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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING ERNEST "ERNIE" LAU AND HIS ROLE IN PROTECTING  
HAWAII'S WATER SUPPLY AND ESTABLISHING THE "ERNIE LAU WATER  
PROTECTOR POSTER CONTEST".

1           WHEREAS, Ernest "Ernie" Lau was born and raised in Hawaii,  
2 graduated from Waipahu High School and later the University of  
3 Hawaii at Manoa with bachelor's and master's degrees in  
4 engineering, and now resides in Manoa; and  
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6           WHEREAS, Mr. Lau recalls wanting to be an engineer since  
7 high school; and  
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9           WHEREAS, Mr. Lau first worked as a general contractor  
10 before working as an engineer for the Board of Water Supply of  
11 the City and County of Honolulu and serving as the chief  
12 engineer of the Department of Water of the County of Kauai,  
13 deputy director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources'  
14 State Commission on Water Resource Management, and administrator  
15 of the Public Works Division of the State Department of  
16 Accounting and General Services; and  
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18           WHEREAS, since February 2012, Mr. Lau has served as the  
19 chief engineer and manager of Board of Water Supply of the City  
20 and County of Honolulu; and  
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22           WHEREAS, Mr. Lau has been, and continues to be, a steadfast  
23 and relentless advocate for the protection of Hawaii's water  
24 supply from leaks and spills associated with the Red Hill fuel  
25 storage facility, which leaked twenty-seven thousand gallons of  
26 fuel in 2014 and spilled fourteen thousand gallons of fuel in  
27 November 2021; and  
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29           WHEREAS, Mr. Lau has also exhibited leadership qualities  
30 while protecting Hawaii's water supply, including refusing to



1 sign a non-disclosure agreement presented by the United States  
2 Navy regarding information about the Red Hill fuel storage  
3 facility; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the public deeply appreciates Mr. Lau and the  
6 leadership qualities that Mr. Lau has displayed, as is evident  
7 in the numerous "I Love Ernie Lau - Protect Our Water" bumper  
8 stickers displayed on cars in the State; and  
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10 WHEREAS, Mr. Lau has inspired people to join him in  
11 standing up for, and protecting, Hawaii's water supply; now,  
12 therefore,  
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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
15 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
16 of 2022, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature hereby  
17 expresses its deep gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Ernie Lau  
18 for his leadership; and  
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature establishes the  
21 "Ernie Lau Water Protector Poster Contest" to perpetuate Mr.  
22 Lau's legacy of water protection by engaging elementary school  
23 students from all islands of Hawaii to take action to protect  
24 Hawaii's water; and  
25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that students from grades  
27 kindergarten through fifth grade are encouraged to create  
28 posters on the topic of protecting Hawaii's water; and  
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the teachers of participating  
31 students are encouraged to submit these posters electronically  
32 to a designated email address by November 15, 2022; and  
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the panel for judging the  
35 student's posters include:  
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37 (1) Two members of the Hawaii State House of  
38 Representatives or their designees;  
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40 (2) Two members of the Hawaii State Senate or their  
41 designees;  
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1           (3) One employee of the Board of Water Supply of the City  
2                   and County of Honolulu; and

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4           (4) Two employees of the Department of Education; and

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6           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
7 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the  
8 Hawaii State House of Representatives, President of the Hawaii  
9 State Senate, Superintendent of Education, and the Manager and  
10 Chief Engineer of the Board of Water Supply of the City and  
11 County of Honolulu.

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OFFERED BY: 

MAR 11 2022

