HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATES SENATOR DANIEL KAHIKINA AKAKA FOR BEING THE 2011 RECIPIENT OF THE HARRY S. TRUMAN AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE.

WHEREAS, SENATOR DANIEL KAHIKINA AKAKA was first elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1976 and appointed to the United States Senate in 1990, after which he subsequently won the senatorial elections of 1990, 1994, 2000, and 2006; and

WHEREAS, mindful of the distinct challenges that the people of Hawaii face, SENATOR DANIEL KAHIKINA AKAKA works diligently to promote economic growth and stability, bolster healthcare, maximize achievement and opportunities in education, and provide greater and more affordable access to housing for all people in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, as the first United States Senator of Native Hawaiian ancestry, SENATOR DANIEL KAHIKINA AKAKA brings the unique perspective of Hawaii's history and multicultural society to bear in his efforts to promote dialogue and reconciliation between Native Hawaiians and the Federal Government and, as such, is a dedicated and powerful champion of all the people of Hawaii, including the men and women of our United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, SENATOR DANIEL KAHIKINA AKAKA, a longstanding member of the Senate Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs committees, was honored by the National Guard Association of the United States at the National Guard Memorial in Washington, D.C. on November 5, 2011, as the 2011 recipient of the Harry S. Truman Award for Distinguished Service in Support of National Defense, for his work to help increase benefits, full-time manpower, and the availability of body armor, as well as for rewriting the Post-9/11 GI Bill to include National Guardsmen mobilized under Title 32; and

WHEREAS, the Truman Award is the highest award given to a lawmaker and is presented to awardees for their sustained and exceptional contributions to national defense and security, awarded only to thirty-four other individuals since its inception in 1969; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable SENATOR DANIEL KAHIKINA AKAKA, Hawaii Senator to the United States Congress, has dedicated over 35 years and all of his adult life in diligent service and leadership to the people of the United States and especially to the people of Hawaii; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, that this body hereby recognizes and congratulates SENATOR DANIEL KAHIKINA AKAKA for being the 2011 recipient of the Harry S. Truman Award for Distinguished Service in Support of National Defense and for providing leadership with integrity and aloha while serving with an unwavering commitment to the people of Hawaii, and extends to him its warmest aloha and best wishes for continued success in all future endeavors.

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