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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING THE RHODE ISLAND HIP HOP HALL OF FAME ON ITS  
INAUGURAL CEREMONY HELD MARCH 8, 2026, AND HONORING ITS INDUCTEES

Introduced By: Representatives Cruz, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Stewart,  
Morales, Felix, Potter, Giraldo, and J. Brien

Date Introduced: March 24, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, Hip hop culture, encompassing the artistic elements of DJing, emceeing  
2 (rapping), breakin' (breakdancing), and graffiti art, has for more than fifty years served as a  
3 powerful vehicle for creative expression, community building, and cultural identity; and

4           WHEREAS, Rhode Island has long been home to a vibrant and influential hip hop  
5 community whose pioneers and practitioners have made lasting contributions at both the local  
6 and national levels; and

7           WHEREAS, The concept of the Rhode Island Hip Hop Hall of Fame was first envisioned  
8 in 2024 by dedicated leaders within the community, including Donald "DJ Donnie Battle / BBoy  
9 Keebla" Senna and Vincent "Bad Lad" Lopes, whose combined experience of more than eighty  
10 years reflects a deep and enduring commitment to the advancement of hip hop culture; and

11           WHEREAS, Through their vision, leadership, and collaboration, this long-envisioned  
12 initiative came to fruition with the inaugural Rhode Island Hip Hop Hall of Fame Ceremony, held  
13 on March 8, 2026, at 39 West Restaurant and Lounge in Cranston; and

14           WHEREAS, This historic event marked the first-ever formal recognition in Rhode Island  
15 of the pioneers and contributors across all elements of hip hop culture, including breakin',  
16 graffiti, DJing, and emceeing, as well as honoring individuals who have provided vital support to  
17 the growth and sustainability of the culture; and

18           WHEREAS, The ceremony brought together honorees and community members from  
19 across the nation, including participants traveling from North Carolina, Maryland, Florida, and

1 Illinois, demonstrating the far-reaching impact of Rhode Island’s hip hop legacy; and

2 WHEREAS, The occasion was especially meaningful as it reunited individuals who had  
3 not shared the same space in more than forty years, underscoring the enduring bonds and shared  
4 history within the hip hop community; and

5 WHEREAS, The founders of the Rhode Island Hip Hop Hall of Fame have established a  
6 vision for this event to continue annually on the first weekend of March and aspire to create a  
7 permanent physical venue to preserve and showcase memorabilia, artifacts, and the rich history of  
8 hip hop for future generations; and

9 WHEREAS, Among those recognized and honored for their outstanding contributions  
10 include:

11 • Vincent “Bad Lad” Lopes, co-founder of the Rhode Island Hip Hop Hall of Fame, a  
12 longstanding supporter of the arts and a prominent figure in the nightlife and comedy community,  
13 previously recognized as a 2024 inductee; and

14 • Mason “DJ Finesse” Santos, a 2026 inductee for DJing, who is also a published  
15 author, motivational speaker, and life coach, inspiring others through both his artistry and  
16 community engagement; and

17 • Paris Fisher, a 2026 inductee recognized for his foundational role in Rhode Island’s  
18 hip hop culture and his work through POAM Actionwear, as well as his dedication as a youth  
19 activist and involvement in his faith community; and

20 • Donald “DJ Donnie Battle / BBoy Keebla” Senna, founder of the Rhode Island Hip  
21 Hop Hall of Fame, president of the nationally recognized breaking crew Ground FX, host of the  
22 prominent East Coast b-boy event Spin Factor, and founder of the nation’s first 2-vs-2 national b-  
23 boy tour championships; and

24 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Hip Hop Hall of Fame stands as a testament to the  
25 creativity, resilience, and cultural contributions of artists and advocates who have shaped and  
26 sustained hip hop culture throughout the State and beyond; now, therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
28 congratulates and honors the Rhode Island Hip Hop Hall of Fame on the successful occasion of  
29 its inaugural ceremony held on March 8, 2026, commends its founders, organizers, and  
30 supporters for their vision and dedication in establishing this important cultural institution, and  
31 recognizes all inductees for their invaluable contributions to hip hop culture and to their  
32 communities; and be it further

33 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
34 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Rhode Island Hip Hop Hall of Fame,

- 1 Vincent "Bad Lad" Lopes, Mason "DJ Finesse" Santos, Paris Fisher, and Donald "DJ Donnie
- 2 Battle/BBoy Keebila" Senna.

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