
HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING AND RECOGNIZING YOUTH SPEAKS HAWAII FOR WINNING
THE 2008 AND 2009 BRAVE NEW VOICES INTERNATIONAL YOUTH
POETRY SPOKEN WORD COMPETITIONS AND FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING
ACHIEVEMENTS AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE YOUTH OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, Youth Speaks is a national non-profit organization
2 which started in San Francisco in 1996, dedicated towards
3 building the next generation of leaders through both written and
4 spoken word poetry; and

5
6 WHEREAS, founded in 2005, YOUTH SPEAKS HAWAII is the
7 leading presenter of spoken word performance, education, and
8 youth poetry in the state; and

9
10 WHEREAS, YOUTH SPEAKS HAWAII's mission is to empower the
11 next generation of leaders, self-defined artists, and visionary
12 activists through written and oral literacy, and is a multi-
13 faceted organization that understands and believes that the
14 power, insight, creativity, and passion of young artists can
15 change the world; and

16
17 WHEREAS, YOUTH SPEAKS HAWAII facilitates safe spaces within
18 and outside public institutions where youth aged 14-18 can
19 critically analyze, write, and voice their own experiences
20 through the powerful artistic medium of spoken word to their
21 peers; and

22
23 WHEREAS, YOUTH SPEAKS HAWAII offers needed and often
24 unfunded literary arts education programs during the school day
25 and after school hours, and conducts annual publications and
26 youth development programs, involving young poets from over 26
27 schools across the state; and



1 WHEREAS, since 2005, YOUTH SPEAKS HAWAII has run a free
2 weekly youth poetry workshop in Honolulu's Chinatown Arts
3 District every Wednesday during the school year; and
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5 WHEREAS, YOUTH SPEAKS HAWAII has sent a team to the Brave
6 New Voices International Youth Poetry spoken word competitions
7 since 2005, which takes place in a different city over 5 days
8 and involves over 500 poets from around the world; and
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10 WHEREAS, the YOUTH SPEAKS HAWAII team primarily mentored by
11 Lyz Soto, Travis Thompson, Tui Scanlon, and Darren Cambra,
12 consisting of Alaka'i Kotrys, Ittai Wong, Jamaica Osorio,
13 Jocelyn Ng, and William Giles won the Brave New Voices
14 International Youth Poetry spoken word competition in 2008, and
15 the team consisting of Alaka'i Kotrys, Ittai Wong, Jamaica
16 Osorio, Jocelyn Ng, Harrison Ines, and Jill Fukumoto won the
17 competition in 2009; and
18

19 WHEREAS, YOUTH SPEAKS HAWAII poets have performed at venues
20 across the state and the nation, including the Kennedy Center,
21 the Lincoln Theatre in Washington DC, and the Chicago Theatre,
22 as well as a performance titled "Kumolipo" by poet Jamaica
23 Osorio before nationally recognized artists, President Barack
24 Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama; and
25

26 WHEREAS, YOUTH SPEAKS HAWAII has succeeded in shifting
27 perceptions of youth by combating illiteracy, alienation, and
28 silence amongst participants, and helped bring their important
29 voices from the margins of our culture to the core, now,
30 therefore,
31

32 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
33 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
34 of 2010 that this body hereby recognizes and congratulates YOUTH
35 SPEAKS HAWAII for winning the 2008 and 2009 Brave New Voices
36 International Youth Poetry Competitions, and for their
37 outstanding achievements as representatives of the Youth of



Hawaii, commends them on their high level of commitment, and extends its warmest aloha and best wishes for continued success in all future endeavors.

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OFFERED BY: Nella R. Belatti

Melo Carroll

Lyla B. Berg

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Denny Coffey

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~~_____~~

Karen Luana

Ray Anderson

~~_____~~

Sam W. Chy

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Barbara Marumoto

Neil Kramer

Kan Ito

Shun & Shun

