
HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING KUANA TORRES KAHELE - KUMU HULA, AWARD WINNING
SINGER AND SONGWRITER, TRADITIONAL AND CULTURAL
PRACTITIONER FOR ALL HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS, ACCOLADES AND
EFFORTS TO PERPETUATE HAWAIIAN CULTURE.

1 WHEREAS, it is vital that the Native Hawaiian culture and
2 arts, involving olelo, hula, music, and traditional and cultural
3 practices, be forever perpetuated for future generations of
4 native Hawaiians; KUANA TORRES KAHELE is a torch bearer for all
5 things Hawaiian, and we recognize his accolades,
6 accomplishments, and continued work on behalf of native Hawaiian
7 culture; and
8

9 WHEREAS, KUANA TORRES KAHELE has been involved in the music
10 and hula scene since the age of six years old, training as a
11 kane dancer under legendary kumu hula Johnny Lum Ho, and later
12 added as a permanent halau musician; and
13

14 WHEREAS, in 1995, at age seventeen, KUANA TORRES KAHELE and
15 Hilo native and falsetto musician Kehau Tamure laid the
16 foundation for what emerged as one of the most popular Hawaiian
17 music groups to date, Na Palapalai; their original song, "Ke Anu
18 O Waimea," is the most popular hula song in Japan to this day;
19 and
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21 WHEREAS, in 2011, KUANA TORRES KAHELE released his long
22 awaited solo debut, "Kaunaloa," which reached No. 2 on the Top
23 World Albums Chart and won multiple awards, including the Na
24 Hoku Hanohano Awards for best Album of the Year and Song of the
25 Year; subsequent blockbuster releases included his "Hilo for the
26 Holidays" Christmas release which won the Na Hoku Christmas
27 Album of the Year Award and 2013's self-titled, "Kahele"; and
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29 WHEREAS, KUANA TORRES KAHELE has a long-standing
30 relationship with the Ni'ihau ohana; he helped to organize and



1 instructs the hula halau Na Lei Lanakila O Ni'ihau and has
2 worked to further the art and raise revenues for the benefit of
3 countless families in need of assistance by taking the famed lei
4 pupu for sale on many of his trips, bringing 100% of the funds
5 back to the lei maker; and
6

7 WHEREAS, KUANA TORRES KAHELE currently maintains his own
8 Hawaiian Music & Culture School in Japan, offering courses in
9 voice, haku mele, mele hula, fresh lei making, ukulele and
10 guitar lessons, and teaching over 200 students in Tokyo, Kyoto,
11 and Osaka; now, therefore,
12

13 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
14 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
15 of 2017, that this body hereby honors KUANA TORRES KAHELE for
16 his outstanding achievements, applauds his dedication and
17 passion in sharing and perpetuating Hawaiian culture throughout
18 our state, in Japan, and throughout the world, and extends its
19 warmest aloha and sincere best wishes for continued success in
20 all future endeavors.
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OFFERED BY: 

FEB 15 2017

