
HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING THE 2007 HAWAII BUSINESS HALL OF FAME LAUREATES: JOSEPH NICOLAI, PAUL C.T. LOO, HAROLD TANOUYE, JR., AND THE LATE RICHARD DWAYNE "NAKILA" STEELE.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Business Hall of Fame was established
2 in 1990 by Junior Achievement of Hawaii with other business
3 organizations to honor outstanding business leaders who, through
4 their entrepreneurial and civic activities, have made notable
5 contributions to Hawaii's economy and community and serve as
6 inspirational role models for Hawaii's youth; and
7

8 WHEREAS, JOSEPH NICOLAI started a used car business in
9 Hawaii in 1961 upon his discharge from the U.S. Army, when he
10 rented a small lot on Ala Moana Blvd. and used \$2,500 in
11 capital, some which he had borrowed, along with some theatre
12 arts experience from college and his dog (Wholesale) and Indiana
13 Woolly Monkey (Mickey) to produce TV commercials targeting
14 private owners to let him sell their cars on consignment, and
15 grew his business into an empire, which today is ranked 47 in
16 the Hawaii Business' Top 250; and
17

18 WHEREAS, JOSEPH NICOLAI displays commendable community
19 service with his support of the Armed Services by bringing in
20 the Blue Angels and Thunderbirds and sponsoring hydrofest boat
21 racing at Ford Island, supporting the Muscular Dystrophy
22 Association and promoting events such as the Association's
23 motorcycle Aloha Ride, and promoting relationships between the
24 U.S. and Italy; and
25

26 WHEREAS, PAUL C.T. LOO, executive director of the Hawaii
27 complex of Morgan Stanley, Hawaii's oldest and largest
28 investment brokerage firm with five locations on four islands,
29 is a Punahou Academy, Dartmouth College, and Wharton School of
30 Finance alumnus who served as a U.S. Army artillery officer in
31 Europe before returning to America to become the Deputy Chief



1 Underwriter for the Federal Housing Administration, and also
2 served on the State Ethics Commission, the Wailuku Water
3 Company, C. Brewer Limited's Executive Committee, and as
4 President of the former Honolulu Stock Exchange; and
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6 WHEREAS, PAUL C.T. LOO has also been active in many
7 organizations including the Hawaii Business Roundtable, the
8 Rotary Club of Metropolitan Honolulu, the vestry board of St.
9 Clement's Episcopal Church, the Clarence Ching Foundation, and
10 educational institutions such as serving as a Regent at
11 Chaminade University, an Associate Trustee of the University of
12 Pennsylvania, a former Director of Seabury Hall, and a founding
13 Director of Hawaii Pacific University; and
14

15 WHEREAS, at the age of 28, HAROLD T. TANOUYE, JR. organized
16 Hawaiian Heart, Inc. and Hawaiian Anthurium, Ltd. as the first
17 major anthurium flower nursery on the island, and started Green
18 Point Nurseries in 1977 to grow and market leather leaf ferns
19 and anthurium cut flowers, which has grown to a \$4.5 million per
20 year business since it's opening, and has introduced many
21 innovations in packing his product, including the Cluster Pack
22 in 1980, a unique packing method that minimizes handling and
23 damage and received U.S. patent number 277.737; and
24

25 WHEREAS, HAROLD T. TANOUYE JR. is also active in many
26 business groups including the Hawaii Export Nursery Association
27 and Hawaii Florists, finds time to serve his community through
28 the Church of the Holy Cross, Hilo Y's Men's Association, the
29 County of Hawaii Board of Appeals, and University of Hawaii's
30 Board of Advisors for the College of Tropical Agriculture and
31 Human Resources, is a mentor to his son Eric, who is also in the
32 nursery business, and has received numerous professional
33 accolades including the U.S. Productivity Award for introducing
34 new and colorful varieties of anthuriums in 1988, the Small
35 Business Administration's Exporter of the Year Award for the
36 State of Hawaii, and US Western States, Region 9 in 1992; and
37 the Governor's Exporter of the Year (Perishable Commodities) in
38 1998; and
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40 WHEREAS, the late RICHARD DWAYNE "NAKILA" STEELE joined
41 Grace Brothers as a Vice-President for the Paving Operations



1 division in 1974, and was appointed President in 1981, and
2 expanded the business in 1985 by purchasing a ready-mix and
3 quarry facility known as Pacific Concrete and Rock, creating the
4 company we know today as Grace Pacific Corporation, and growing
5 Grace Pacific Corporation from a company with 125 employees to a
6 company that employs approximately 500 people located on all of
7 the major Hawaiian islands, and grew annual sales from \$8
8 million a year to over \$135 million a year; and
9

10 WHEREAS, as impressive as his business acumen was, the late
11 RICHARD DWAYNE "NAKILA" STEELE was also a noted philanthropist
12 who, after his retirement from Grace Pacific Corporation in
13 1989, dedicated much of the remainder of his life to the
14 perpetuation of the Hawaiian culture through the sponsorship of
15 numerous Hawaiian language books, the commissioning of
16 production and recording of many Hawaiian musicians,
17 spearheading the funding of digitizing Hawaiian language
18 newspapers dating to the late 1800's to allow scholars to
19 research this resource of history and language, and the founding
20 of a primary school in Kekaha, Kaua`i, for native-speaking
21 Hawaiian children; now, therefore,
22

23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
25 Session of 2007, that this body hereby honors JOSEPH NICOLAI,
26 PAUL C.T. LOO, HAROLD TANOUYE, JR., and the late RICHARD DWAYNE
27 "NAKILA" STEELE for their business success and community service
28 to the people of Hawaii, and congratulates them upon being
29 recognized as Laureates of the Junior Achievement Hawaii
30 Business Hall of Fame on March 8, 2007, at the Royal Hawaiian
31 Hotel.
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OFFERED BY:

Collin Muf
Gen. Uwe

