
HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING KAREN KUTSUNAI AS THE 2013 STATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR, MARCUS POTTENGER AS THE 2013 HONOLULU DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR, TRACIE HIGASHI AS THE 2013 CENTRAL DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR, VICTORIA COFFIN AS THE 2013 LEEWARD DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR, AMOREENA NESTMAN AS THE 2013 HAWAII DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR, AARON LOCQUE AS THE 2013 MAUI DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR, AND PAUL HOLWEGNER AS THE 2013 KAUAI DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR.

1 WHEREAS, the people of the State of Hawaii take great pride
2 in recognizing and honoring the superb achievements and notable
3 contributions of educators who, through their extraordinary
4 dedication and personal efforts, significantly improve the
5 quality of education for the children of Hawaii; and

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7 WHEREAS, the quality of education rests heavily upon the
8 shoulders of academic instructors and administrators, whose hard
9 work and dedication are important to the character development,
10 happiness, and success of each generation of students; and

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12 WHEREAS, each year, the Hawaii State Department of
13 Education honors Hawaii's best educators with its Teacher of the
14 Year awards; and

15
16 WHEREAS, KAREN KUTSUNAI, a social studies teacher at Kailua
17 Intermediate School, is the 2013 State Teacher of the Year,
18 being selected from a group of Hawaii's best and brightest
19 educators thanks to her exemplary commitment to teaching and her
20 innovative, student-based inquiry approach to secondary
21 education, which sets high expectations and has yielded
22 exceptional results; she creates a classroom environment in
23 which her students can shine, feel comfortable asking questions,
24 and learn and grow from their experiences; her genuine care for
25 students extends to the entire school community, demonstrated



1 through her establishment of monthly Ohana club socials for
2 faculty to discuss issues and improve relationships; and

3
4 WHEREAS, MARCUS POTTENGER, a social studies teacher at
5 Hokulani Elementary School, is the 2013 Honolulu District
6 Teacher of the Year, a result of his passion for teaching that
7 comes from his belief that each child has a unique spark, and
8 his job is to nurture that spark into a flame; he measures the
9 reward of teaching by the success of his students and the
10 continued improvement of the school community; and

11
12 WHEREAS, TRACIE HIGASHI, an art teacher at Hickam
13 Elementary School, is the 2013 Central District Teacher of the
14 Year, selected due to her commitment to excellence in education
15 and the instrumental role she played in establishing fine arts
16 at Hickam Elementary School; she has worked tirelessly to
17 establish partnerships with the Hawaii Opera Theatre and the
18 Honolulu Academy of Arts, where students interact with Academy
19 teachers and produce wonderful art pieces; and

20
21 WHEREAS, VICTORIA COFFIN, a Keoneula Elementary School
22 teacher, is the 2013 Leeward District Teacher of the Year by
23 virtue of her efforts in and out of the classroom that have
24 equipped her students with knowledge and expertise regarding the
25 environment; she started a Kids Initiating Change service club
26 to make learning meaningful, and energetically leads hands-on
27 projects through which students and the community have promoted
28 traffic safety, recycling, and energy conservation; and

29
30 WHEREAS, AMOREENA NESTMAN, an English teacher at Kealakehe
31 Elementary School, is the 2013 Hawaii District Teacher of the
32 Year; she views every classroom as an extended family, which
33 makes team collaboration key for students to feel supported and
34 be risk takers at each grade; she discovered her love for
35 teaching at a very young age -- when she was tutoring other
36 peers in the second grade and "felt a spark within her soul";
37 and

38
39 WHEREAS, AARON LOCQUE, a social studies teacher at Maui
40 Waena Intermediate School, is the 2013 Maui District Teacher of
41 the Year; selected for his dedication to his students and to



1 Maui Waena Intermediate School, he supervises summer credit
2 recovery classes, develops school-wide transition plans for
3 students, and serves on the accreditation committee; and
4

5 WHEREAS, PAUL HOLWEGNER, a science teacher at Chiefess
6 Kamakahahelei Middle School, is the 2013 Kauai District Teacher of
7 the Year, a result of his strong classroom management skills,
8 dedication to leading the school's English department, and
9 diligence in analyzing school data, which assists him in
10 collaborating with his colleagues; now, therefore,
11

12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
13 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
14 Session of 2013, that this body hereby commends, congratulates,
15 and honors KAREN KUTSUNAI, MARCUS POTTENGER, TRACIE HIGASHI,
16 VICTORIA COFFIN, AMOREENA NESTMAN, AARON LOCQUE, and PAUL
17 HOLWEGNER for their outstanding accomplishments and much-
18 deserved recognition, and extends to all of them its sincere
19 mahalo and best wishes for continued success in all future
20 endeavors.
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OFFERED BY:

T. Takumi

Takumi Ono

MAR 21 2013

