

Resolution

No. _____

HONORING PONO AKIONA FOR WINNING 6TH PLACE IN THE INTERNATIONAL 2021 GRAND BEATBOX BATTLE, TAG TEAM DIVISION

WHEREAS, beatboxing is a musical style and technique based on vocal imitation of percussion sounds that uses one's mouth, lips, tongue and voice to mimic the sounds of drums and other instruments; and

WHEREAS, Pono Akiona placed 6th place in the Tag Team Division of the premiere international competition "Grand Beatbox Battle" held October 22-25, 2021 in Warsaw, Poland, showcasing the most talented beatboxing artists in the world; and

WHEREAS, Akiona is a two-time national champion in tag team beatboxing at the American Beatbox Championships held at the Brooklyn Bazaar in Brooklyn, New York in 2018 and 2019; and

WHEREAS, Akiona and his tag team partner Alex Sanchez perform under the group name "Dreamerz," and together qualified out of 100 contestants to enter the 2020 World Beatbox Championships in Berlin, Germany, which were postponed due to the pandemic until 2021; and

WHEREAS, as a solo beatboxer Pono placed in the Top 8 in the Online World Beatbox Championship 2021, making it to the quarterfinal after battling Alex Sanchez, better known as "BizKit," in the Top 16 round; and

WHEREAS, Akiona has been beatboxing for over six years, and his continued commitment to promoting this vocal art has led him to organize the 2021 Hawaii Beatboxing Championship in Kihei, Maui featuring competitors from Maui, O'ahu and Hawai'i Island; and

WHEREAS, 19-year-old Akiona is the son of David and Cheryl Akiona of Wailuku and a graduate of H.P. Baldwin High School; and

WHEREAS, Akiona currently studies business administration at University of Hawaii-Maui College; now, therefore,

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

1. That it congratulates Pono Akiona for his accomplishments as a world-class beatbox artist and champion; and
2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to Pono Akiona, David and Cheryl Akiona, Lin McEwan of ProArts, and the Honorable Mayor Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui.

paf:21-22reso:21-322a:lma