

THIRTY-FOURTH DAY

Monday, March 18, 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 Roll was called showing all members present with the exception of Representatives Cochran and Sayama, who were excused.

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

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGES

The following message from the Governor (Gov. Msg. No. 7) was received and announced by the Clerk and was placed on file:

Gov. Msg. No. 7, dated March 15, 2024, providing updates on Maui wildfire recovery efforts.

INTRODUCTIONS

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

Representative Hashem introduced Carl Reynolds from The Council of State Governments.

Representative Perruso introduced Robert "Bob" Davis, complex area superintendent, Central O'ahu District, Hawai'i State Department of Education.

Representative Hussey-Burdick introduced Kalaheo High School Student Council members: Jessibelle Kahaulopua-Young, Victoria Miller, Autumn Miyamoto, David Na, Jenna Nguyen, Gabriel Wickley, and Joshua Won; student activities coordinator: Richard Lau; and her Kalaheo student intern: Falatunatuna Leasiolagi.

Representative Takenouchi introduced librarians: Sunny Pai, Meera Garud, Jessica Hogan, Vi Harada, and Carina Chernisky.

Representative Ilagan introduced his intern, Kari Sochor, her partner, Koa Quitevis, and daughter, Krislyn Genter-Sochor.

Representative Kong introduced his staff and interns: Yehenara Soukop, Min Geon Shin, Timothy Kim, and Ashley Hong.

ORDER OF THE DAY

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS
(FLOOR PRESENTATIONS)

The following resolution (H.R. No. 217) was announced by the Clerk and the following action taken:

H.R. No. 217, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE 2024 HAWAII STATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR AND THE 2024 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR FOR SCHOOL COMPLEX AREAS IN THE HONOLULU DISTRICT, LEEWARD DISTRICT, AND WINDWARD DISTRICT," was offered by Representative Woodson.

Representative Woodson moved that H.R. No. 217 be adopted, seconded by Representative Perruso.

Representative Woodson honored outstanding educators who continuously strive to provide the highest quality learning opportunities, and demonstrate exceptional innovation, leadership, and collaboration skills, both in and out of the classroom; and thanked them for the countless hours they dedicate to ensuring our *keiki* receive the education, personal development, and care they require to excel both in school and in life.

Representative Perruso recognized Ms. Freitas as a passionate educator committed to preparing students with real-world skills, and congratulated and introduced honoree who was seated on the Floor of the House:

Jackie Freitas, Leilehua High School, Hawai'i State Teacher of the Year.

Representative La Chica acknowledged Ms. Chang as a mentor to beginning teachers who is committed to the success and personal growth of her students, and congratulated and introduced honoree who was seated on the Floor of the House:

Laurie Chang, Ali'iolani Elementary School, Kaimukī-McKinley-Roosevelt Complex 2024 Teacher of the Year.

Representative Alcos recognized Mr. Sales for his commitment to the personal and professional development of Filipino students and for his involvement with the state's Seal of Biliteracy designation; commended Mr. Villanueva for his hands-on approaches to inspire his students to solve problems creatively; and congratulated and introduced honorees who were seated on the Floor the House:

Norman Ray Sales, Educational Specialist for the Hawai'i State Department of Education Na Kumu Alaka'i Teacher Leader Academy, Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani Complex 2024 Teacher of the Year; and

Ariel Villanueva, 'Ewa Makai Middle School, Campbell-Kapolei Complex 2024 Teacher of the Year.

Representative Gates acknowledged Ms. Soriano for her passion for STEM education and for encouraging students to strive for excellence; and congratulated and introduced honoree who was seated on the Floor of the House:

Donna Soriano, Wai'anae Elementary School, Nānākuli-Wai'anae Complex 2024 Teacher of the Year.

Representative Marten honored Mr. Kent for his mentorship and unwavering devotion to teaching and learning; and congratulated and introduced honoree who was seated on the Floor of the House:

Greg Kent, Kailua Elementary School, Kailua-Kalāheo Complex Teacher of the Year.

Representative Marten also thanked and introduced supporters of the honorees who were seated in the gallery:

Laurie Chang: Dorothy Izumi and Gail Izumi;

Norman Sales: James Urbanak, Mia Lynch-Urbanak, and Orla Lunch-Urbaniah;

Donna Soriano: Christine Stark, Carmela De Emzman, Lisa Moynittan, Lauren Nix, and Justine Pyle; and

Greg Kent: Kelli and Keiko Kent.

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and H.R. No. 217 was adopted, with Representatives Cochran and Sayama being excused.

At 12:17 p.m., the Chair declared a recess to allow the members to meet and congratulate the honorees.

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

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Representative Perruso, for the Committee on Higher Education and Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1161-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2287, SD 2, 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 S.B. No. 2287, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran and Sayama being excused.

Representatives Woodson and Belatti, for the Committee on Education and the Committee on Health & Homelessness, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1162-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2476, 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 Committees was adopted and S.B. No. 2476, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DENTAL HYGIENISTS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, with Representatives Cochran and Sayama being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1163-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2640, SD 2, 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 S.B. No. 2640, SD 2, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"In opposition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill seeks to amend the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act to authorize the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to provide cash awards to beneficiaries on the waiting list in lieu of a lease. It amends the Hawaiian Home Loan Fund to be allowed for the use of cash payments, and it requires DHHL to remove those names from the waitlist.

"Mr. Speaker, we should be ashamed of ourselves for even considering this bill in the House. So, because our state failed miserably to fulfill our duty as required under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, we now seek to remove names from the waitlist by offering wait listers a cash award. What an insult. What a slap in the face to the families who have died on the waitlist, to the legacy of Prince Kuhio and to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act itself.

"In just a few days, we will all be celebrating the life and legacy of Prince Kuhio. If only he were here to see that 103 years after he worked so hard, as a nonvoting member of Congress, the Hawai'i State Legislature would consider paying off Hawaiians instead of fulfilling our duty. In a letter written by Prince Kuhio to the U.S. senators in 1921, he said, 'after extensive investigation and survey on the part of various organizations organized to rehabilitate the Hawaiian race, it was found that the only method in which to rehabilitate the race was to place them back upon the soil.'

"Mr. Speaker, this bill does not place the Hawaiian people back upon their soil. And there were some testifiers who mentioned in their testimony that this seems to be a bribe.

"A few years back, Hawaiian Home Lands sent out a survey to the wait listers inquiring their thoughts on a potential payout. The overwhelming majority of wait listers said, we don't want the money, give us our lease.

"In honor of Prince Kuhio and his fight for our *lāhui*, I urge this body to vote no on this bill and focus on actually doing our jobs and fulfilling the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act instead of paying people off to excuse our massive failure."

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

"Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. In support. Just to make it clear, this measure merely authorizes the Hawaiian Homes Commission, if they so choose, at their own discretion, to establish a program with guidelines that would provide for what is envisioned in this bill as an alternative. We're not compelling the commission to do this. We recognize that there has to be very thoughtful design of such a program in consultation with beneficiaries. All that has to happen.

"So, this legislature is eager to meet our needs. And we have invested significant appropriations in order to get the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to a position where they can offer lots for Hawaiians to be able to settle for residential and other purposes. But I think what we need to do is to provide as many tools as possible to the commission so they can be successful. This is one more tool. It's not a mandate, it's just an authorization. So, I urge members to support it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

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

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Strong reservations, almost a no. I have two problems, why I'm far away from no. Number one, it's blank. I'm talking about the structure of the incentives. If the money is *manini*, it's really a slap in the face of all the Hawaiians. If it's something substantial where they can almost buy a condo, that's there. So, my first problem is, and why I have doubts, is because there's no money that says, it's all blank.

"The second thing is, unless people are old and have no kids, this is the only thing that would make sense. In other words, if we target it, saying, like a means test, this would be an age test and you have no children, then for those people who've waited 20 years and they're maybe 75, 85 years old, this would make sense. But for the others, Mr. Speaker, it may get close to being the B word, which I didn't say, so I don't get called out of order. Thank you."

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

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

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

Representative Hussey-Burdick rose and asked that the Clerk record an aye vote with reservations for her, 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."

Representative Matsumoto 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 S.B. No. 2640, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Alcos, Amato, Hussey-Burdick, Kapela, Matsumoto, Perruso, Poepoe, and Ward voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Garcia and Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Cochran and Sayama being excused.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Quinlan: "Members, I'd like to wish you all a belated Saint Patrick's Day. On behalf of the people of Ireland, as well as Senate President Mark Daly, as has become tradition, I'd like to invite you all to take a picture with me outside on the *makai* stairs on the rotunda to send to our friends in the Irish Senate. And as a reward for taking this picture with me, a reward now, I will be serving food after session on Thursday for all members. So, please come on by the office, 433. Thank you."

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:32 p.m., on motion by Representative Morikawa, seconded by Representative Garcia and carried, the House of Representatives adjourned until noon tomorrow, Tuesday, March 19, 2024. (Representatives Cochran and Sayama were excused.)