

**39TH LEGISLATURE
1ST REGULAR SESSION**

**S.C.R. NO. 39-03
IN THE SENATE**

18 FEBRUARY 2025

INTRODUCED BY: Sen. Olo Ulua Letuli, D-11

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON:

SUBJECT:

**COMMENDATION- 2025 NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALIST AND
TERRITORIAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR-MIKAELA AIGAMAUA SAELUA**

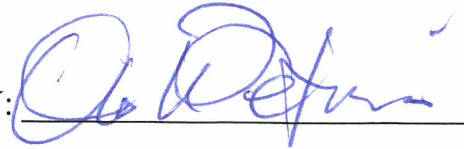
SUMMARY:

This Senate Concurrent resolution commends 2024 Territorial Teacher of the Year Mikaela Aigamaua Saelua for being nominated as one of the four finalists for the 2025 National Teacher of the Year.

OWN VOTE			LEGISLATIVE VOTE		
YES	NO		YES	NO	DATE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1ST READING			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	COMMITTEE REPORT			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2ND READING			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3RD READING			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AMENDED - SEE CALENDAR DATED			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AMENDED - SEE JOURNAL DATED			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AMENDED - SEE JOURNAL DATED			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RECOMMITTED			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ORDERED TO LIE			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WITHDRAWN			

1 S.C.R. NO. 39-03

2 INTRODUCED BY:



3
4 “A SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AMERICAN
5 SAMOA’S 2024 TERRITORIAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR, MISS MIKAELA
6 AIGMAUA SAELUA FOR BEING NOMINATED AS ONE OF THE FOUR
7 FINALIST OF THE 2025 NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD.”

8
9 WHEREAS, Ms. Mikaela Aigamaua Saelua, daughter of Honorable
10 Representative Fiu Johnny Saelua and Catherine Aigamaua Saelua
11 of Leone, is a proud graduate of Leone High School – Home of the
12 Mighty Lions, class of 2008. Mikaela attended the University of
13 California, Los Angeles and graduated in 2014 with a Bachelor of
14 Arts in Political Science, minoring in Asian American Studies; and
15

16 WHEREAS, Mikaela returned home to American Samoa and began teaching at
17 Tafuna High School for a year before transferring to her Alma
18 Mater, Leone High School (LHS). After just one year of teaching
19 English at LHS, she was selected as the English Language Arts
20 Department Head for her dedicated and impactful work with her
21 students and among the colleagues of her department. Mikaela is
22 also the Chair Advisor the the LHS Peer Leaders Club, Co-Chair for
23 the LHS Accreditation team and Co-Founding advisor for the LHS
24 Forestry Club, among many other organizations that she supports on
25 campus; and
26

27 WHEREAS, in 2019, Mikaela was selected as a fellow of the National Pacific
28 American Leadership Institute whose mission states “to identify,
29 train, and nurture Pacific American Emerging Leaders.” It is one of

1 the only leadership programs in the nation that integrates the
2 leadership values of Pacific American cultures and western society.
3 In 2020, Mikaela was selected as fellow of the Executive Leadership
4 Development Program (ELDP) which serves as a premier leadership
5 development program for government employees throughout the
6 U.S. affiliated Pacific Islands; and

7
8 WHEREAS, by 2021, Mikaela returned to the classroom herself and earned her
9 Master's of Education in Curriculum Studies with a focus on
10 culturally responsive, Pacific, placed-based STEAM subjects, from
11 the University of Hawaii, Manoa; and

12
13 WHEREAS, Mikaela was chosen as Leone High School's 2022 – 2023 Teacher
14 of the Year and then also earned American Samoa's Territorial
15 Teacher of the Year in October of 2024. Once selected as the
16 Territorial Teacher of the Year, Mikaela was then faced with the
17 challenge to prepare and submit her application for the distinguished
18 National Teacher of the Year Award; and

19
20 WHEREAS, the National Teacher of the Year (NTOY) program is an acclaimed
21 program that elevates selected educators from across U.S. states,
22 territories, the District of Columbia and Department of Defense. The
23 NTOY Selection Committee is comprised of individuals from
24 education organizations who select finalists from a cohort of
25 State/Territorial Teachers of the Year based on their applications;
26 and

27
28 WHEREAS, on January 30, 2025 the Council of Chief State School Officers
29 announced that Mikaela Saelua was one of the finalists for the 2025

1 National Teacher of the Year Award. Of all of the amazing
2 educators from our humble territory, Mikaela Saelua is the first
3 Samoan born and bred, daughter of American Samoa to reach the
4 achievement of becoming one of only four finalists for this award;
5 and

6
7 WHEREAS, the Legislature honors and congratulates Mikaela Aigamaua Saelua
8 for this distinguished achievement as one of our Territory's
9 exceptional teachers whose example will inspire many to follow suit
10 to be committed, innovative and passionate educators for the future
11 generations of our territory.

12
13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
14 TERRITORY OF AMERICAN SAMOA, THE HOUSE OF
15 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING:

16
17 THAT, Mikaela Aigamaua Saelua is hereby commended for her exceptional
18 accomplishments as one of the Finalists for the National Teacher Award; and

19
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, that the President of Senate, the
21 Honorable Tualo M. Fruean, or his authorized representative, is respectfully
22 requested to present this Senate Concurrent Resolution to Ms. Mikaela Aigamaua
23 Saelua as a token of our esteem and sincere appreciation for her outstanding
24 efforts and achievements.

25
26 ----- END -----

NOFOA'IGA TOLUSEFULU-IVA
FONO TELE MUAMUA

IMFMM. NU. 39-03
I LE MAOTA MAUALUGA

18 FEPUARI 2025

FA'AULUFALEINA E: Senatoa Olo Uluao Letuli, Itumalo - 11

TU'UINA ATU I LE KOMITI:

MATA'UPU:

FAAMALO—FAIA'OGA UA AUSIA LE LISI MULIMULI O E FILIFILI AI LE FAIA'OGA O LE TAUSAGA A AMERIKA, LE FAIA'OGA O LE TAUSAGA A LE TERITORI, LE TAMAITAI O MIKAELA AIGAMAUA SAELUA

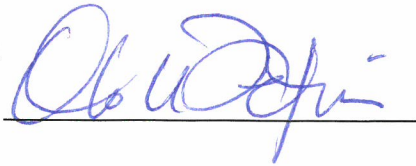
'OTO'OTOGA:

O lenei i'ugafono malilie fa'atasi e momoli atu ai le fa'amalo i le Faia'oga o le Tausaga 2024 a le Teritori, le Tamaita'i o Mikaela Aigamaua Saelua ona ua filifilia e avea ma se tasi o le tofa mulimuli e filifilia ai le Faia'oga o le Tausaga 2025 i le Atunuu aoao.

LANA PALOTA MONI			PALOTAGA A FAIPULE		
IOE	LEAI		IOE	LEAI	ASO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FAITAUGA MUAMUA			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RIPOTI A LE KOMITI			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FAITAUGA FA'ALUA			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FAITAUGA FA'ATOLU			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SUI - VA'AI ASO I LE KALENA			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SUI - VA'AI ASO TALA 'OTO'OTO			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SUI - VA'AI ASO TALA 'OTO'OTO			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TU'U ATU LE ISI KOMITI			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FA'ATONU E FA'ATA'ATIA			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TOE TAOFI			

1 I.M.F.M.M. NU. 39-03

2 FAAULUFALEINA E:



3
4 “O SE I’UGAFONO MALILIE FAATASI A LE MAOTA MAUALUGA E
5 AVATU AI LE FAAMALŌ I LE FAIA’OGA O LE TAUSAGA A AMERIKA
6 SAMOA, LE TAMAITAI IA MIKAELA AIGAMAU SAE LUA I LONA
7 FILIFILIA O SE TASI O LE TO’AFA MULIMULI E FILIFILI MAI AI LE NA
8 TE MAUA LE FAAILOGA O LE FAIA’OGA O LE TAUSAGA A LE
9 ATUNUU AOAQ.”

10
11 TALUAI, o Mikaela Aigamau Saelua, o se alo tamaitai e faasino a le Afioaga le
12 Faipule ia Fiu Johnny Saelua ma Catherine Dora Aigamau Saelua o
13 Leone, sa faauu mai i le Aoga Maualuga a Leone – le aiga o Liona
14 Malolosi, vasega o le 2008. Na a’oga Mikaela i le Iunivesite a
15 Kalefonia i Los Angeles ma i’u mai ai i le 2014 ma le Bachelors o le
16 Saienisi i mea tau faigamalo, (Political Science) ma se isi vaega o
17 lana a’oga i suesuega tau Asia ma Amerika; ma

18
19 TALUAI, na toe foi mai Mikaela i Amerika Samoa ma amata na faiaoga i le
20 Aoga Maualuga a Tafuna mo le tausaga e tasi ao lei siitia atu i lana
21 a’oga na a’oga ai i Leone. Ina ua mae’a le tausaga sa faia’oga ai i le
22 Gagana Peretania i le Aoga Maualuga i Leone, sa filifilia loa e
23 faauluulu i ai le Vaega o le Gagana Peretania ona sa iloga lona galue
24 mai i le matagaluega lea. O ia foi o le Faufautua Taitaifono o le
25 Kalapu a Taitai i le Aoga Maualuga i Leone (LHS), o le tasi o
26 Ta’ita’i o le vaega e Faamaonia i latou e tofia i vaega, o le fautua o e
27 na faavaeina le Kalapu o le Vaomatua a le LHS, ma le tele o isi
28 faalapotopotoga e lagolago i ai Mikaela i le lotoa a le a’oga; ma

29

1 TALUAI, o le 2019 sa filifilia ai Mikaele o se totino iloga o le Vaega o Ta'ita'i
2 o Amerika mai le Pasefika, o la latou savali e faapea: “ia faailoa,
3 toleni ma faafailele Ta'ita'i Faaolioli o Amerika mai le Pasefika.” O
4 se tasi lea o porokalama e tasi lava tau ta'ita'i i le atunuu e tuufaatasi
5 ai uiga taua faata'ita'i i tu ma aga faapasefika a Amerika ma le
6 soifuaga i sisifo. O le 2020 na filifilia ai Mikaela o se tagata iloga o
7 le Porokalama o le Atina'e o Ta'ita'i Maualuluga, lea e faaagaaga
8 mo tagata faigaluega a le malo i totonu o Motu o le Pasefika e i ai
9 sootaga ma le Iunaite Setete; ma

10

11 TALUAI, o le 2021 na toe foi ai Mikaela i le potua'oga ma maua ai lona
12 Master's i mea tau Aoaoga ma Suesuega i Mataupu e A'oa'oina e
13 faamamafa i mataupu tau Saienisi, Tekonolosi, Inisinia, Atisi ma le
14 Matematika (STEAM) mai le Iunivesite o Hawaii; ma

15

16 TALUAI, sa filifilia Mikaela e fai ma Faia'oga o le Tausaga 2022-2023 a le
17 LHS, a o le 2024 ia Oketopa na filifilia ai e fai ma Faia'oga o le
18 Tausaga a le Teritori. O le tofiga la lea, na feagai ai loa ia ma le
19 luitau o le saunia ma faaulu o lana talosaga mo le Faailoga o le
20 Faia'oga o le Tausaga i le atunuu aoao; ma

21

22 TALUAI, o le porokalama lea o le Faia'oga o le Tausaga i le atunuu aoao
23 (NTOY) e siitia ai le tulaga o faia'oga filifilia mai setete uma,
24 teritori, le laumua i Uosigitone ma le Matagaluega o le Puipuiga. O
25 le Komiti e faia le filifilia e i ai sui mai faalapotopotoga tau a'oga –
26 o latou ia e filifilia sui e fai i ai le filifiga e faavae i luga o talosaga ia
27 na faaoo atu; ma

28

1 TALUAI, o Ianuari 20, 2025 na faalauiloa mai ai e le Fono a Taitai o Ofisa o
2 Setete o Mikaela o se tasi lea o le a faia mai ai le filifiliga o le tagata
3 o le a ia maua le Faailoga o le Faia’oga o le Tausaga i le Atunuu
4 Aoao. Mai faia’oga uma i totonu o le tatou teritori, o Mikaela
5 Saelua, o le Samoa muamua lea na soifua ma faafailele i Amerika
6 Samoa ua oo i le tulaga lea o le to’afa mulimuli e fai ai le filifiliga
7 mo lenei faailoga; ma

8
9 TALUAI, e faaaloologia ma avatu le faamalo a le Fonofaitulafono ia Mikaela
10 Aigamaua Saelua ona o lenei matati’a taua ua avea ai ma se tasi o
11 faia’oga maoa’e o lo tatou teritori. O lana faata’ita’iga o le a
12 faaosofia ai le toatele e mulimuli i ona tulagavae – ni faia’oga e
13 naunau ma galulue faamaoni mo le lelei o tupulaga i le lumanai a le
14 teritori; ma

15
16 O LENEI, O LE MEA LEA, IA FA’AI’UGAFONOINA AI E LE MAOTA
17 MAUALUGA O LE TERITORI O AMERIKA SAMOA, MALILIE FAATASI I
18 AI MA LE MAOTA O SUI:

19
20 E FA’APEA, e momoli atu le fa’amalō ma le fa’afetai tele a le Fonofaitulafono ma
21 tagata o Amerika Samoa i le tamaitai o Mikaela Aigamaua Saelua ona o le ausia o
22 le matati’a ua avea ai ma se tasi o le vaega mulimuli o faia’oga e filifilia mai ai le
23 na te maua le Faailoga o le Faia’oga o le Tausaga a le Atunuu Aoao; ma

24
25 IA TOE FA’AI’UGAFONOINA FOI, e talosagaina ma le faaaloalo le Afioga i le
26 Peresetene Tualo M. Fruean po o sona sui faatagaina, e tau’a’ao atu lenei
27 Iugafono Malilie Fa’atasi a le Maota Mauuluga i le tamaitai o Mikaela Aigamaua
28 Saelua.

29