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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING THE 2024 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR FOR SCHOOL COMPLEX  
AREAS IN THE HAWAI'I DISTRICT, MAUI DISTRICT, AND KAUA'I  
DISTRICT AND COMMENDING THE 2023 HAWAI'I SCHOOL COUNSELOR OF  
THE YEAR.

1           WHEREAS, PINKY GRACE C. FRANCISCO was recently named the  
2 Hawai'i District Ka'ū-Kea'au-Pāhoā Complex Area 2024 Teacher of  
3 the Year; and

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5           WHEREAS, PINKY GRACE C. FRANCISCO has demonstrated a deep  
6 passion for teaching and learning while inspiring the students  
7 of Ka'ū High and Pāhala Elementary School to strive for  
8 excellence; and

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10           WHEREAS, PINKY GRACE C. FRANCISCO received a Bachelor of  
11 Secondary Education with a major in English from Mariano Marcos  
12 State University, College of Teacher Education in the  
13 Philippines and is now pursuing a Master of Arts in Education,  
14 specializing in language and literature; and

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16           WHEREAS, PINKY GRACE C. FRANCISCO has been serving the  
17 Hawai'i State Department of Education for nearly five years as an  
18 accomplished academic and educator; she is a Hawai'i State  
19 Teachers Association Early Leadership Fellow and a member of the  
20 CARES (Culture, Advocacy, Respect, Equity, Support) pilot  
21 program; she also assisted the Human and Civil Rights Committee  
22 with the creation of a professional development course  
23 countering implicit bias, microaggressions, and stereotypes in  
24 Hawai'i schools; and

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26           WHEREAS, PINKY GRACE C. FRANCISCO is committed to  
27 advancements in education as a member of the Hawai'i State  
28 Teachers Association English Language Learner Committee and is  
29 also an active member of the Hawai'i Association of Filipino



1 Educators, where she advocates for students, families, and  
2 teachers among the Filipino community in Hawai'i; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, PINKY GRACE C. FRANCISCO is a testament to the  
5 notion that insurmountable challenges faced by immigrants in  
6 Hawai'i can be overcome with a strong work ethic and dedication  
7 to one's passions and profession; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, CHRISTOPHER PIKE was recently named the Hawai'i  
10 District Hilo-Waiākea Complex Area 2024 Teacher of the Year; and

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12 WHEREAS, CHRISTOPHER PIKE has demonstrated a deep passion  
13 for teaching and learning while inspiring the students of  
14 Chiefess Kapi'olani Elementary School to strive for excellence;  
15 and

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17 WHEREAS, CHRISTOPHER PIKE began his ten-year educational  
18 career at Hōnaunau Elementary School before becoming a fifth  
19 grade teacher and the advisor for the Robotics Club at Chiefess  
20 Kapi'olani Elementary School; he is passionate about providing  
21 culturally relevant education and elevating the voices of  
22 students; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, CHRISTOPHER PIKE received his Bachelor of Science  
25 in business administration and international relations from SUNY  
26 Geneseo and his master's degree in elementary education from  
27 Johns Hopkins University; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, CHRISTOPHER PIKE has been recognized for his  
30 dedication to his profession with multiple educational  
31 accolades, such as the 2021 National Educator Award for  
32 Outstanding Environmental Stewardship from the National Park  
33 Trust and a 2022 finalist for the Presidential Award for  
34 Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching; and

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36 WHEREAS, CHRISTOPHER PIKE credits his personal and  
37 professional success to his colleagues and family who inspire  
38 his mission to continue uplifting students through learning with  
39 adventure; he specifically acknowledges his mother, also an



1 educator and his role model, who has shaped him into the  
2 passionate and dedicated educator he is today; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, DAVID "KAWIKA" GONZALES JR., has recently been  
5 named the Maui District Hāna-Lahainaluna-Lānaʻi-Molokaʻi Complex  
6 Area 2024 Teacher of the Year; and

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8 WHEREAS, DAVID "KAWIKA" GONZALES JR., has demonstrated a  
9 deep passion for teaching and learning while inspiring the  
10 students of Kaunakakai Elementary School to strive for  
11 excellence over the past 22 years; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, DAVID "KAWIKA" GONZALES JR., received a Bachelor  
14 of Arts in elementary education from Trinity Bible College and a  
15 master's degree in education in learning design and technology  
16 from the University of Hawaiʻi; he is a fifth grade teacher at  
17 his elementary alma mater as well as the school's computer  
18 science coordinator and math chairperson; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, DAVID "KAWIKA" GONZALES JR., has been an innovator  
21 in integrating Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)  
22 and computer science topics into his classroom, including  
23 robotics, rockets, computer-aided design, video editing,  
24 computer programming, 3D printing, and virtual/augmented  
25 reality; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, DAVID "KAWIKA" GONZALES JR., was awarded the  
28 Lesley and Pawel Czechowicz Award by the Maui Economic  
29 Development Board in 2019 for his exemplary leadership in STEM  
30 education and was also a finalist for the Burniske Outstanding  
31 LTEC Master's Project Award in 2021; and

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33 WHEREAS, DAVID "KAWIKA" GONZALES JR., is a distinguished  
34 speaker and leader for innovative and novel approaches to  
35 teaching; he has presented at the Schools of the Future  
36 Conference, EdTech Innovations Virtual Conference, Hawaiʻi State  
37 Department of Education Tri-Level Complex Computer Science  
38 meetings, and Hawaiʻi STEM Conference hosted by the Maui Economic  
39 Development Board; and  
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1           WHEREAS, KARA KITAMURA has recently been named the Kaua'i  
2 District Kapa'a-Kaua'i-Waimea Complex Area 2024 Teacher of the  
3 Year; and

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5           WHEREAS, KARA KITAMURA has demonstrated a deep passion for  
6 teaching and learning while inspiring the students of Kapa'a High  
7 School to strive for excellence; and

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9           WHEREAS, KARA KITAMURA has been a dedicated educator for 26  
10 years and is a distinguished National Board Certified science  
11 and technical education teacher; she received her National Board  
12 Certification and bachelor's degree in education from the  
13 University of Hawai'i and master's degree in education from  
14 National University; and

15  
16           WHEREAS, KARA KITAMURA has played an instrumental role in  
17 the development and trajectory of Kapa'a High School's health  
18 academy since 2011 by teaching 10th-12th grade students advanced  
19 health, nursing, emergency medicine, and diagnostics; and

20  
21           WHEREAS, an avid leader and mentor in the community, KARA  
22 KITAMURA is the advisor for Kapa'a High School's HOSA-Future  
23 Health Professionals club and National Honor Society; she also  
24 coaches swimming, cross country, and track; and

25  
26           WHEREAS, KARA KITAMURA has received multiple awards that  
27 highlight her accomplishments throughout her career, including  
28 the 2000 Middle School Teacher of the Year, 2004 Swim Coach of  
29 the Year, 2013 Kapa'a High Outstanding Educator, and 2022 State  
30 of Hawai'i HOSA Advisor of the Year; and

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32           WHEREAS, BRITTNIE CARAULIA has recently been named the  
33 American School Counselor Association's 2023 Hawai'i School  
34 Counselor of the Year; and

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36           WHEREAS, a dedicated advocate for personal development and  
37 education, BRITTNIE CARAULIA graduated with distinction from  
38 Chaminade University of Honolulu with a bachelor's degree in  
39 psychology and master's degree in counseling psychology; and  
40



1           WHEREAS, creating a strong foundation for growth within the  
 2 Hawai'i State Department of Education, BRITTNIE CARAULIA has  
 3 played a pivotal role in establishing a robust Multi-Tiered  
 4 System of Supports and school counseling program at Helemano  
 5 Elementary School; and

6  
 7           WHEREAS, as a devoted school counselor since 2015, BRITTNIE  
 8 CARAULIA has spearheaded transformative initiatives, notably in  
 9 implementing social and emotional learning programs, resulting  
 10 in significant improvements to student safety and enhanced  
 11 emotional well-being among students; and

12  
 13           WHEREAS, driven by a commitment to community betterment,  
 14 BRITTNIE CARAULIA shares her expertise with schools statewide,  
 15 contributing to state trainings and maintaining membership in  
 16 the American School Counselor Association and Hawai'i School  
 17 Counselor Association; now, therefore,

18  
 19           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 20 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular  
 21 Session of 2024, that this body hereby congratulates PINKY GRACE  
 22 C. FRANCISCO, CHRISTOPHER PIKE, DAVID "KAWIKA" GONZALES JR., and  
 23 KARA KITAMURA for their outstanding accomplishments as 2024  
 24 Teachers of the Year, commends BRITTNIE CARAULIA for her much-  
 25 deserved recognition as the 2023 Hawai'i School Counselor of the  
 26 Year, and extends to them its warmest aloha and best wishes for  
 27 continued success in all future endeavors.

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



MAR 19 2024

