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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING THE HAWAII VENTURE CAPITAL ASSOCIATION ON ITS 30<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY AND RECOGNIZING HAWAII'S MOST INNOVATIVE  
ENTREPRENEURS AT THE 18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ENTREPRENEUR AND DEAL OF  
THE YEAR AWARDS GALA.

1           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Venture Capital Association is  
2 celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and has honored the  
3 entrepreneurs of 2017, whose ingenuity, spirit of innovation,  
4 and discipline have benefited us all, at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual  
5 Entrepreneur and Deal of the Year Awards Gala; and  
6

7           WHEREAS, entrepreneurs are not easily defined, as they are  
8 women and men, old and young, and from many walks of life. They  
9 are visionaries and people of passion that have the ambition,  
10 drive, and talent to take an idea and create a market where none  
11 existed before; and  
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13           WHEREAS, since its founding in 1988, the Hawaii Venture  
14 Capital Association has stood as a nexus for entrepreneurs,  
15 capital and investment, and networking opportunities in Hawaii,  
16 fostering entrepreneurship through education and exposure to  
17 members of the business community and striving to grow a vibrant  
18 and successful venture capital industry in Hawaii; and  
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20           WHEREAS, Founder and CTO Olin Lagon and CEO Forest Frizzell  
21 of Shifted Energy received the Agriculture and Clean Tech  
22 Entrepreneur of the Year Award. This award honors one of two  
23 types of entrepreneurs: one whose company effectively develops  
24 or enhances clean technology that helps move society to a  
25 cleaner, greener future; and secondly, a company that further  
26 innovates upon current agricultural practices, helping local  
27 farmers, but also offering the possibility of global expansion;  
28 and



1           WHEREAS, John Komeiji, Chief Administrative Officer and  
2 General Counsel of Hawaiian Telcom, received the Corporate  
3 Intrapreneur of the Year Award. This award is given to an  
4 individual who challenges traditions and assertively makes  
5 changes in their company culture to ensure fellow employees are  
6 engaged and are provided the platform to be intrapreneurial.  
7 John Komeiji encourages employees to seize opportunities by  
8 solving problems and utilizing resources to make innovation  
9 happen; and

10  
11           WHEREAS, Jim Reddekopp, Owner of the Hawaiian Vanilla  
12 Company, received the Consumer Packaged Goods Entrepreneur of  
13 the Year Award. The award is presented to the entrepreneur  
14 whose company has consistently seen month over month increases  
15 in revenue and customers with a consumer brand based out of  
16 Hawaii. Jim Reddekopp's goal is to cultivate the best vanilla  
17 in the world and provide the finest vanilla-related products  
18 including vanilla coffee, beans, and more; and

19  
20           WHEREAS, Sumil Thapa, Chemical Engineer at Oceanit, has  
21 accepted the Social Impact Entrepreneur of the Year Award on  
22 behalf of Oceanit, Kamehameha Schools, and the Altino Coding  
23 team. The award celebrates those entrepreneurs and companies  
24 that have contributed to non-profits or community efforts and  
25 that have shown leadership, innovation, and commitment to be a  
26 part of efforts to solve our state's toughest problems; and

27  
28           WHEREAS, Brian Goldstein, Founder and CEO of Noa  
29 Botanicals, received the Deal of the Year Award. This award  
30 recognizes the Startup Paradise company that received the  
31 largest financial deal during 2016. Noa Botanicals is a  
32 licensed medical cannabis dispensary in Honolulu that has raised  
33 over \$11 million in a first round financing that included equity  
34 and a small amount of debt. Noa Botanicals defeated 32 other  
35 applicants to win one of three medical dispensary licenses in  
36 Oahu, is the first dispensary in the state to offer several  
37 types of derivative products, and achieved a 5-star review  
38 across all social channels; and



# H.R. NO. 220

1           WHEREAS, Ian Wetzel, Investment Specialist at the  
2 Employees' Retirement System of the State of Hawai'i, received  
3 the Investor of the Year Award. This honor recognizes the most  
4 outstanding individual or entity that has contributed  
5 significantly to investing in the Hawaii startup ecosystem, not  
6 only in the literal "capital" definition, but also in terms of  
7 their investment in the community; now, therefore,

8  
9           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
10 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
11 of 2018, that this body hereby recognizes the Hawaii Venture  
12 Capital Association as it celebrates 30 years of dedication and  
13 commitment to honoring Hawaii's most innovative entrepreneurs,  
14 congratulates the winners of the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Entrepreneur and  
15 Deal of the Year Awards, and extends its warmest aloha and best  
16 wishes for continued success in all future endeavors.

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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



MAR 27 2018

