
HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING PASCALE PINNER AS THE 2008 HAWAII STATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR, AND CORI LEI CHONG, DAVID ARAKAKI, SHARI TAKAHASHI, SUZANNE CUMMINGS, LEIGHTON NAKAMOTO, AND KEVIN MATSUNAGA AS THE 2008 HAWAII STATE DISTRICT TEACHERS OF THE YEAR.

1 WHEREAS, in light of the important role the public
2 education system plays in solidifying Hawaii's future, it is
3 always the pleasure and privilege of the Hawaii State House of
4 Representatives to recognize those exceptional individuals who
5 have made significant achievements in the profession of
6 education and have thus inspired our state's youth and otherwise
7 encouraged and involved people in surrounding communities; and

8
9 WHEREAS, PASCALE PINNER, who has taught science at Hilo
10 Intermediate School since 1988, earned a certificate in early
11 adolescent science from the National Board for Professional
12 Teaching Standards in 2002, won the Presidential Award for
13 Excellence in science teaching in 2004, was named the 2008
14 Hawaii District Teacher of the Year, and has now been named the
15 2008 Hawaii State Teacher of the Year; and

16
17 WHEREAS, since fulfilling her goal to become a teacher in
18 1992, CORI LEI CHONG has taught kindergarten and first grade at
19 Kaewai Elementary School and strives to instill a love of
20 learning and a positive attitude in all her students, and her
21 achievements do not go unnoticed as she has been named the 2008
22 Honolulu District Teacher of the Year; and

23
24 WHEREAS, DAVID ARAKAKI, who has not only taught seventh and
25 eighth grade math at Moanalua Middle School since 1999, but has
26 coached the school's robotics team to state, national, and
27 international wins, merits the title of 2008 Central District
28 Teacher of the Year; and



1 WHEREAS, SHARI TAKAHASHI, who has served as librarian and
2 fifth- and sixth- grade teacher at Nanaikapono Elementary School
3 since 1993, applies her experience as a non-traditional learner
4 to help students understand concepts they have difficulty
5 understanding, earning her the honor of being chosen the 2008
6 Leeward District Teacher of the Year; and

7
8 WHEREAS, SUZANNE CUMMINGS, who discovered her passion for
9 teaching while tutoring in Washington state, began teaching at
10 Dole Middle School in 1999 and transferred to Kailua High School
11 in 2000 to teach math, and gives freely of her time to mentor
12 new teachers, warranting her being named the 2008 Windward
13 District Teacher of the Year; and

14
15 WHEREAS, LEIGHTON NAKAMOTO, who not only earned his
16 bachelor's degree in athletic training but also a masters degree
17 in kinesiology, has taught physical education and health at
18 Kalama Intermediate School since 1994 and has innovated the
19 physical education curriculum by creating a "New PE" with a
20 focus on lifetime fitness, earning him recognition as the 2008
21 Maui District Teacher of the Year; and

22
23 WHEREAS, KEVIN MATSUNAGA, who has served as a technology
24 coordinator and media production teacher at both Lehua
25 Elementary School from 1993 to 2000, and Chiefess Kamakahahei
26 Middle School, since 2000, has guided his students on the path
27 to many awards and honors, and has been acknowledged as the 2005
28 Kauai Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year, and as the 2008 Kauai
29 District Teacher of the Year; and

30
31 WHEREAS, through their dedication and commitment to serving
32 our children in the schools, PASCALE PINNER, CORI LEI CHONG,
33 DAVID ARAKAKI, SHARI TAKAHASHI, SUZANNE CUMMINGS, LEIGHTON
34 NAKAMOTO, and KEVIN MATSUNAGA have proven themselves worthy of
35 being honored as inspirational teachers and role models for our
36 public school community; now, therefore,

37
38 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
39 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
40 Session of 2008, that this body hereby recognizes,
41 congratulates, and honors PASCALE PINNER, CORI LEI CHONG,



1 DAVID ARAKAKI, SHARI TAKAHASHI, SUZANNE CUMMINGS, LEIGHTON
 2 NAKAMOTO, and KEVIN MATSUNAGA for their outstanding
 3 accomplishments and for being recognized as Hawaii's 2008
 4 Teachers of the Year, and extends to all of them its most
 5 sincere mahalo for a job well done.

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OFFERED BY:

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