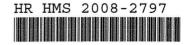
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HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMENDING SALEVA'A FUAULI ATISANO'E, ALSO KNOWN AS KONISHIKI, FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SPORT OF PROFESSIONAL SUMO WRESTLING AND FOR SUPPORTING HIS COMMUNITY ON THE LEEWARD COAST.

WHEREAS, born on December 31, 1963, SALEVA'A FUAULI 1 ATISANO'E, also known as KONISHIKI, grew up on the Leeward coast 2 3 of Oahu in a community in which a large part of the population is economically-challenged; and 4 5 WHEREAS, KONISHIKI's world opened up before him when he 6 7 transferred to University Laboratory School in Honolulu, where he met many people from diverse backgrounds; and 8 9 10 WHEREAS, KONISHIKI's horizons broadened further when he moved to Japan to pursue a career in its traditional national 11 sport, and while immersed in the highly culturally-oriented 12 world of sumo, learned the importance of harmony between people 13 regardless of culture, religion, race, or ethnic origin; and 14 15 WHEREAS, KONISHIKI rose quickly through the ranks in sumo, 16 eventually becoming the first non-Japanese sumo wrestler to 17 attain the prestigious title of ozeki, sumo's second highest 18 19 rank; and 20 21 WHEREAS, KONISHIKI and his fellow non-Japanese sumo 22 wrestlers were highly influential in opening up the often-closed 23 world of sumo to the rest of the world; and 24 WHEREAS, after officially retiring from the Sumo 25 Association in 1998, KONISHIKI started his own business as a 26 marketing professional, publicizing his persona by appearing in 27 numerous television advertisements for various Japanese 28 companies and products, thus becoming the "Commercial King" in 29 Japan; and 30



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WHEREAS, in addition to his success in Japan, KONISHIKI has 1 2 had the opportunity to appear in action-packed movies, top magazines, and commercials in the United States, and as an 3 established recording artist and producer, he has been able to 4 open doors for Hawaii's entertainers in Japan's entertainment 5 industry; and 6 7 WHEREAS, since his retirement from sumo in 1998, giving 8 back to the community has been the main focus of KONISHIKI's 9 life: he has immersed himself in promoting Hawaii to the rest 10 of the world through music and regular television appearances, 11 and has also been actively involved in various charitable causes 12 for children including educational projects, following his 13 belief that children are our future; and 14 15 16 WHEREAS, one of the charitable causes to which he is 17 dedicated is the "KONISHIKI KIDS FOUNDATION" which strives to 18 improve the lives of the hundreds of disadvantaged children who are on the verge of losing hope at a young age by mentoring and 19 quiding them to stay on the right path; and 20 21 22 WHEREAS, as part of the "KONISHIKI KIDS FOUNDATION," local sixth graders are given the experience of life in Japan for a 23 24 week, and since 1997, more than 500 of Hawaii's children and their families have been able to travel to Japan with travel, 25 food, clothing, and sight-seeing expenses taken care of by his 26 27 foundation; and 28 WHEREAS, all of KONISHIKI's successes are put to good use 29 as he strives to uplift his community on the Leeward coast, 30 emphasizing his main philosophies that we all have a choice in 31 32 life and should strive for the best and give back to others; now, therefore, 33 34 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 35 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular 36 Session of 2008, that this body hereby honors, commends, and 37 congratulates SALEVA'A FUAULI ATISANO'E, also known as 38 KONISHIKI, for his tremendous display of courage throughout 39 life, contributions to the sport of professional sumo wrestling, 40



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1 and support of his community on the Leeward coast, and extends 2 to him its warmest aloha and best wishes for continued success 3 in all future endeavors. 4

OFFERED BY:

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