; the Kōkua Foundation's 'ĀINA in Schools program, where students learn environmental stewardship; garden-based learning, where students can connect to the land; and the integration of the Choose Love program into the school's culture, helping students foster a better sense of belonging and connectedness at school; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2023, that this body hereby commends and congratulates KĀHALA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL for being recognized as a 2022 National Blue Ribbon School and extends to the school community its warmest aloha and best wishes for continued success in all future endeavors.