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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE EDUCATION DIVISION OF THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN  
AFFAIRS TO WORK WITH THE HAWAI'INUIĀKEA SCHOOL OF HAWAIIAN  
KNOWLEDGE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO DEVELOP A KUPUNA  
HONORARY DEGREE PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, the Nobel Prize was first awarded in 1901 and is  
2 widely regarded as the most prestigious award an individual may  
3 receive in various fields; and

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5 WHEREAS, the Nobel Prize is a prize that is awarded based  
6 on purely western standards; and

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8 WHEREAS, Hawaiian kupuna worldwide are also deserving of  
9 recognition for their contributions, but based entirely on  
10 Hawaiian standards; and

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12 WHEREAS, Hawaiian kupuna have made many significant  
13 contributions to all Hawaiians and to the world; and

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15 WHEREAS, the concept of the kupuna honorary degree program  
16 originated with Kumu Hula Keli'i Tau'a; and

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18 WHEREAS, it is proper for a process to be established to  
19 appropriately recognize and honor eligible kupuna in a manner  
20 and on a level similar to the Nobel Prize, but based on Hawaiian  
21 standards; now, therefore,

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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
24 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
25 of 2009, that the Education Division of the Office of Hawaiian  
26 Affairs is requested to work with the Hawai'inuiākea School of  
27 Hawaiian Knowledge of the University of Hawaii to develop a  
28 kupuna honorary degree program, which shall award the Hawaii  
29 equivalent of the Nobel Prize to eligible Hawaiian kupuna; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Education Division of the  
32 Office of Hawaiian Affairs, working with the Hawai'inuiākea  
33 School of Hawaiian Knowledge, is requested to consider including



1 in any kupuna honorary degree program it develops, establishing  
2 awards in the following categories, according to varying minimum  
3 age requirements:

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5 (1) Religion;  
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7 (2) Health;  
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9 (3) Agriculture;  
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11 (4) Fishing;  
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13 (5) Crafts and weaving;  
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15 (6) Celestial navigation;  
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17 (7) Education;  
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19 (8) Government;  
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21 (9) Business;  
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23 (10) Performing arts, including hula and chant;  
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25 (11) Fine arts; and  
26  
27 (12) Music;

28  
29 and  
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs  
32 is requested to work with the Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian  
33 Knowledge to establish the kupuna komike, which shall establish  
34 standards for award of the degree, and to consider including at  
35 least the following criteria:

- 36  
37 (1) Contributions to the community; and  
38  
39 (2) Qualifying age for varying categories of degrees;

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41 and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the kupuna komike, when  
2 established, is requested to award the degree to eligible  
3 Hawaiian kupuna; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Education Division of the  
6 Office of Hawaiian Affairs, working with the Hawai'inuiākea  
7 School of Hawaiian Knowledge in developing the program, is  
8 requested not to restrict awards to persons within the State of  
9 Hawaii but to make awards to individuals worldwide; and  
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Education Division of the  
12 Office of Hawaiian Affairs, working with the Hawai'inuiākea  
13 School of Hawaiian Knowledge, is further requested to consider  
14 providing a financial prize of some kind to each award  
15 recipient; and  
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
18 Resolution be transmitted to Kumu Hula Keli'i Tau'a, the  
19 Director of the Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge of  
20 the University of Hawaii, and the Chairperson of the Board of  
21 Trustees and the Administrator of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs  
22 who, in turn, is requested to distribute copies to all  
23 appropriate Hawaiian entities within and outside the State.

