

SIXTEENTH DAY

Friday, February 9, 2024

The House of Representatives of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2024, convened at 12:04 p.m., with Vice Speaker Ilagan presiding.

The invocation was delivered by Representative Darius K. Kila, after which the Roll was called showing all members present with the exception of Representative Nakashima, who was excused.

By unanimous consent, reading and approval of the Journal of the House of Representatives of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Days was deferred.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS

The following departmental communications (Dept. Com. Nos. 385 through 388) were received by the Clerk and were placed on file:

Dept. Com. No. 385, from the County of Hawai'i Police Department, dated January 12, 2024, transmitting the Legislature Disciplinary Report, pursuant to Section 52D-3.5, HRS.

Dept. Com. No. 386, from the County of Hawai'i Police Department, dated January 2, 2024, transmitting the Electric Guns and Use Report, pursuant to Section 134-87(b), HRS.

Dept. Com. No. 387, from the County of Maui Police Department, dated January 8, 2024, transmitting the 2023 Annual Report on the Use and Discharge of Electric Guns, pursuant to Section 134-87, HRS.

Dept. Com. No. 388, from the County of Maui Police Department, dated January 8, 2024, transmitting the 2023 Legislature Disciplinary Report, pursuant to Section 52D-3.5, HRS.

INTRODUCTIONS

The following introduction was made to the members of the House:

Representative Quinlan introduced Bart Dame, national committeeman, Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

ORDER OF THE DAY

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Representative Yamashita, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 218-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2520 pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2520 pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Souza rose to speak in opposition to the measure, stating:

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be voting no on this measure. This seems like a typical housekeeping measure as far as funding goes. But I take issue with a certain aspect of this bill as to how the funds, specifically relative to Section 3, pertaining to the House of Representatives, are utilized, especially as a matter of equity, so that House members, including myself, can use the resources that the funding will cover.

"In Section 3, it states that an appropriation out of the general revenues of the State of Hawai'i in the sum of over \$16 million will be made to the House of Representatives. If any part of this over \$16 million appropriation is funding partisan research offices and partisan legal services within the House, which is my understanding of how this appropriation will be allocated upon further research and conferring with the drafting agency for this particular bill, then I cannot support this bill.

"As a Republican member, it appears that I am not able to utilize the resources of the House Minority Research Office, which is a real issue when funding is being allocated to the House to help House members. Therefore, having any part of this appropriation funding partisan offices, from my perspective, is not being used to its highest and best value if we are picking

and choosing who can utilize the resources this bill is meant to cover. I cannot support funding that leads to inequity in this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Representative Pierick rose to speak in opposition to the measure, stating:

"In opposition. This bill appropriates funds for the Auditor, Legislative Reference Bureau, Ombudsman, and the Ethics Commission. These are notable things that should be funded. However, this also supplies our salary, and this would give each of us, this year, \$72,000 a year. When we look at how many potholes we have, the way that our kids are being raised in the Department of Education, when we look at taxation, when we look at the level of homelessness and the expensive housing on the market, I think we're doing a bad job and we shouldn't be rewarded with salaries. So, I don't support our salary."

Representative Quinlan rose to speak in support of the measure, stating:

"In support, Mr. Speaker. And I'd just like to point out that we are all free to donate our salaries to charity."

Representative Nakamura rose, stating:

"Just a point of clarification that salaries are included, not in this bill, but through Budget and Finance."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2520, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE LEGISLATURE, THE AUDITOR, THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU, THE OMBUDSMAN, AND THE ETHICS COMMISSION," passed Second Reading and was placed on the calendar for Third Reading, with Representatives Pierick and Souza voting no, and with Representative Nakashima being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Labor & Government Operations, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 219-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2373, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2373, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Pierick rose to speak in opposition to the measure, stating:

"In opposition. This bill makes emergency appropriations for collective bargaining cost items for the members of bargaining units, *et cetera*. So, in other words, if the governor declares a state emergency proclamation, then certain state employees can get paid more. We're in a state where the governor seems to continually proclaim emergencies, and the previous governor did the same thing. So, if we're going to be in an emergency proclamation state, this would then raise the salaries of a lot of state employees, and I don't think that's fair to the taxpayer. Thank you."

Representative Garcia rose and asked that the Clerk record an aye vote with reservations for him, and the Chair "so ordered."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2373, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Garcia voting aye with reservations, Representative Pierick voting no, and with Representative Nakashima being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Labor & Government Operations, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 220-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2374, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2374, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

COST ITEMS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Nakashima being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Labor & Government Operations, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 221-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1832, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1832, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Ward rose to speak in support of the measure, stating:

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Contrary to expectations, I don't always stand up and speak against the bill, because this is a great bill. I stand up for good bills. This is a good bill. But it's where there's been molasses in a type of DHRD lockjaw of getting employees hired and we've got 20% to 25% of our state government vacant. Mr. Speaker, this is a bill in the right direction, it starts the flow. But I would say we could even go further.

"I think we should be on Indeed, even Craigslist. We should have a net that goes far and wide to make sure we fill these positions. Because sometimes departments say, well, you give us the money, but we couldn't fill the position. DHRD has got to do a better job. This bill helps do it, and I thank the authors for that. But we've got to do better to get our employment. And I know everybody's got a shortage of workers, but we've got to do better if we are going to get the job done for the people of Hawai'i. For those reasons, Mr. Speaker, it's a surprise to you, I'm very much in favor of this. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1832, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HIRING," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Nakashima being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Labor & Government Operations, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 222-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2382, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2382, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Nakashima being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Labor & Government Operations, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 223-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2343, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2343, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ENFORCEMENT OF ORDERS OF WAGE PAYMENT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representative Nakashima being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Labor & Government Operations, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 224-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2381, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2381, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM FUNDING PERIOD," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Nakashima being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Labor & Government Operations, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 225-24)

recommending that H.B. No. 2480, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2480, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE CERTIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Nakashima being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Labor & Government Operations, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 226-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2463, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2463, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE WAGE AND HOUR LAW," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Nakashima being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Labor & Government Operations, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 227-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2496, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2496, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PROCUREMENT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Nakashima being excused.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMITTEE REASSIGNMENTS

The following measures were re-referred to committee by the Speaker:

H.B.

Nos.

Re-referred to:

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| 2278 | Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs |
| 2771 | Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, then to the Committee on Finance |

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:17 p.m., on motion by Representative Morikawa, seconded by Representative Garcia and carried, the House of Representatives adjourned until noon Monday, February 12, 2024. (Representative Nakashima was excused.)