

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1644



Introduced by Hon. Christopher V.P. de Venecia

A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING MR. KENNETH COBONPUE FOR HIS EXEMPLARY ACHIEVEMENTS IN FURNITURE DESIGN AND BEING AWARDED THE PRESTIGIOUS LEGENDS 2023 AWARD BY THE PRATT INSTITUTE

WHEREAS, the Pratt Institute, a distinguished art and design school ranked among the world's top institutions, has bestowed upon Mr. Kenneth Cobonpue the Legends 2023 award, recognizing his outstanding contributions to the field of furniture design and commemorating the exceptional achievements of its alumni and individuals in the world of art and design;

WHEREAS, the Pratt Institute's Legends Award, previously conferred upon distinguished individuals such as Tommy Hilfiger, Marc Jacobs, Nina Campbell, Iris Apfel, Julian Schnabel, Bruce Weber, David Yurman, and Santiago Calatrava, symbolizes the pinnacle of achievement in the arts and design industry;

WHEREAS, Mr. Kenneth Cobonpue, a *summa cum laude* graduate from Pratt Institute in 1991, stands as the first Southeast Asian to receive the Pratt Legends Award, a testament to his profound impact on the global furniture and design industry;

WHEREAS, Mr. Cobonpue's designs, inspired by human experiences, have garnered international acclaim, earning him prestigious titles such as the "Maison et Objet Asian Designer of the Year" and recognition as "*Rattan's First Great Virtuoso*" by TIME Magazine;

WHEREAS, his innovative approach to experimenting with various materials and simple structures has not only resulted in artistically striking designs but also contributed to sustainable furniture design, aligning with environmentally friendly practices;

WHEREAS, committed to preserving century-old crafting techniques, Mr. Cobonpue has played a pivotal role in training craftsmen in Cebu and has served as a mentor and educator through

founding the Industrial Design Program at the University of the Philippines-Cebu and chairing the Department of Industrial Design at De La Salle-College of Benilde;

WHEREAS, the Pratt Legends Awards recognize individuals and corporations whose body of work aligns with the values and principles upheld by the Pratt Institute, with Mr. Cobonpue's recognition serving as a testament to the creative spirit and excellence that the Philippines contributes to the global art and design landscape;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives congratulate Mr. Kenneth Cobonpue for his outstanding contributions to the field of design and for bringing honor to the Philippines through his international recognition;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the House of Representatives encourages Filipino designers and design schools to actively participate in esteemed international competitions, fostering global competitiveness, accumulating a portfolio of awards, enhancing the country's standing as a center for creativity and design excellence, and promoting the appreciation of design among our citizens;

RESOLVED, FINALLY, that appropriate copies of this resolution be given to Mr. Kenneth Cobonpue and another copy be prepared for submission to the National Historical Commission of the Philippines for proper archiving.

Adopted,



HON. CHRISTOPHER V.P. DE VENECIA