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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING VALISA SAUNDERS, MN, APRN, BC, GNP, THE  
AMERICAN GERIATRICS SOCIETY "CLINICIAN OF THE YEAR."

1           WHEREAS, society is facing the reality of an increasingly  
2 larger elderly population who deserve to enjoy their golden  
3 years in relative comfort and health; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, health care needs specific to the aging process  
6 require qualified and dedicated health care professionals to  
7 address those needs; and  
8

9           WHEREAS, the American Geriatrics Society is a nationwide,  
10 not-for-profit association of geriatrics health care  
11 professionals dedicated to improving the health, independence,  
12 and quality of life of all older people and supporting this  
13 mission through activities in clinical practice, professional  
14 and public education, research, and public policy; and  
15

16           WHEREAS, the American Geriatrics Society has established a  
17 "Clinician of the Year" award to recognize the great  
18 contributions of practitioners to the delivery of quality health  
19 care to older people, and the importance of the geriatrics  
20 clinician in our health care delivery system; and  
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22           WHEREAS, in May of 2008, VALISA SAUNDERS, MN, APRN, BC,  
23 GNP, a certified gerontological nurse practitioner with Kaiser  
24 Permanente-Hawaii and an assistant clinical professor at the  
25 University of Hawaii at Manoa, was chosen to be the recipient of  
26 the American Geriatrics Society "Clinician of the Year" award  
27 and is the first non-physician to receive this award; and  
28

29           WHEREAS, over her 22 year career in gerontology care at  
30 Kaiser Permanente - Hawaii, VALISA SAUNDERS, MN, APRN, BC, GNP,  
31 has been in the forefront of improving the quality of elderly  
32 care in Hawaii and was instrumental in developing the standard-



1 setting nursing home rounding program, a program which has been  
 2 implemented by nurse practitioners and physicians from various  
 3 organizations and includes regularly scheduled visits and timely  
 4 phone access for urgent problems to about 20 nursing homes in  
 5 Hawaii, providing care for approximately 1,000 elderly patients;  
 6 and

7  
 8 WHEREAS, the rounding program has resulted in the decline  
 9 of emergency department visits and hospitalizations for nursing  
 10 home residents through early detection and treatment of medical  
 11 problems in the facilities; and

12  
 13 WHEREAS, VALISA SAUNDERS, MD, APRN, BC, GNP embodies the  
 14 criteria set by the American Geriatrics Society for their  
 15 "Clinician of the Year" award, wherein she maintains a high  
 16 level of professional competence through continuing medical  
 17 education, is available and accessible to patients, communicates  
 18 clearly and carefully with patients and their families, is aware  
 19 of the ethical and social issues inherent in geriatric care, and  
 20 contributes tremendously to community health care efforts; now,  
 21 therefore,

22  
 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, that this body hereby recognizes and honors VALISA  
 26 SAUNDERS, MN, APRN, BC, GNP, recipient of the American  
 27 Geriatrics Society's Clinician of the Year Award and extends to  
 28 her its appreciation for her dedication to her profession and  
 29 her great contribution to the well-being of the elderly  
 30 population of our community.

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OFFERED BY: Marilyn B. Lee

Cynthia Thelen

B. J. ...

Valisa Saunders

John Karamita