

SEVENTEENTH DAY

Monday, February 12, 2024

The House of Representatives of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2024, convened at 12:02 p.m., with Speaker Saiki presiding.

The invocation was delivered by Representative Sean Quinlan, after which the Roll was called showing all members present with the exception of Representatives Amato, Gates, Lowen, Todd, and Woodson, who were excused.

By unanimous consent, reading and approval of the Journal of the House of Representatives of the Sixteenth Day was deferred.

INTRODUCTIONS

The following introductions were made to the members of the House:

Representative Ilagan introduced Eric Tanouye, owner, Green Point Nurseries.

Representative Pierick introduced Dawn O'Brien and Spencer Bronson.

At 12:06 p.m., the Chair declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The House of Representatives reconvened at 12:24 p.m.

ORDER OF THE DAY**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Representative Marten, for the Committee on Human Services, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 228-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1964, 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. 1964, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EARLY CHILD CARE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Marten, for the Committee on Human Services, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 229-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2426, 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. 2426, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO RELATIVE RESOURCE CAREGIVERS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Marten, for the Committee on Human Services, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 230-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2713, 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. 2713, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ADOPTION ASSISTANCE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Marten, for the Committee on Human Services, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 231-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1776, 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. 1776, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HOUSEHOLD AND DEPENDENT CARE SERVICES TAX CREDIT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Marten, for the Committee on Human Services, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 232-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2217, 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. 2217, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Marten, for the Committee on Human Services, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 233-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2405, 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. 2405, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PEER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Marten, for the Committee on Human Services, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 234-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2181, 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. 2181, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Holt, for the Committee on Economic Development, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 235-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2369, 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. 2369, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Mr. Speaker, no vote on 235, please. Mr. Speaker, these are loans for people who are in desperate condition of economic hardship. The interest rate is now fixed at 6%. Mr. Speaker, some of you don't know that I used to work for the United Nations and the World Bank, and anything that's 6% is really a gouging rate. We would give basically away free money, 1% to 2%. Which means the hardship is the issue, not the repayment. In fact, many of these things are grants.

"The point is, 6% is almost at market value. Are we helping these people as the market value? Are we a private bank that can do market rates? I don't think so. Because of those reasons, I don't think we are being sympathetic enough with those people who need the money, and they don't need it at market rates. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, a no vote."

Representative Garcia rose and asked that the Clerk record a no vote 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. 2369, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII COMMUNITY-BASED

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Garcia and Ward voting no, and with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Holt, for the Committee on Economic Development, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 236-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2354, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2354, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Strong support with thanks to the governor for respecting the Small Business Regulatory Review Board. Some of us went to the White House in 1993, when there was a national phenomenon to put regulatory boards together for small business, because there was legislation that was being passed that they never knew until it was already in effect.

"So, this basically is a review board. But you know, Mr. Speaker, how we've treated it, we've created it in the '90s. But, you know, when have we ever funded it? We haven't funded it yet. This is the first time we respected it. And I want to thank the governor for, hopefully, this is the first step in the direction to make sure small business, which is the most creative, innovative job creation in the State of Hawai'i, that it be given its due course. And there's 25,000 to 30,000 of these. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2354, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY REVIEW BOARD," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Holt, for the Committee on Economic Development, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 237-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2005, 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. 2005, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TAXES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Holt, for the Committee on Economic Development, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 238-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1620, 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. 1620, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PASS-THROUGH ENTITY TAXATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Holt, for the Committee on Economic Development, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 239-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1960, 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. 1960, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Pierick rose and asked that the Clerk record a no vote 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. 1960, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT PLANNING ORGANIZATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Ichiyama, for the Committee on Water & Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 240-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1529, 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. 1529, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO BURIAL COUNCILS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 241-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1657, 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. 1657, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 242-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1903, 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. 1903, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 243-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1977, 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. 1977, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO BRAILLE LITERACY," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 244-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2384, 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. 2384, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE SCHOOL FACILITIES SPECIAL FUND," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 245-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2577, 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. 2577, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO

EDUCATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 246-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2661, 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. 2661, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"In support. This bill enacts the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact to reduce barriers to teacher license portability and employment. This is a good bill helping more teachers in Hawai'i."

Representative Perruso rose and asked that the Clerk record an aye vote with reservations for her, 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. 2661, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TEACHERS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Perruso voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 247-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2675, 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. 2675, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 248-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2578, 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. 2578, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Tam, for the Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 249-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2772, 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. 2772, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE STATE SEAL," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Tam, for the Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 250-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2736, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2736, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Mr. Speaker, support, strong support. And I just wanted to say that as the shaka has become popular, you can see people who have never been to Hawai'i are using the shaka. So, I think it puts our brand, our identity intact. I just want to make sure that Lippy Espinda, who owned the service station at Kalakaua and Kapiolani is mentioned. I didn't have a chance to read the bill, but Lippy Espinda is the one who really started doing the shaka on television. So, if he's not in it, at least it's in the records in the Journal of the State House of Representatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2736, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO STATE GESTURE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Tam, for the Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 251-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1861, 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. 1861, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO NUMBER PLATES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Tam, for the Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 252-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2715, 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. 2715, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Hashem, for the Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 253-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1904, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Education.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1904, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Education, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Marten, for the Committee on Human Services, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 254-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2739, 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. 2739, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ENERGY ASSISTANCE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Marten, for the Committee on Human Services, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 255-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2462, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2462, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE ELECTRONIC PRESCRIPTION ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Marten, for the Committee on Human Services, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 256-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2183 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2183 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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. 2183, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Garcia and Pierick voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Marten, for the Committee on Human Services, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 257-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2428, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2428, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Garcia rose and asked that the Clerk record a no vote 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. 2428, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE CHILD PROTECTIVE ACT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representative Garcia voting no, and with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 258-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1594, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1594, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"A no vote, Mr. Speaker. This bill is kind of unimaginable. It says if you get a DUI, you cannot go to Safeway and buy beer, you cannot go to a bar and buy something, because on your license it says DUI. Do we want to shame people? If people get a drug or a, what do you call it, a sexual predator position, do we put it on their driver's license? I understand that this bill puts it on the driver's license.

"But the irony of all this, if you put all what I just said aside, is that we're going to punish the guys who drink and drive. But, hey, if you get drunk, if you get drugged with marijuana or mushrooms, you are okay. Mr. Speaker, this body is speaking out of two sides of its mouth. And I know that bill hasn't come up, but it's going to come up. We're going to make it easier to do marijuana, instead of \$125, we're going to make it like \$25.

"But, Mr. Speaker, this is telling you guys who drink, we're going to deny you and we're going to expose you at Safeway and Longs and all these other places. But for you druggies, you hippies, or you guys who are on mushrooms and marijuana, you're okay. That is inconsistent, Mr. Speaker. I think this is putting a scarlet letter in place, it's putting a label on people's

forehead. And it's embarrassing people who I think the only place they can drink now is in their home. Or if they drink, they can be a passenger.

"The point is, Mr. Speaker, this goes overboard, it's overreach. It's big brother going into your stomach and your brain and your social setting beyond of which we should be doing. That's extremism, Mr. Speaker. For those reasons, I vote no. 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. 1594, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INTOXICATING LIQUOR," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representative Garcia voting aye with reservations, with Representative Ward voting no, and with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 259-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2491, 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. 2491, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 260-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1539, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1539, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Pierick rose and asked that the Clerk record a no vote for him, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Garcia rose and asked that the Clerk record a no vote for him, and the Chair "so ordered."

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

Representative Perruso rose and asked that the Clerk record an aye vote with reservations for her, 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. 1539, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, with Representatives Kapela and Perruso voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Garcia and Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 261-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1935, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1935, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Mr. Speaker, I would vote tentatively against this. Because, as I said earlier, there's an inconsistency. We want to lower the blood alcohol content, but we don't want to do anything with the druggies and the mushrooms and

the marijuana. How does this fit logically with this body's protection for the people outside? I just don't see it consistent.

"I know it was either Shakespeare or somebody who said, consistency is the hobgoblin of small minds. Well, I think it's small minds that will say, we're going to push you hard on your alcohol, but we're going to lighten up on your drug addiction, i.e., marijuana and other forms of hard, hard drugs, some of which have been, as we know in Oregon, legalized and they've regretted it. And here we're walking down the same path, rather naive and sort of whistling past the graveyard. Thank you."

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

"In support, Mr. Speaker. I really don't think it's fair or accurate to conflate people using marijuana, which is medically regulated as a drug for certain treatments and for certain conditions in this state. The only medical treatment that I know of for alcohol is if you have antifreeze poisoning."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1935, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE USE OF INTOXICANTS WHILE OPERATING A VEHICLE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representative Ward voting no, and with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 262-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1805, 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. 1805, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE PROCEDURE FOR PAYMENT UNDER PROTEST LAWSUITS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 263-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1806, 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. 1806, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE PROCEDURE FOR TAX APPEALS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 264-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1845, 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. 1845, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Souza rose to disclose a potential conflict of interest, stating:

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Request for a ruling on a potential conflict. My brother is an OHA trustee, and this particular bill also addresses OHA statewide races," and the Chair ruled, "no conflict," and that the ruling would extend through *sine die*.

Representative Garcia rose and asked that the Clerk record a no vote 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. 1845, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PARTIAL PUBLIC FINANCING OF ELECTIONS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee

on Finance, with Representative Garcia voting no, and with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 265-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1942, 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. 1942, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CORPORATIONS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 266-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1596, 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. 1596, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Lamosao rose and asked that the Clerk record a no vote for her, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Garcia rose and asked that the Clerk record a no vote for him, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Alcos rose and asked that the Clerk record a no vote for him, and the Chair "so ordered."

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

"Mr. Speaker, I referenced this bill earlier, I just want to finish what was maybe a partial thought. In opposition, strongly so, sir. This lowers the offense of marijuana from, I forget how many grams, to you get one ounce, and from \$125 it goes down to \$25. Which basically means it's already a parking ticket, and now we're going to make it less than a parking ticket.

"My question, Mr. Speaker, what's our logic on this? Lightening up on marijuana but pushing down in alcohol. Look, I thought if you're out of your mind, whether it's one substance or the other, it's equally against the public safety for the people of Hawai'i. So, Mr. Speaker, we're talking out of both sides of our mouth. We talk about, we want to make it so easy, which it's already so easy, anybody can get marijuana anywhere, anytime, at any price. This is going to allow even the black market to even proliferate even more. So, do we know what we do?

"Mr. Speaker, I'm looking at you, but I'm attacking all my colleagues. Do we really know what we're doing? We look at Colorado, we don't pay attention. We look at California, we don't pay attention. We look at Oregon, we don't pay attention. Hopefully, Prosecutor Alm is going to bring this to the fore with Mayor Blangiardi and show the realities of what path we're taking down. Numbing and dumbing down the people of Hawai'i, particularly our youth whose brains are not even in shape. And it's going to be a great thing, like vaping, and everybody is going to go backwards in terms of their development and their human, God-given potential. This is a bad, bad bill and very inconsistent, Mr. Speaker. Thank you."

Representative Souza rose and asked that the Clerk record a no vote for her, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Kong rose and asked that the Clerk record a no vote for him, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Kila rose and asked that the Clerk record a no vote for him, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Matsumoto rose and asked that the Clerk record a no vote for her, and the Chair "so ordered."

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

"In opposition, Mr. Speaker, brief comment. Mr. Speaker, this bill seeks to basically decriminalize the possession of marijuana up to one ounce. As we've previously discussed, one ounce is a lot of marijuana. One ounce is about 50 to 60 joints. The problem that I have with this bill is the same problem that I had with the bill when we decriminalized up to three grams of marijuana. Now that it's up to an ounce, it really implies the intent to not just use, but to sell marijuana. And that's my concern, is that we are decriminalizing an amount that would make it easier for the illegal sale and distribution of marijuana.

"The \$130 fine down to \$25 is also making it a fairly *de minimis* amount. I think that that makes it more of a slap on the wrist, or just a kind of a transactional fine rather than something truly discouraging for people to use and sell marijuana.

"This bill raises the amount that you can carry on you from three grams up to a little over 28 grams, that's about a ten-fold increase. Meanwhile, we're taking the fine from \$130 down to \$25, so we're decreasing it by five times. I honestly just think we're going in the wrong direction with this. And this would be almost a *de facto* legalization of marijuana bill. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, in support. This is a decriminalization bill, not a legalization bill, that's a separate bill which we can address at that time. What this bill does is aligns our amount that we would decriminalize with most other states that have decriminalized cannabis. As you know, nearly half of the states in this country have legalized cannabis. What this does is helps to destigmatize what is a drug that is not a hard drug. This is one that if we were to take a harm reduction approach to dealing with our substance abuse issues within the state, in fact this is the best thing we can do is to decriminalize cannabis.

"An ounce, if you go to a dispensary and you look up at the price board, they price it by an ounce. For those who might be unaccustomed to purchasing cannabis, that might seem like a lot, but it's not really a lot. It might be maybe a month's supply for somebody who is a regular user. And it's not necessarily only to smoke, you can use this to make baked goods so that you could take this as an edible.

"So, I would just urge members to not really worry that this is going down a path that's going to cause some significant problems to our community. I think this is, unfortunately, being caught with a small amount of cannabis, over three grams but less than an ounce, or with some apparatus that you use to consume cannabis, is unfortunately the first step to get people to enter into the criminal justice system. And I think the drug war has failed, and it's time for us to change the way we're approaching what is really a drug that is not something that is causing all of our major problems. It's methamphetamine, it's crack, those are the hard drugs, fentanyl. It's not cannabis. So, I urge members, take a deep breath, it's okay, and vote yes. *Mahalo*, Mr. Speaker."

The Chair addressed Representative Tarnas, stating:

"Representative Tarnas, I know that you don't want to look at the Chair, but please address the Chair when giving floor remarks."

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

Representative Matsumoto rose to respond, stating:

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Still in opposition, and if I could have the words of the representative from Maunawili put into the Journal as if they were my own," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"In opposition. I encourage the body to take a deep breath and vote no. This bill makes the class B felony offense of delivering drug paraphernalia to persons under 18 years of age applicable to offenders who are at least 21 years old, exempts drug paraphernalia for marijuana from certain penalties under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, makes the possession of less than one ounce of recreational marijuana a nonjailable violation punishable by a fine of \$25, which was \$3,000.

"This is decriminalizing something that should be punishable that's hard. We should not have a city that's infested with drug dealers, we should punish drug dealers. And this would decrease the penalty of drug dealers. I vote no."

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

"Mr. Speaker, in opposition. Safety is one of the biggest things that we want to protect our kids with. But this is opening up a gateway for our youth to sell more drugs because it's only going to be \$25. Well, they can make more money on the streets and take advantage of this bill. I feel that it's going the opposite way. I think that if you increase the fines, I would definitely vote on it. But people are dying out there. People getting shot. There's violence on our street. And I think marijuana, as the former representative said, that this is just marijuana, but it leads to many different things, and there's many people died from illegal drugs on the street. So, I'm in opposition on this. Thank you."

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

"Mr. Speaker, in support. I'd like to adopt the words of the chair of Judiciary as if they were my own, with brief comment. Representative from District 41 noted that he would like to see increased penalties. This has kind of been the norm in American politics for about 40 years. It led to many issues with regards to inappropriate policing, mass incarceration, and the inappropriate use of county and state funds. Furthermore, there's a nationwide and statewide hiring crisis. Many individuals have marijuana charges on their records, they can't seem to find jobs. For those reasons, I'm in support."

Representative La Chica rose to speak in opposition to the measure, stating:

"Mr. Speaker, in opposition, brief comment. While I do appreciate the author's intent to address unnecessary arrests, as well as the inequity in our criminal justice system and bringing our Hawai'i laws up to par with the rest of the nation, I do have concerns that with the relaxation of these laws, we really need to have a discussion on strengthening instead how we address the sale, the illegal sale and distribution as well as some of our prevention programs for our youth on mental health, substance use. We really need to look at these issues that overall address community safety first before we look into this. *Mahalo*."

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

"In opposition. I'm concerned about the amount, one ounce, and the penalty, \$25. Really, the last time I got a parking ticket, I think it was a \$40 parking ticket. So, I think those two things should be looked at. Thank you."

Representative Nishimoto rose and asked that the Clerk record a no vote for him, and the Chair "so ordered."

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

"In opposition, brief comment. I'm in opposition to this bill. Unlike the legalization bill that we have been discussing and that's moving in the Senate, this bill has no safeguards. And although this is a decriminalization bill, as others have stated, up to one ounce is quite a bit of marijuana still, it can be 50 to 60 joints. And with that decreased amount, really, there is nothing prohibiting or discouraging people from using marijuana.

"I also am concerned because there are no safeguards. I'm concerned about what we're saying to our youth. We were looking at our vaping epidemic, we can't get that under control. By saying that this, up to an ounce, is decriminalized, ultimately saying you're not going to get in trouble other than a \$25 fee, what is prohibiting our youth from engaging in trying out marijuana? There's no consequence other than \$25, which is really just a slap on the wrist. And I don't want this to become another epidemic for our youth.

"Medical marijuana is already available. So, if you need it, you have access to it, and you can use that for whatever health benefits or health needs you might have, it is available to you. And I would just also like to just point out that even though people say the harms of marijuana use are not there,

that it will not lead to other types of harder drugs or issues with your family, or concerns, or trauma, or whatever that might be, generational issues, I have seen experiences where marijuana use has led to harder drugs, has led to jail time, has broken up families. And so, I don't want to see us going down that pathway. And I want to make sure that we stop that before we open the door to that. So, in opposition."

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

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

Representative Garcia rose to respond, stating:

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Second time, in opposition still. I just want to say that as someone who was raised in public housing and being surrounded by addicts, I can confirm that cannabis is not a not harmful substance, it is indeed harmful. I think all the addicts that I grew up around have told me that they all first started with a puff. And this is sending the wrong message to Hawai'i's *keiki*. It's not good for society. No vote."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support. May I adopt the words of the chair of Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs as if they were my own," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Gates continued, stating:

"I think that we have to go back to the history of the prohibition on cannabis to understand where we are today. And if we look at the history of cannabis, it was prohibited because of other corporations having similar products to hemp, for example, like nylon, that then competed with the hemp products that were being created by this plant. And that drove a lot of advocacy to ban hemp, as well as cannabis, to stop the production of these types of products.

"But also, it was a campaign that was very racist towards immigrants, as well as African-Americans who were using cannabis at the time, as a way to be able to stoke fear into the public's perception relating to cannabis. And that leads us to the federal prohibition of cannabis, which was driven by profits of other corporations.

"But then we also have to discuss the prohibition that was led by Big Pharma, which cannabis provides a lot of relief for different issues that people face on a day-to-day basis, including headaches. And if we're talking about drugs, let's not forget about all of the over-the-counter drugs that you can provide right now at any Longs, CVS that you go to, such as Tylenol, NyQuil, and other forms of over-the-counter medicines. And Mr. Speaker, if you take too much of these medications, you potentially could die. I've never heard of anyone using too much cannabis where they end up dead. I could not find any statistics relating to that.

"And so, with this decriminalization, I think that we can also take away the enforcement issues that we're facing at HPD with going after all of these other crimes. If we take cannabis off of that list, they can focus on the hardcore drugs, which we know for a fact has ruined our communities, such as meth and fentanyl, heroin, and other drugs that we know exist right now.

"But I also would like to mention that with the legalization of cannabis, if we actually move on it, that we can really provide safeguards to a lot of the issues that have been shared by my colleagues. Right now, we don't have those safeguards in place because it's a black market and people are purchasing it from the street dealers. We really should have the legalization discussion later on, hopefully, to really talk about how we can protect our communities, how can we put more oversight in this area. And I don't think that we've done that yet.

"But I would like to just end off by saying that, we know what exists out there in the community, we're turning a blind eye to it right now, given this decriminalization bill and not being able to have the legal means to go and actually purchase these types of medical products from legal stores. And the biggest part about it is that as a consumer, if you're a consumer, you don't have any safeguards right now because you don't know what you're purchasing off of the streets. By having the legal means, you will know

exactly what you're purchasing. And I think that's something we should be looking forward to, given that over 24 states have already passed legalization. With that, Mr. Speaker, I end my comments. *Mahalo*."

Representative Ward rose to respond, stating:

"Mr. Speaker, how many times I'm against this? Mr. Speaker, the reality is, even if, and look, I voted for medical marijuana. It's great, medicinal, it's helping a lot of people survive. But the reality is, 80% of that market is going to the black market, they're not going to the dispensaries. That's why the dispensary is saying, hey, we're not making any money. So, the fact that we're going to control the black market is a fairy tale. It's going to proliferate.

"Which again, unless we're blind or deaf, we cannot see what happened in Colorado, where the Chinese and the cartels came in and the black market is gangbusters. California, the same way. Why would people refuse to come to Hawai'i to open up a black market? Doesn't make sense, Mr. Speaker.

"The point is, this stuff is going in a direction which, if we let this bill out to promote it, versus if we vote against it, we inhibit it. Everybody's saying, well, we should promote it, who votes for this. Should we be promoting more consumption of marijuana when in effect it's available anytime, anywhere, by anybody.

"I'm actually saddened to think that the gateway argument is still moot. If you look at the science of it, even the history of the medical, the drug issue, why did we become the meth capital of the nation? Because marijuana prices went up, meth prices were cheap. You could get the same high for less amount of money."

Representative Quinlan rose to a point of order, stating:

"Point of order, Mr. Speaker. It is irresponsible to again, to conflate the high you get from marijuana with the high you get from methamphetamines. They are not in the same world. They do not have nearly the same effects on brain chemistry. There is a huge body of literature out there that is very clear on the differences between crystal methamphetamine and marijuana."

The Chair addressed Representative Ward, stating:

"Representative Ward, please confine your remarks to the measure before us."

Representative Ward continued, stating:

"Mr. Speaker, my point was it was a market variable. It wasn't anything to do with this biological stuff, it was a market factor. It was too expensive for marijuana, and meth gave you the same high, cheaper. That's what I said, that's what I meant.

"But my point of continuing this discussion is, if it's not a gateway, then there wouldn't have been as much marijuana addiction of which, particularly UK science has proven that this is clearly a gateway. Unfortunately, it's still kind of a matter of judging, well you interpret the science to be a yes, the science to be no. But we have some very obvious examples for us, facing us right in the face, and we're not looking at it. We are either blind or deaf. What happened in Colorado, what happened in California, and what is going on with the Oregonians who are saying, oh my god, we allowed mushrooms and anything that gets you high to be legal. And they're saying, well, maybe that's not the best thing for our society, not the best things for our youth, not the best things for our people.

"If we want to protect the people of Hawai'i, Mr. Speaker, we should not be promoting this with a bill, but we should be inhibiting it. Let it go. It's already legal, it's already available. Let us just leave it as it is and not promoting it. In many ways, when we did medical marijuana, we said, that's the full stop and we will not go further than that. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, this is not a good bill. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In strong support. I first would like to adopt the words of the chair of the Judiciary Committee into the Journal as if they were my own," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Kapela continued, stating:

"And then another brief comment. Our current threshold that is decriminalized for possession is three grams, and that continues to result in hundreds of individuals being arrested in Hawai'i every single year and facing possible jail time for simple possession of cannabis. Once again, simple possession of a plant.

"Our cannabis decriminalization law is the lowest amount of all decriminalization and legalization laws in the U.S. Most laws apply to at least an ounce. Removing criminal penalties for certain cannabis offenses will keep people out of jail and save taxpayer dollars. We currently spend over \$250 per day, that's over \$90,000 per year, to incarcerate a single adult. Approximately 39% of incarcerated detainees are Hawaiian, according to a comprehensive study by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. And that number is even worse for Hawaiian women, who comprise 44% of the state's female inmate population.

"Jailing people for smoking a plant is what destroys lives. Keeping people in jail, continuing to detain them, is what destroys families. I think that this is a small step when we consider a community of care and when we consider taking a drug and a medicine, such as cannabis, and ensuring that we actually move towards reforming our cannabis laws to be much more justice-oriented and restorative for our communities. So, that's why I'm in support."

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

Representative Matayoshi rose to respond, stating:

"Still in opposition, Mr. Speaker. Just briefly, I wanted to emphasize the point made by the shorter representative from Kāne'ohe, that there are no safeguards on this bill, unlike the recreational marijuana bill. What we have here is normalization without any education involved. Also, when I was formerly vice chair of Judiciary, we actually asked the Judiciary how many people are currently in jail just for simple possession of marijuana. And the numbers, I think, were under 10 people. I mean, there's almost no one in jail just for simple possession. It's usually simple possession along with other crimes. Thank you."

Representative Gates rose to respond, stating:

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a just a quick comment. As we mentioned incarceration of our Native Hawaiian people, I definitely believe that Operation Green Harvest, when Hawai'i took a stance to go after anyone using or growing cannabis, the attorney general acknowledges that the green harvest has a direct correlation to Hawai'i's meth epidemic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Representative Ward rose in opposition to the measure and asked that his written remarks be inserted in the Journal, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Ward's written remarks are as follows:

"Mr. Speaker, I am in opposition to this measure. My views on the impact of legalizing this measure are best articulated by Prosecutor Steven Alm in his October 8, 2023 op-ed in the Star Advertiser entitled, 'Legalizing marijuana will cause harm.'"

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1596, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Chun, Garrett, Takenouchi, and Woodson voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Kila, Kitagawa, Kobayashi, Kong, La Chica, Lamosao, Matayoshi, Matsumoto, Nishimoto, Pierick, Souza, and Ward voting no, and with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Belatti, for the Committee on Health & Homelessness, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 267-24) recommending that H.B. No. 408, as amended in HD 1, be recommitted to the Committee on Health & Homelessness.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 408, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH," was recommitted to the Committee on Health & Homelessness,

with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

Representative Evslin, for the Committee on Housing, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 268-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2007, as amended in HD 1, be recommitted to the Committee on Housing.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2007, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOUSING," was recommitted to the Committee on Housing, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

SUSPENSION OF RULES

On motion by Representative Morikawa, seconded by Representative Garcia and carried, the rules were suspended for the purpose of considering a certain House Bill for Third Reading by consent calendar. (Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd were excused.)

THIRD READING

H.B. No. 2520:

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, 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 Third Reading by a vote of 45 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Souza voting no, and with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

At 1:00 p.m., the Chair noted that the following bill passed Third Reading:

H.B. No. 2520

SUSPENSION OF RULES

On motion by Representative Morikawa, seconded by Representative Garcia and carried, the rules were suspended for the purpose of considering a certain House Bill for Final Reading by consent calendar. (Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd were excused.)

FINAL READING

H.B. No. 129:

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, H.B. No. 129, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO RECOUNTS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 46 ayes, with Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd being excused.

At 1:01 p.m., the Chair noted that the following bill passed Final Reading:

H.B. No. 129

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

By unanimous consent, the following resolutions (H.R. Nos. 5 through 7) and concurrent resolutions (H.C.R. Nos. 15 through 17) were referred to Printing and further action was deferred:

H.R. No. 5, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO ESTABLISH A NEW SATELLITE CITY HALL OFFICE IN MILILANI TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT SERVICES," was offered by Representative Matsumoto.

H.R. No. 6, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO ESTABLISH A NEW POLICE SUBSTATION IN MILILANI TO INCREASE POLICE PRESENCE IN THE MILILANI COMMUNITY," was offered by Representative Matsumoto.

H.R. No. 7, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING THE STATEWIDE OFFICE ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING SOLUTIONS TO CONTRACT WITH A LOCAL NONPROFIT TO PROVIDE REGULAR CARE AND SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN CENTRAL OAHU," was offered by Representative Matsumoto.

H.C.R. No. 15, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO ESTABLISH A NEW SATELLITE CITY HALL OFFICE IN MILILANI TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT SERVICES," was offered by Representative Matsumoto.

H.C.R. No. 16, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO ESTABLISH A NEW POLICE SUBSTATION IN MILILANI TO INCREASE POLICE PRESENCE IN THE MILILANI COMMUNITY," was offered by Representative Matsumoto.

H.C.R. No. 17, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE STATEWIDE OFFICE ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING SOLUTIONS TO CONTRACT WITH A LOCAL NONPROFIT TO PROVIDE REGULAR CARE AND SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN CENTRAL OAHU," was offered by Representative Matsumoto.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMITTEE REASSIGNMENTS

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

<u>H.B. Nos.</u>	<u>Re-referred to:</u>
408, HD1	Jointly to the Committee on Health & Homelessness and the Committee on Human Services, then to the Committee on Finance
1525	Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, then to the Committee on Finance
1935, HD1	Committee on Transportation, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance
2007, HD1	Jointly to the Committee on Housing and the Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

ADJOURNMENT

At 1:02 p.m., on motion by Representative Morikawa, seconded by Representative Garcia and carried, the House of Representatives adjourned until noon tomorrow, Tuesday, February 13, 2024. (Representatives Amato, Lowen, Nakashima, Quinlan, and Todd were excused.)

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

House Communication dated February 12, 2024, from Brian L. Takeshita, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, to the Honorable President and members of the Senate, informing the Senate that the House has this day passed the following bill on Final Reading:

H.B. No. 129