
HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMENDING SALEVA'A FUAULI ATISANO'E, ALSO KNOWN AS KONISHIKI,
FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SPORT OF PROFESSIONAL SUMO
WRESTLING AND FOR SUPPORTING HIS COMMUNITY ON THE LEEWARD
COAST.

1 WHEREAS, born on December 31, 1963, SALEVA'A FUAULI
2 ATISANO'E, also known as KONISHIKI, grew up on the Leeward coast
3 of Oahu in a community in which a large part of the population
4 is economically-challenged; and

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6 WHEREAS, KONISHIKI's world opened up before him when he
7 transferred to University Laboratory School in Honolulu, where
8 he met many people from diverse backgrounds; and

9
10 WHEREAS, KONISHIKI's horizons broadened further when he
11 moved to Japan to pursue a career in its traditional national
12 sport, and while immersed in the highly culturally-oriented
13 world of sumo, learned the importance of harmony between people
14 regardless of culture, religion, race, or ethnic origin; and

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16 WHEREAS, KONISHIKI rose quickly through the ranks in sumo,
17 eventually becoming the first non-Japanese sumo wrestler to
18 attain the prestigious title of ozeki, sumo's second highest
19 rank; and

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21 WHEREAS, KONISHIKI and his fellow non-Japanese sumo
22 wrestlers were highly influential in opening up the often-closed
23 world of sumo to the rest of the world; and

24
25 WHEREAS, after officially retiring from the Sumo
26 Association in 1998, KONISHIKI started his own business as a
27 marketing professional, publicizing his persona by appearing in
28 numerous television advertisements for various Japanese
29 companies and products, thus becoming the "Commercial King" in
30 Japan; and



1 WHEREAS, in addition to his success in Japan, KONISHIKI has
2 had the opportunity to appear in action-packed movies, top
3 magazines, and commercials in the United States, and as an
4 established recording artist and producer, he has been able to
5 open doors for Hawaii's entertainers in Japan's entertainment
6 industry; and
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8 WHEREAS, since his retirement from sumo in 1998, giving
9 back to the community has been the main focus of KONISHIKI's
10 life: he has immersed himself in promoting Hawaii to the rest
11 of the world through music and regular television appearances,
12 and has also been actively involved in various charitable causes
13 for children including educational projects, following his
14 belief that children are our future; and
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16 WHEREAS, one of the charitable causes to which he is
17 dedicated is the "KONISHIKI KIDS FOUNDATION" which strives to
18 improve the lives of the hundreds of disadvantaged children who
19 are on the verge of losing hope at a young age by mentoring and
20 guiding them to stay on the right path; and
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22 WHEREAS, as part of the "KONISHIKI KIDS FOUNDATION," local
23 sixth graders are given the experience of life in Japan for a
24 week, and since 1997, more than 500 of Hawaii's children and
25 their families have been able to travel to Japan with travel,
26 food, clothing, and sight-seeing expenses taken care of by his
27 foundation; and
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29 WHEREAS, all of KONISHIKI's successes are put to good use
30 as he strives to uplift his community on the Leeward coast,
31 emphasizing his main philosophies that we all have a choice in
32 life and should strive for the best and give back to others;
33 now, therefore,
34

35 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
36 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
37 Session of 2008, that this body hereby honors, commends, and
38 congratulates SALEVA'A FUAULI ATISANO'E, also known as
39 KONISHIKI, for his tremendous display of courage throughout
40 life, contributions to the sport of professional sumo wrestling,



1 and support of his community on the Leeward coast, and extends
2 to him its warmest aloha and best wishes for continued success
3 in all future endeavors.
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