

Resolution

No. _____

CONGRATULATING LEELA WATERFORD FOR WINNING THE 2017 KAMAAINA KIDS HAWAII STATE SPELLING BEE

WHEREAS, Leela Waterford, an Emmanuel Lutheran School 7th grader, captured the Kamaaina Kids Hawaii State Spelling Bee title on March 17, 2017, at New Hope Oahu church in Honolulu; and

WHEREAS, Leela won the state championship after two hours of competition against thirteen other district finalists from Maui, Kauai, Big Island and Oahu by spelling the word “billycan” correctly; and

WHEREAS, as Hawaii’s state champion, Leela Waterford advanced to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in National Harbor, Maryland, where she joined 290 contestants from fifty states and six countries to compete for the national title; and

WHEREAS, the National Spelling Bee was first organized in 1925 with the goal of encouraging children to enlarge their vocabularies, learn concepts, and widen their knowledge of the English language; and

WHEREAS, qualifying as Maui District’s first runner-up and competing in the 2015 Kamaaina Kids Hawaii State Spelling Bee motivated Leela to work towards her goal of winning the national competition; and

WHEREAS, watching her older sister Ameera compete up to the final round in the 2016 Scripps National Spelling Bee served as an inspiration for Leela in pursuing the national title; and

WHEREAS, Leela Waterford’s exceptional performance and dedication have brought pride and honor to the people of the County of Maui; now, therefore,

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

1. That it hereby congratulates Leela Waterford for winning the 2017 Kamaaina Kids Hawaii State Spelling Bee; and
2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to Leela Waterford; her parents, Drs. Randy and Anita Waterford; Paige Kimble, Executive Director, Scripps National Spelling Bee; Mark Nishiyama, Vice President, Kamaaina Kids; David Hobus, Principal, Emmanuel Lutheran School; the Honorable David Ige, Governor, State of Hawaii; and the Honorable Alan Arakawa, Mayor, County of Maui

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