

Resolution

No. _____

CONGRATULATING THE WINNERS OF THE INAUGURAL “IMI PONO CHALLENGE”

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused major havoc in our community, including high unemployment, business closures, and a dramatic rise in public health and safety issues; and

WHEREAS, the pandemic and its aftermath may continue to negatively impact our local economy for years to come; and

WHEREAS, a survey of Maui County residents on what the “new normal” should look like revealed that most residents believe overdependence on the visitor industry is no longer a viable option; and

WHEREAS, innovative solutions are needed to create new directions and initiatives that can help reshape our economy and enrich our quality of life; and

WHEREAS, who better than our youth to help us “imi pono”—or seek and strive for the right way—by harnessing their bold ideas for building a sustainable and vibrant economy, now and in the future; and

WHEREAS, via their debut rap video, available at YouTube and MauiCounty.us/ImiPono, the Council launched the inaugural ‘Imi Pono Challenge for middle and high school students to present their ideas for a new invention, service, or product to help boost our local economy; and

WHEREAS, 175 inspiring entries were received from students all across the County on a wide range of topics and concerns; and

WHEREAS, 40 semi-finalist entries, 20 each from middle and high school categories, were selected and judged on creativity, feasibility, profitability, impactfulness, resourcefulness, and presentation, by a panel of innovators in their own fields; and

WHEREAS, the esteemed judges were:

Resolution No. _____

- Keiki-Pua Dancil, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs & Strategic Planning at Pūlama Lāna'i, who holds a Ph.D. in Chemistry from University of California, San Diego, and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School;
- Sophia Davis, a 2018 Kihei Charter School graduate who is studying biomedical engineering at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, and who previously worked at Maui Innovation Group, where she helped build ventilators for Maui Memorial Medical Center;
- Everett Dowling, a leader in residential and infrastructure development and President of Maui-based Dowling Company, Inc.;
- Mitzi Toro, also known as "The Maui Cookie Lady," a school teacher turned entrepreneur whose distinctive cookies are featured throughout Hawaii and on QVC;
- Pamela Tumpap, President of the Maui Chamber of Commerce for the past 14 years and former President & CEO of Maui United Way; and
- Rob Weltman, Chairperson of Sierra Club Maui Group, retired software engineer, and avid student of the Hawaiian language; and

WHEREAS, valuable prizes for the winning entries have been generously provided by several leaders in the business community; and

WHEREAS, the 'Imi Pono Challenge winners in the middle school category are as follows: [Name, School] (1st Place); [Name, School] (2nd Place); [Name, School] (3rd Place); and

WHEREAS, the 'Imi Pono Challenge winners in the high school category are as follows: [Name, School] (1st Place); [Name, School] (2nd Place); [Name, School] (3rd Place); and

Resolution No. _____

WHEREAS, every student who took the 'Imi Pono Challenge should be commended for putting their time and talents toward making Maui County an even better place to live; now, therefore,

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

1. That it congratulates the first-, second-, and third-place middle school and high school winners of the 'Imi Pono Challenge for their hard work and creativity;
2. That it expresses appreciation to the judges for their time, commitment, and ongoing efforts to connect students to resources and mentors for the further development of their ideas and ambitions;
3. That it expresses appreciation to the dedicated teachers who continue to encourage and support our students in this and other challenges; and
4. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to each winner; the judges; the prize donors; Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent, Hawai'i State Department of Education; the Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor, State of Hawai'i; the Honorable Joshua B. Green, Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai'i; and the Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui.