
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE EDUCATION DIVISION OF THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN
AFFAIRS TO WORK WITH THE HAWAI'INUIĀKEA SCHOOL OF HAWAIIAN
KNOWLEDGE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO DEVELOP A KUPUNA
HONORARY DEGREE PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, the Nobel Prize was first awarded in 1901 and is
2 widely regarded as the most prestigious award an individual may
3 receive in various fields; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Nobel Prize is a prize that is awarded based
6 on purely western standards; and
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8 WHEREAS, Hawaiian kupuna worldwide are also deserving of
9 recognition for their contributions, but based entirely on
10 Hawaiian standards; and
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12 WHEREAS, Hawaiian kupuna have made many significant
13 contributions to all Hawaiians and to the world; and
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15 WHEREAS, the concept of the kupuna honorary degree program
16 originated with Kumu Hula Keli'i Tau'a; and
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18 WHEREAS, it is proper for a process to be established to
19 appropriately recognize and honor eligible kupuna in a manner
20 and on a level similar to the Nobel Prize, but based on Hawaiian
21 standards; now, therefore,
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
25 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Education Division of
26 the Office of Hawaiian Affairs is requested to work with the
27 Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge of the University of
28 Hawaii to develop a kupuna honorary degree program, which shall
29 award the Hawaii equivalent of the Nobel Prize to eligible
30 Hawaiian kupuna; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Education Division of the
2 Office of Hawaiian Affairs, working with the Hawai'inuiākea
3 School of Hawaiian Knowledge, is requested to consider including
4 in any kupuna honorary degree program it develops, establishing
5 awards in the following categories, according to varying minimum
6 age requirements:

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8 (1) Religion;
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10 (2) Health;
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12 (3) Agriculture;
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14 (4) Fishing;
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16 (5) Crafts and weaving;
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18 (6) Celestial navigation;
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20 (7) Education;
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22 (8) Government;
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24 (9) Business;
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26 (10) Performing arts, including hula and chant;
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28 (11) Fine arts; and
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30 (12) Music;

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32 and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs
35 is requested to work with the Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian
36 Knowledge to establish the kupuna komike, which shall establish
37 standards for award of the degree, and to consider including at
38 least the following criteria:

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40 (1) Contributions to the community; and
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42 (2) Qualifying age for varying categories of degrees;
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44 and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the kupuna komike, when
2 established, is requested to award the degree to eligible
3 Hawaiian kupuna; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Education Division of the
6 Office of Hawaiian Affairs, working with the Hawai'inuiākea
7 School of Hawaiian Knowledge in developing the program, is
8 requested not to restrict awards to persons within the State of
9 Hawaii but to make awards to individuals worldwide; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Education Division of the
12 Office of Hawaiian Affairs, working with the Hawai'inuiākea
13 School of Hawaiian Knowledge, is further requested to consider
14 providing a financial prize of some kind to each award
15 recipient; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Kumu Hula Keli'i Tau'a,
19 the Director of the Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge
20 of the University of Hawaii, and the Chairperson of the Board of
21 Trustees and the Administrator of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs
22 who, in turn, is requested to distribute copies to all
23 appropriate Hawaiian entities within and outside the State.

