
HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING KUMU FRANCIS PALANI SINENCI FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO
THE REVITALIZATION AND PERPETUATION OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN
HALE-BUILDING KNOWLEDGE.

1 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiian master builder Francis Palani
2 Sinenci, affectionately known as Kumu Palani, was born in the
3 village of Hāna, Maui; and
4

5 WHEREAS, in 1994, Kumu Palani was asked to construct a hale
6 at Helemano Elementary School, and through that invitation,
7 paired extensive research with inherent ancestral knowledge to
8 revitalize the skilled practices of kūkulu hale (traditional
9 hale-building) and uhau humu pōhaku (masonry); and
10

11 WHEREAS, Kumu Palani then formed a partnership with Coila
12 Eade to build Kauhale o Hāna, and to create Hōlani Hāna, a
13 cultural park that has served as an important training space for
14 the next generation of practitioners; and
15

16 WHEREAS, Kumu Palani has created Kauhale in communities
17 around the Pae 'Āina like at the Hāna Cultural Center and
18 Museum, Mohala Farms, and over 300 other hale; and
19

20 WHEREAS, Kumu Palani led the restoration of Pi'ilani Hale
21 heiau in his hometown of Hāna, Maui; and
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23 WHEREAS, Kumu Palani led the development of the Indigenous
24 Architecture Building Code, initiated a certification program
25 for hale builders, and founded a school for hale building called
26 Hālau Hale Kuhikuhi; and
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1 WHEREAS, over the past three decades, Kumu Francis has
 2 trained a new generation of practitioner and dedicated his life
 3 to revitalizing kūkulu hale and uhau humu pōhaku; and

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 5 WHEREAS, Kumu Palani and wife Esse Sinenci were co-
 6 recipients of the Malaikini Public Service Award in 2016; and

7
 8 WHEREAS, Kumu Palani was the recipient of the 2022 National
 9 Heritage Fellowship awarded by the National Endowment for the
 10 Arts, the United States government's highest honor in the folk
 11 and traditional arts; and

12
 13 WHEREAS, Kumu Palani's life is exemplary of the 'Ōlelo
 14 No'eau, "'Ike 'ia no ka loea i ke kuahu," which means, "the
 15 expert is recognized by the alter he builds"; now, therefore,

16
 17 BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
 18 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 19 Session of 2023, recognizes Kumu Francis Palani Sinenci for his
 20 expert work across the Pae 'Āina in traditional hale building,
 21 heiau and loko i'a restoration, and cultural revitalization.

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OFFERED BY:



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