

Resolution

No. 22-214

CONGRATULATING THE 2022 INTERNATIONAL
VA'A FEDERATION VA'A WORLD SPRINT
CHAMPIONSHIPS GOLD MEDAL WINNERS
FROM MAUI COUNTY

WHEREAS, the 2022 International Va'a Federation (IVF) Va'a World Sprint Championships, considered the Olympics of outrigger canoe paddling, was held at Dorney Lake in Windsor, England, from August 7 to 16; and

WHEREAS, this year marked the 20th IVF Va'a World Sprint Championships, and the first championships to be held in European waters; and

WHEREAS, this global competition occurs every two years, and features men's and women's canoe races for youth, adult, and paralympic divisions, and for the first time included 75 and 80-year-old age divisions; and

WHEREAS, before leaving for England, Maui County women's team member Mary Akiono, who competed in five world sprint championship events, shared that "it's awesome to have quality canoe paddlers who can just jump into the canoe and blend very well," and expressed her excitement about the addition of the age-75 division; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii participates as its own country at the championships—similar to the sport of surfing—and is a separate entity from the USA-Outrigger Racing Canoe Club on the Mainland; and

WHEREAS, all of the women's canoe paddling teams from Hawaii were eager to compete against hundreds of other paddlers and vigorously participated in intense trial canoe races before being selected to represent Hawaii in the actual competition; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership, guidance, and mentorship of Maui County canoe paddler Vanessa Weiss, who voluntarily inherited the role of "Coach," the Kihei Canoe Club paddlers, known throughout the

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championships as #33, successfully won 8 of the 12 gold medals presented at this year's championships; and

WHEREAS, Maui paddler Vanessa Weiss and Molokai paddler Torrey Goodman were the gold medal winners of the Women's 60 Division, 500 meters—double hull; and

WHEREAS, Molokai paddlers Penny Martin and Camie Kimball were the gold medal winners of the Women's 70 Division, 500 meters—straight; Women's 70 Division, 500 meters—with turn; and Women's 70 Division 500 meters—double hull; and

WHEREAS, Maui paddlers Diane Wetzel, Wanda Sheriff, Mary Akiono, and Donna Newhart were the gold medal winners of the Women's 75 Division, 500 meters—with turn; and

WHEREAS, Maui paddlers Julie Shoup, Jen Edwards, Michelle Willmering, Suz Conlon, Sandy Carvalho, and Allison Lee were the gold medal winners of the Women's Open Division, 1,000 meters—with turn; and

WHEREAS, the next IVF Va'a World Sprint Championships will be held in Hilo, Hawaii, in 2024, which will be the third time that Hawaii will host this international canoe racing competition; and

WHEREAS, the athletic ability, determination, accuracy, skill, and excellence achieved by Maui County's kupuna women canoe paddlers at the world sprint championships has brought great pride, honor, and recognition to our community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it hereby applauds, praises, and congratulates the 2022 IVF Va'a World Sprint Championships Maui County gold medal winners; and
2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to Vanessa Weiss; Torrey Goodman; Penny Martin; Camie Kimball; Diane Wetzel; Wanda Sheriff; Mary Akiono; Donna Newhart; Julie Shoup; Jen Edwards; Michelle Willmering; Suz Conlon; Sandy Carvalho; Allison Lee; the Honorable David Y.

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Ige, Governor of the State of Hawaii; and the Honorable
Michael P. Victorino, Mayor of the County of Maui.

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INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alice L. Lee".

ALICE L. LEE