WHEREAS, in light of the important role the public education system plays in solidifying Hawaii's future, it is always a pleasure and privilege for the Hawaii State House of Representatives to recognize those exceptional individuals that have made significant achievements in education, inspiring and challenging the young minds of our state, and encouraging the people of the surrounding communities to become actively involved in their community's schools; and

WHEREAS, Lisa-Anne Tsuruda, who has taught language arts at Mililani High School since 2005, is a true leader and a catalyst for change; by striving continually to reach the goals and expectations that she holds herself to, she demonstrates to her students and her colleagues that the sky truly is the limit and that success can be achieved through tenacity and motivation; and has earned the great privilege of receiving the 2009 Milken Educator Award; and

WHEREAS, Janice Espiritu, who has been with Kaunakakai Elementary School for 30 years, eight of which have been as Principal of the school, believes that "the expressions of our school mission and vision, and the principles of our beliefs are simple and straightforward; however, these guideposts are pillars of cultural, social, and familial interactions that serve to support and extend the learning and achievements of our youth," has earned the distinct honor of being named the recipient of the 2009 Masayuki Tokioka Award; and
WHEREAS, Liane Tanigawa, in addition to teaching science to students in the third through sixth grade at Pearl Ridge Elementary School since 2005, and also serving as the school's science curriculum specialist and mathematics/science coach, believes that "this award reaffirms my educational beliefs that learning should be engaging and meaningful, and it also encourages me to continue sharing my love of teaching science with others," has earned the well-deserved recognition of being a recipient of the 2008 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching; and

WHEREAS, Seanyelle Yagi, who taught kindergarten through fifth grade mathematics at Ka'ewai Elementary School for 12 years and, at the time of the award served as the school's mathematics coach/coordinator and as a mentor to new teachers, and who currently teaches mathematics at Kalakaua Middle School tries "to challenge myself to take risks and develop my pedagogical and content knowledge, and the award represents what is possible when you push yourself to give students opportunities for individual growth and accomplishment," has received the 2008 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching; and

WHEREAS, Wally Amos, who dedicated his efforts to Literacy Volunteers of America where he served as their National Spokesperson from 1979 to 2002, and as a literacy advocate uses his well-known name to support educational causes and serves on the boards of the National Center for Family Literacy, Read to Me International, and Communities in Schools, in addition to many others, and in 2005 along with his wife, Christine, founded the Read it Loud!, a non-profit organization, to promote reading aloud to children, and believes that "reading is the foundation of life for all of us," and encourages people to take bold steps to promote literacy, such as creating "a whole campaign in your city to promote the awareness for the importance of reading aloud"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, that this body hereby recognizes, congratulates, and honors, Lisa-Anne Tsuruda as the 2009 Milken Educator Award
Winner, Janice Espiritu as the 2009 Masayuki Tokioka Award
Winner, Liane Tanigawa and Seanyelle Yagi as co-recipients of
the 2008 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and
Science Teaching, and Wally Amos as the Literacy Advocate Award
recipient, and extends to all of them its sincere mahalo and
best wishes for continued success.

OFFERED BY:  

MAR 18 2010