
HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING THE 2026 FARRINGTON-KAISER-KALANI COMPLEX AREA
TEACHER OF THE YEAR, THE 2026 KAPA'A-KAUA'I-WAIMEA COMPLEX
AREA TEACHER OF THE YEAR, THE 2026 PEARL CITY-WAIPAHU
COMPLEX AREA TEACHER OF THE YEAR, A 2025 BLUE RIBBON
SCHOOL, AND TEACH FOR AMERICA HAWAI'I.

1 WHEREAS, JESSICA CANYON was recently named the 2026
2 Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani Complex Area Teacher of the Year; and
3

4 WHEREAS, a University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of
5 Education graduate with a bachelor's degree in elementary
6 education, JESSICA CANYON has served with distinction as a
7 fifth-grade teacher at Mayor Joseph J. Fern Elementary School;
8 and
9

10 WHEREAS, a dynamic educator with a proven track record at
11 Mayor Joseph J. Fern Elementary School, JESSICA CANYON excels in
12 classroom management and developing strong relationships; adept
13 at differentiating instruction to meet diverse learning needs,
14 she consistently enhances student engagement and performance
15 through innovative lesson planning and effective parent-teacher
16 communication; and
17

18 WHEREAS, believing that every student has enormous promise,
19 JESSICA CANYON does her best to help her students fulfill their
20 potential, creating safe, supportive, and inclusive environments
21 that incorporate social-emotional learning; and
22

23 WHEREAS, in addition to planning and facilitating the
24 school's May Day activities, JESSICA CANYON has served as grade-
25 level chair and mentored the next generation of teachers to help
26 the school maintain its vibrant culture and cherished
27 traditions; she has also led efforts to inspire students to
28 begin thinking about future careers, demonstrating her



1 dedication to helping students flourish once they graduate from
2 elementary school; and

3
4 WHEREAS, JESSICA CANYON has been recognized for her
5 exemplary efforts and accomplishments, which serve as a
6 testament to her vision to empower her students and enable them
7 to succeed inside and outside the classroom; and

8
9 WHEREAS, NATSUMI YAMASATO was recently named the 2026
10 Kapa'a-Kaua'i-Waimea Complex Area Teacher of the Year; and

11
12 WHEREAS, a former architect and building engineer in Japan,
13 NATSUMI YAMASATO believes that STEM education should include
14 learning experiences relevant and meaningful to the lives of
15 students and draws on her previous career to provide hands-on
16 lessons with real-world applications; and

17
18 WHEREAS, renowned for her passion and ability to inspire
19 her students to achieve greatness, NATSUMI YAMASATO advises
20 student media productions that have been featured on national
21 platforms like PBS NewsHour and has helped students earn the
22 highest honors in state and national media and STEM
23 competitions; and

24
25 WHEREAS, NATSUMI YAMASATO also leads Elsie H. Wilcox
26 Elementary School's STEM and innovation programs, coaches the
27 science olympiad team, and is the driving force behind the most
28 anticipated night on campus - STEM Night, an event that features
29 twenty activity stations and attracts over one thousand
30 attendees; and

31
32 WHEREAS, NATSUMI YAMASATO incorporates sustainability
33 concepts and practices into her STEM curriculum, participating
34 in innovative collaborations, such as Grove Farm's educational
35 modules, that allow her students to trade in classrooms and
36 textbooks for hands-on learning experiences involving algae
37 innovations, water treatment plants, caves, farms, and solar
38 power facilities; and

39
40 WHEREAS, JODI KADOYAMA was recently named the 2026 Pearl
41 City-Waipahu Complex Area Teacher of the Year; and



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41

WHEREAS, consistently going above and beyond to support students and mentor fellow teachers, JODI KADOYAMA has provided nearly fifteen years of dedicated leadership and service to Mānana Elementary School, taking on various roles, including teaching kindergarten and fourth grade and serving as curriculum coordinator; and

WHEREAS, JODI KADOYAMA collaborates with faculty, staff, and the entire school community to create a culture that promotes integrity, respect for others, and a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment for learning; she exemplifies the impact that motivated educators can have in preparing students to become globally competitive as well as locally committed; and

WHEREAS, a renowned educator, JODI KADOYAMA has developed and administered assessments to monitor student progress and collaborates with other teachers to analyze student data to identify areas of growth and areas that may require intervention; as a mentor to new teachers, she provides coaching and support and advocates for professional development and instructional materials to ensure continuous improvement in teaching practices; and

WHEREAS, always humble, JODI KADOYAMA credits her fellow educators for helping reinforce her passion for teaching and renewing her drive to improve in all aspects of the profession; she is respected and loved by the Mānana Elementary School ‘ohana, including the thousands of students, parents, faculty, staff, and school supporters whose lives she has touched over the years; and

WHEREAS, MĀNANA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL was recently named a 2025 National Blue Ribbon School; and

WHEREAS, as a 2025 National Blue Ribbon School, MĀNANA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL has been recognized for meeting the performance award criteria for Exemplary High-Performing Schools; students at the school have demonstrated exceptional proficiency, exceeding statewide averages by twenty-four percentage points in English language arts, thirty-nine



1 percentage points in math, and thirty-six percentage points in
2 science; and

3

4 WHEREAS, under the leadership of recently retired Principal
5 Bryan Loo, MĀNANA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL has provided a high-quality,
6 standards-based education that prepares students to thrive as
7 responsible global citizens; and

8

9 WHEREAS, MĀNANA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL emphasizes project-based
10 learning, where students tackle real-world challenges that
11 inspire creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration, in
12 addition to personalized learning and data-driven instruction to
13 help every student reach their full potential; and

14

15 WHEREAS, MĀNANA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL also promotes learning
16 outside the classroom, with students having access to a wide
17 variety of enriching extracurricular activities, including
18 sports, student government, robotics, math olympiad, and book
19 club; and

20

21 WHEREAS, TEACH FOR AMERICA HAWAI‘I has provided twenty years
22 of exemplary service and dedication to Hawai‘i's youth; and

23

24 WHEREAS, founded in 2006, TEACH FOR AMERICA HAWAI‘I has
25 partnered with schools and communities across the State,
26 cultivating and supporting a diverse network of locally rooted
27 leaders who expand opportunities for keiki in the education
28 system; and

29

30 WHEREAS, TEACH FOR AMERICA HAWAI‘I's network of
31 extraordinary leaders, consisting of educators, principals,
32 district leaders, nonprofit directors, and advocates, shapes
33 policy, teaches in classrooms, transforms schools, and builds
34 organizations that strengthen our communities; and

35

36 WHEREAS, TEACH FOR AMERICA HAWAI‘I prioritizes expanding
37 access to high-quality education for keiki, improving literacy
38 outcomes, and developing leaders to ensure all children can
39 fulfill their potential; and

40



H.R. NO. 203

1 WHEREAS, TEACH FOR AMERICA HAWAI'I has made meaningful,
2 sustainable change across the State, impacting over fifty
3 thousand students, primarily in high-need communities; now,
4 therefore,
5

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
7 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session
8 of 2026, that this body hereby congratulates JESSICA CANYON for
9 being named the 2026 Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani Complex Area
10 Teacher of the Year, NATSUMI YAMASATO for being named the 2026
11 Kapa'a-Kaua'i-Waimea Complex Area Teacher of the Year, JODI
12 KADOYAMA for being named the 2026 Pearl City-Waipahu Complex
13 Area Teacher of the Year, MĀNANA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL for being
14 named a 2025 National Blue Ribbon School, and TEACH FOR AMERICA
15 HAWAI'I for providing twenty years of exemplary service and
16 dedication to Hawai'i's youth and extends to them its warmest
17 aloha and best wishes for continued success in all future
18 endeavors
19
20
21

OFFERED BY:



MAR 19 2026

