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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING MATTHEW LAWRENCE AS THE 2014 HAWAII STATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR, TERESA CRAMER AS THE 2014 CENTRAL OAHU DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR, TERRA WIGHT AS THE 2014 LEEWARD OAHU DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR, DAYNA HIRONAKA AS THE 2014 WINDWARD OAHU DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR, ELIZABETH TIMBAL AS THE 2014 HAWAII DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR, ANTHONY WILLIAMS AS THE 2014 MAUI DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR, AND JUSTIN YAMAGATA AS THE 2014 KAUAI DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR.

1           WHEREAS, the people of the State of Hawaii take pride in  
2 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 in Hawaii; and

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7           WHEREAS, a math and science teacher at Waikiki Elementary  
8 School since 2001, MATTHEW LAWRENCE is a National Board  
9 Certified Teacher who earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary  
10 Education with Middle School Endorsement from Illinois State  
11 University and a master's degree in Educational Psychology from  
12 the University of Hawaii at Manoa; and

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14           WHEREAS, while relevancy and project-based learning are  
15 features of MATTHEW LAWRENCE's teaching style, he also  
16 integrates the Philosophy for Children concept to mold his  
17 classroom into a community of thinkers; and

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19           WHEREAS, MATTHEW LAWRENCE served as the School Community  
20 Council chair from 2006 to 2011, and is also a mentor teacher  
21 with the University of Hawaii undergraduate teaching program;  
22 and

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24           WHEREAS, in 2007, MATTHEW LAWRENCE launched a science fair  
25 to provide students with a venue to share their experiments and  
26 creations with their peers and family members; and



1           WHEREAS, in recognition of his creative teaching methods,  
2 the genuine care he shows for his students, and his unwavering  
3 commitment to self-improvement, MATTHEW LAWRENCE was selected  
4 from over 11,000 educators in the State as the 2014 Hawaii State  
5 Teacher of the Year; and

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7           WHEREAS, after spending ten years as a social worker  
8 helping high-risk children in shelters and outreach programs,  
9 TERESA CRAMER changed careers and became a teacher; and

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11           WHEREAS, now serving as a fifth grade special education  
12 teacher, TERESA CRAMER piloted Hale Kula Elementary School's  
13 first co-teaching inclusion class; she also spearheaded the  
14 creation of a Hope Garden, an outdoor classroom that engages  
15 students in hands-on learning and valuable sustainability  
16 lessons; and

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18           WHEREAS, in recognition of her professionalism and  
19 dedication to motivating her students to do their best, TERESA  
20 CRAMER has been named the 2014 Central Oahu District Teacher of  
21 the Year; and

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23           WHEREAS, TERRA WIGHT has demonstrated a tireless commitment  
24 to enriching the lives of her students at Nanakuli High and  
25 Intermediate School by instilling in them an appreciation for  
26 the application of science; and

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28           WHEREAS, TERRA WIGHT gives lessons that combine scientific  
29 facts with relevancy, thereby allowing her students to  
30 experience and understand science in the world around them; she  
31 also helped initiate an ecology club through which students and  
32 community members partner together to restore native plants to  
33 Piliokahe Beach Park; and

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35           WHEREAS, in recognition of her leadership, commitment, and  
36 outstanding contributions to Nanakuli High and Intermediate  
37 School, TERRA WIGHT has been selected as the 2014 Leeward Oahu  
38 District Teacher of the Year; and



1           WHEREAS, a teacher at Kahaluu Elementary School, DAYNA  
2 HIRONAKA strives to turn her students' natural curiosity into a  
3 lifelong love of learning, and she measures her success by her  
4 students' accomplishments and academic progress; and  
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6           WHEREAS, DAYNA HIRONAKA's dedication to teaching extends  
7 beyond the regular school day and the confines of the school  
8 campus; after the bell rings, Dayna can be seen tutoring  
9 students, meeting with parents, and collaborating with her  
10 peers; she also mentors student teachers at Hawaii Pacific  
11 University, believing that "the stronger the teachers, the more  
12 successful students will be"; and  
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14           WHEREAS, in recognition of her strong commitment to  
15 infusing her students with the joy of learning, DAYNA HIRONAKA  
16 has been named the 2014 Windward Oahu District Teacher of the  
17 Year; and  
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19           WHEREAS, due to her classroom management and genuine care  
20 for her students, ELIZABETH TIMBAL has served as a model  
21 educator for Keaau High School's 10<sup>th</sup> grade English students and  
22 strives to ensure that her students receive an education that  
23 will enrich their lives and allow them to contribute to their  
24 communities; and  
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26           WHEREAS, at Keaau High School, ELIZABETH TIMBAL helped  
27 spearhead the implementation of the Advancement Via Individual  
28 Determination program, joined its new teacher induction program,  
29 and developed an Extended Learning Opportunity program; and  
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31           WHEREAS, always striving to improve her craft, ELIZABETH  
32 TIMBAL also completed an English Language Learner course to  
33 better understand her students' needs; and  
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35           WHEREAS, in recognition of her dedication to enriching her  
36 students' lives and helping them discover talents they never  
37 knew they had, ELIZABETH TIMBAL has been selected as the 2014  
38 Hawaii District Teacher of the Year; and



1 WHEREAS, ANTHONY WILLIAMS earned a Bachelor of Arts degree  
2 from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and is a valued mentor at  
3 the University of Hawaii at Hilo's Hawaiian Immersion Teacher  
4 Development Program; and  
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6 WHEREAS, at Paia Elementary, ANTHONY WILLIAMS teaches  
7 fourth grade Hawaiian immersion and started a hula halau to  
8 address the needs of his students; to engage the parents of his  
9 students at Paia Elementary, he takes the time to offer Hawaiian  
10 language classes at night, three times a week; and  
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12 WHEREAS, ANTHONY WILLIAMS has shown remarkable commitment,  
13 dedication, and devotion to his students by encouraging them to  
14 strive to do their best every day in his classroom at Paia  
15 Elementary School; and  
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17 WHEREAS, in recognition of his leadership, commitment, and  
18 numerous contributions to his community, ANTHONY WILLIAMS has  
19 been selected as the 2014 Maui District Teacher of the Year; and  
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21 WHEREAS, a teacher at Waimea Canyon Middle School, JUSTIN  
22 YAMAGATA has been instrumental in building Waimea Canyon's  
23 science curriculum as department head and a member of the  
24 school's leadership team; and  
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26 WHEREAS, when JUSTIN YAMAGATA first joined Waimea Canyon  
27 Middle School eight years ago, he was surprised to learn that  
28 students were not competing in the science fair; today, thanks  
29 to his perseverance, up to 100 student experiments are displayed  
30 in science events each year, with many qualifying for state and  
31 even international tournaments; and  
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33 WHEREAS, students praise JUSTIN YAMAGATA's encouragement  
34 and individualized guidance; as one of his former students  
35 noted: "Without his support, many of his students such as myself  
36 would not have had the opportunity to discover our own  
37 passions"; and  
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39 WHEREAS, in acknowledgement of his leadership, vision, and  
40 dedication to his community, JUSTIN YAMAGATA has been named the  
41 2014 Kauai District Teacher of the Year; now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
2 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
3 Session of 2014, that this body hereby commends, congratulates,  
4 and honors MATTHEW LAWRENCE, TERESA CRAMER, TERRA WIGHT, DAYNA  
5 HIRONAKA, ELIZABETH TIMBAL, ANTHONY WILLIAMS, and JUSTIN  
6 YAMAGATA for their outstanding accomplishments in the field of  
7 education, expresses to them its heartfelt appreciation for  
8 their dedication to educating our keiki, and extends to them its  
9 warmest aloha and best wishes for continued success in all  
10 future endeavors.

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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



MAR 17 2014

