WHEREAS, the proliferation of advances in science and technology has resulted in a need for students to improve their scientific reasoning skills and ability to think and problem-solve on a conceptual level; and

WHEREAS, along these lines, For Inspiration and Recognition for Science and Technology (FIRST) robotics competitions were designed to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders by engaging them in mentor-based programs that build science, engineering, and technology skills, inspire innovation, and help develop students' self-confidence, communication, and leadership; and

WHEREAS, the Waialua High School Robotics Team #359 proudly represents Hawaii as not only the first FIRST Robotics Competition team in Hawaii, but also the first robotics-related program in the state; and

WHEREAS, the Waialua High School Robotics Team #359 has been a part of FIRST since 1999 and has participated in the FIRST Robotics Competition for nine years with a relatively small and dedicated group of diverse students, instructors, including their advisor Glenn Lee, mentors, and volunteers striving to transform the culture of Waialua's plantation community through the values of the team's motto-- "It's not about winning...It's about teamwork, commitment, and responsibility"; and

WHEREAS, known as "The Hawaiian Kids" and distinguished by their individual accomplishments toward a common goal, the Waialua High School Robotics Team #359 has demonstrated a desire for knowledge and an untiring commitment to the challenge of
building a collaborative team, a supportive community, and a solid strategy for problem solving; and

WHEREAS, FIRST competition redefines winning for these students, as winning includes scoring the most number of points through excellence in design and a demonstration of team spirit, gracious professionalism, and the ability to overcome formidable obstacles; and

WHEREAS, the Waialua High School Robotics Team #359 took top honors at the 2010 San Diego FIRST Regional Competition, went on to lead a three-team alliance with teams from California and Arizona to win the 2010 Arizona Regional FIRST Competition, and recently led a team of schools, including McKinley and Campbell High Schools, to take first place in the BAE Systems FIRST in Hawaii Robotics Competition which earned them a bid to the national championships to be held in Georgia; 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 and commends the Waialua High School Robotics Team #359, along with their instructors, including advisor Glenn Lee, administrators, volunteers, and parents, for their accomplishments, dedication, and service to their community, and extends to them its warmest aloha and best wishes for continued success in all future endeavors.

OFFERED BY: [Signature]

MAR 29 2010