## **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING HALE KULA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON BEING A RECIPIENT OF A GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAM FOR CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, REPAIR, OR EXPANSION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS LOCATED ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.

WHEREAS, in any great nation, education is highly regarded as the basis for success and achievement, and the key for preparing individuals for the personal and work challenges of the future; and

WHEREAS, military families move between postings on a regular basis, and while reassignments can often be a boon for career personnel, they can be difficult for the children of military families; and

WHEREAS, the average military student faces transition challenges more than twice during high school, and most military children will attend six to nine different school systems in their lives from kindergarten through the twelfth grade; and

WHEREAS, our military children and families help sustain our fighting force, which provides for the security and safety of our nation's families and communities; and

WHEREAS, the people of the State of Hawaii believe that the spirit of education is strengthened by schools like HALE KULA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL that provide the foundation and environment for quality education for the youth of our state; and

WHEREAS, built in 1959 as the "Wahiawa 2<sup>nd</sup> Elementary School," HALE KULA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL is one of ten schools in the Leilehua Complex, services students from preschool to the fifth grade, and aligns its curriculum with the Common Core State Standards and the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards; and

WHEREAS, accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, HALE KULA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL strives to have its students work, learn, and succeed together; and

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WHEREAS, with the mission to educate all students to be effective members of a global society who are competent, confident, and complex thinkers and lifelong learners, HALE KULA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL at Schofield Barracks in Central Oahu educates students, most of whom are dependents of military personnel stationed in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, Section 8109 of Public Law 112-10, the United States Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Acts, 2011, authorizes the Department of Defense to provide up to \$250 million to make grants, conclude cooperative agreements, or supplement other federal funds to construct, renovate, repair, or expand elementary and secondary public schools on military installations to address capacity or facility conditions; and

WHEREAS, as part of the Department of Defense Program for Construction, Renovation, Repair, or Expansion of Public Schools Located on Military Installations, HALE KULA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL was awarded \$26.6 million, and the Hawaii State Department of Education will award the school an additional \$6.6 million in matching funds; the money will fund the renovation of existing classroom buildings and the construction of an administrative center, a library and student support center, a two-story classroom building, a covered play court, a covered dining pavilion, a special education/fully self-contained classroom, a custodial service center extending the cafeteria, and a cafeteria parking lot; and

WHEREAS, the grant will help HALE KULA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, a public school that serves a student population composed of 98 percent military dependent children, to make critical facility improvements to address student overcrowding, and the project groundbreaking is expected to begin in the summer of 2013; and

WHEREAS, the funds granted to HALE KULA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL will help create the best learning environment possible, as well as ensure that the children of military families will receive all the necessary components to achieve academic success while their parents are making sacrifices for this country; and

WHEREAS, HALE KULA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, under the current leadership of Principal Jan Iwase and with the outstanding support of its faculty and staff, provides a safe and nurturing environment for its students where all students are challenged to succeed and to become responsible, productive citizens; and

WHEREAS, the \$250 million appropriation to make grants, conclude cooperative agreements, or supplement other federal funds to construct, renovate, repair, or expand elementary and secondary public schools on military installations as directed in Section 8109 of Public Law 112-10 would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the late United States Senator Daniel K. Inouye and of United States Senator Mazie Hirono, who recognized how crucial it is for military children to receive a quality education while their service member parents are serving the nation; now, therefore,

 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, that this body hereby commends and congratulates HALE KULA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL on being a recipient of a grant from the Department of Defense Program for Construction, Renovation, Repair, or Expansion of Public Schools Located on Military Installations and extends its deepest aloha and appreciation to the school's students, faculty, and staff on this momentous occasion.

OFFERED BY:

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