
HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS JANYCE OMURA,
JESSICA DOS SANTOS, DENISE MAZURIK, 'ĪMAIKALANI WINCHESTER,
AND RICHARD ORNELLAS DURING CIVIC LEARNING WEEK FOR THEIR
WORK IN PROMOTING AND ADVANCING CIVIC EDUCATION IN THE
STATE.

1 WHEREAS, it is an honor for the House of Representatives to
2 formally recognize exceptional educators who have made
3 significant contributions toward promoting and advancing civic
4 education in Hawai'i; and

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6 WHEREAS, these teachers are assisted in their endeavors by
7 organizations such as the Commission to Promote and Advance
8 Civic Education (PACE), which was established by the Hawai'i
9 Supreme Court in 2021 for the purpose of promoting and advancing
10 civic education for students and residents throughout Hawai'i;
11 and

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13 WHEREAS, PACE has partnered with organizations throughout
14 Hawai'i to implement programs such as the Lawyers and Judges in
15 Schools Program, where attorneys and judges visit schools and
16 speak to students about the government and the importance of
17 being active and informed, and the Hilo Law & Justice Academy at
18 Hale Kaulike, where select high school students undergo an
19 intensive three-day program to immerse themselves in the legal
20 system and even participate in a mock trial exercise; and

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22 WHEREAS, PACE will also be an active participant in Civic
23 Learning Week, which is hosted annually by iCivics and seeks to
24 highlight the importance of civic education in sustaining and
25 strengthening constitutional democracy in the United States; and

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27 WHEREAS, Civic Learning Week, held this year from March 10
28 to March 14, represents an opportune time to recognize and honor



1 several distinguished educators in Hawai'i who have gone above
2 and beyond in helping students maximize their potential; and

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4 WHEREAS, JANYCE OMURA, a proud graduate of Maui High
5 School, is a lifelong learner who returned to her alma mater as
6 a teacher; she believes that the classroom is where an educator
7 can make a genuine impact on the lives of their students; and

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9 WHEREAS, JANYCE OMURA has taught at Maui High School for
10 many years and is renowned for her dedication to supporting her
11 students in various activities; she serves as an advisor for
12 numerous school-related clubs, including the Pacific & Asian
13 Affairs Council club and Interact club, and supervises Hawai'i
14 History Day projects; and

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16 WHEREAS, JESSICA DOS SANTOS has served as a social studies
17 teacher at Hawai'i Technology Academy since 2012, where she
18 develops and implements innovative curricula that support
19 critical thinking, collaboration, and civic engagement; and

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21 WHEREAS, currently, JESSICA DOS SANTOS engages students
22 with her modern Hawaiian history course, which encourages them
23 to develop critical analysis, argument-building, and real-world
24 problem-solving skills while also developing their own
25 perspectives through inquiry-based learning; through this
26 approach, she aims to empower students to navigate complex
27 issues, think critically about the world around them, and become
28 engaged members of their communities; and

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30 WHEREAS, DENISE MAZURIK has been a Global Scholars Teacher
31 at Waiākea Intermediate School since 2020, developing and
32 delivering standards-aligned, evidence-based curriculum and
33 assessments; engaging students in the practice of Philosophy for
34 Children to teach reasoning and argumentative skills; and
35 mentoring students in the creation of their own compelling
36 questions to drive inquiry; and

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38 WHEREAS, DENISE MAZURIK is a shining example of the
39 transformative power of dedicated educators; her vision and
40 passion drove the creation of Waiākea Intermediate School's
41 innovative Global Scholars Program, providing students with



1 unparalleled opportunities to explore and address critical
2 global issues; and

3
4 WHEREAS, 'ĪMAIKALANI WINCHESTER has been a high school
5 social studies teacher at Hālau Kū Māna Public Charter School
6 for over 20 years and is a deeply respected leader in the
7 Hawaiian community; and

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9 WHEREAS, 'ĪMAIKALANI WINCHESTER emphasizes the brilliant
10 traditional practices of Kānaka Maoli, which formed the basis of
11 water law in Hawai'i, and continues to engage his students in
12 contemporary issues, which empowers them to become advocates in
13 their own communities; and

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15 WHEREAS, an indispensable pillar of the Moloka'i High School
16 community since 2008, RICHARD ORNELLAS has dedicated his career
17 to empowering students as a special education and social studies
18 teacher and as a class advisor; and

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20 WHEREAS, RICHARD ORNELLAS' leadership extends far beyond
21 the classroom; as a long-standing member and chair of the School
22 Community Council, he has been a driving force in shaping school
23 policies and fostering a strong connection between the school
24 and its community; he has also been involved in the Youth Civil
25 Rights Committee, underscoring his commitment to equity and
26 justice, and has offered visionary leadership in co-organizing
27 the Moloka'i Youth Summit, which provides invaluable
28 opportunities for students to engage in critical discussions and
29 develop essential leadership skills; now, therefore,

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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
32 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session
33 of 2025, that this body hereby recognizes and honors outstanding
34 educators JANYCE OMURA, JESSICA DOS SANTOS, DENISE MAZURIK,
35 'ĪMAIKALANI WINCHESTER, and RICHARD ORNELLAS during Civic
36 Learning Week for their work in promoting and advancing civic
37 education in the State and extends to them its warmest aloha and
38 best wishes for continued success in all future endeavors.



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OFFERED BY:

Amy Peruso

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