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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING B.J. PENN THE CURRENT LIGHTWEIGHT ULTIMATE  
FIGHTING CHAMPION ON HIS SUCCESSFUL MARTIAL ARTS CAREER.

1           WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii, the premier sports capital of  
2 the Pacific, is proud to recognize those select individuals who  
3 manifest their God-given talents to exemplify sportsmanship,  
4 grace, and goodwill to the people of the State and to the world;  
5 and  
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7           WHEREAS, the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) was  
8 started in 1993 as a professional mixed martial arts (MMA)  
9 organization offering the premier series of MMA sports events,  
10 and in 2001, completely restructured MMA into a highly organized  
11 and controlled combat sport with programs offered through cable  
12 and satellite providers and distributed throughout the world,  
13 including broadcasts on Viewer's Choice in Canada, MAIN EVENT in  
14 Australia, Globosat in Brazil, and Setanta and Bravo in the  
15 United Kingdom; and  
16

17           WHEREAS, ultimate fighting is a proprietary term of the UFC  
18 and is defined as mixed martial arts competition between high  
19 level professional fighters who utilize the disciplines of jiu-  
20 jitsu, karate, boxing, kickboxing, wrestling, and other forms in  
21 UFC live events; and  
22

23           WHEREAS, born in 1978 in Kailua, Oahu, and raised in Hilo,  
24 Hawaii, B.J. PENN's mixed martial arts training began at the age  
25 of 17 when his neighbor, Tom Callos, initiated him into the  
26 technique of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, and subsequently introduced  
27 him to Ralph Gracie, one of the great Brazilian martial artists  
28 and scion of the internationally famous Gracie Family dynasty  
29 that owns and operates martial arts academies across the United  
30 States and internationally; and



1           WHEREAS, to further his jiu-jitsu training, B.J. PENN  
2 relocated to Mountain View, California in 1997 and studied under  
3 Ralph Gracie, completing the phenomenal achievement of earning  
4 his black belt status in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu in just three years  
5 time, and in 2000, just days after earning his black belt, won a  
6 gold medal at the Mundial World Championships held in Rio de  
7 Janeiro, Brazil, for which he merited his nickname of "The  
8 Prodigy"; and  
9

10           WHEREAS, B.J. PENN's accomplishments, skills, and  
11 determination caught the attention of the UFC where he launched  
12 his MMA career in 2001 and quickly became the number one  
13 lightweight contender leading up to his crowning achievement in  
14 2004 at UFC 46 when he challenged the heavily favored five-time  
15 defending UFC welterweight champion Matt Hughes and soundly won  
16 the championship when he applied a Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu hold that  
17 forced Hughes to submit and relinquish his title just four  
18 minutes into the first round; and  
19

20           WHEREAS, from 2004 to 2005, B.J. PENN left the UFC and  
21 entered to fight in the K-1 organization, an organization which  
22 combines stand-up techniques from Muay Thai, Karate, Taekwondo,  
23 Savate, San shou, Kickboxing, and traditional Boxing to  
24 determine the single best stand-up fighter in the world, where  
25 he competed in welterweight, light heavyweight, and middleweight  
26 levels, winning all but one of his matches; and  
27

28           WHEREAS, in early 2006, B.J. PENN returned to the UFC as a  
29 top welterweight contender and rededicated himself to earning  
30 an opportunity to compete in the lightweight championship; and  
31

32           WHEREAS, in a lightweight title bout with Joe Stevenson in  
33 January 2008, B.J. PENN defeated his opponent with a rear naked  
34 choke at 4:02 of the second round to win the UFC Lightweight  
35 Championship, making him the second man (after Randy Couture) to  
36 win UFC titles in two different weight classes; and  
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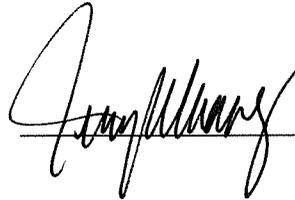
38           WHEREAS, over and above being a champion sportsman, B.J.  
39 PENN is a perceptive businessman who emulates strong work ethics  
40 modeled after parents JD Penn and Lorraine Shin, as he owns a  
41 successful on-line store at BJPENN.COM that sells apparel,



1 books, DVDs, and headwear and offers non-stop martial arts  
2 entertainment and instruction, and also operates an MMA academy  
3 in Hilo with his brothers, Jay, Jaydee, Reagan, and Kalani; now,  
4 therefore,  
5

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
7 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
8 Session of 2008, that this body hereby commends and  
9 congratulates B.J. PENN for his tremendous achievements as the  
10 UFC Lightweight Champion, Best Mixed Martial Arts Fighter in the  
11 World, Former UFC Welterweight Champion, and First Non-Brazilian  
12 Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Black Belt World Champion, and extends to  
13 him its warmest aloha and best wishes for continued success in  
14 his quest to be the best fighter that ever lived.  
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OFFERED BY:



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