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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING AND COMMENDING MELODY KAPILIALOHA MACKENZIE FOR BEING  
THE 2020 NATIVE HAWAIIAN CAUCUS OUTSTANDING KUPUNA.

1           WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i takes great pride in  
2 recognizing outstanding individuals who have demonstrated a  
3 strong commitment to the betterment of our society, and who help  
4 to shape the lives of others through their ability to excel in  
5 their respective fields; and

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7           WHEREAS, MELODY KAPILIALOHA MACKENZIE is one of those  
8 individuals that epitomize "a great mind" and one of the most  
9 influential and respectable persons in the Hawaiian community;  
10 and

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12           WHEREAS, MELODY KAPILIALOHA MACKENZIE is a Professor of Law  
13 and Founding Director of Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in  
14 Native Hawaiian Law; and

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16           WHEREAS, MELODY KAPILIALOHA MACKENZIE's inspiration for  
17 studying law started when she was in undergraduate school and  
18 joined a law firm called the Native American Rights Fund that  
19 represented Indian tribes across the U.S.; and

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21           WHEREAS, while working there she headed their National  
22 Indian Law Library for two or three years and the work they did  
23 was the spark on her journey to where she is today; and

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25           WHEREAS, MELODY KAPILIALOHA MACKENZIE graduated from  
26 William S. Richardson School of Law in 1976 and in 1980 joined  
27 the staff of the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation, that  
28 protected and advanced the rights of Native Hawaiians; and

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30           WHEREAS, in 1992, MELODY KAPILIALOHA MACKENZIE helped  
31 establish and served as president of the Native Hawaiian Bar  
32 Association which is an association of lawyers, judges and other



1 legal professionals of Hawaiian ancestry that promotes  
2 excellence, unity, cooperation, education and the exchange of  
3 ideas among its members and in the larger community; and  
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5 WHEREAS, MELODIE KAPILIALOHA MACKENZIE currently teaches  
6 Native Hawaiian Rights, Federal Indian Law, the Second Year  
7 Seminar legal writing course, and specific topics courses in  
8 Native Hawaiian Law; and  
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10 WHEREAS, MELODIE KAPILIALOHA MACKENZIE also published works  
11 on every area of Native Hawaiian Law, included ceded lands,  
12 Hawaiian Homes, traditional and customary Native Hawaiian  
13 rights, sovereignty, and the constitutionality of Native  
14 Hawaiian programs; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, because of her extensive background, MELODIE  
17 KAPILIALOHA MACKENZIE has received numerous awards for her  
18 teaching, public service and leadership which includes the  
19 'Ahahui o Hawaii Award for Excellence, University of Hawaii's  
20 Regents Medal for Excellence in Teaching, Law School Outstanding  
21 Professor of the Year, YWCA Leadership Award, and the Hawaii  
22 Women Lawyers Lifetime Achievement Award; now, therefore  
23

24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
25 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session  
26 of 2020, that this body hereby honors and commends MELODIE  
27 KAPILIALOHA MACKENZIE as the 2020 Native Hawaiian Caucus  
28 Outstanding Kupuna and extends to her warmest aloha.  
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OFFERED BY:



FEB 12 2020

