

## FIFTY-NINTH DAY

**Wednesday, May 1, 2024**

The House of Representatives of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2024, convened at 9:07 a.m., with Vice Speaker Ilagan presiding.

The invocation was delivered by Representative Sean Quinlan, after which the Roll was called showing all members present with the exception of Representatives Ganaden and Ichiyama, who were excused.

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

## GOVERNOR'S MESSAGES

The following message from the Governor (Gov. Msg. No. 10) was received and announced by the Clerk and was placed on file:

Gov. Msg. No. 10, dated April 26, 2024, recommending the immediate passage of the following emergency appropriation bills:

S.B. No. 3091, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, Making an Emergency Appropriation to the Department of Education for Food Services.

S.B. No. 3092, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, Making an Emergency Appropriation to the Department of Education for Charter Schools.

## SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications from the Senate (Sen. Com. Nos. 793 through 796) were received and announced by the Clerk:

Sen. Com. No. 793, dated April 26, 2024, informing the House that the following bill has this day passed Final Reading:

H.B. No. 1800, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1

Sen. Com. No. 794, dated April 25, 2024, informing the House that the Senate has reconsidered its action in disagreeing to the amendments proposed by the House to the following Senate Bill and has moved to agree to the amendments, and that said bill has this day passed Final Reading:

S.B. No. 3125, SD 2, HD 2

Sen. Com. No. 795, dated April 26, 2024, informing the House that the Senate has reconsidered its action in disagreeing to the amendments proposed by the House to the following Senate Concurrent Resolutions and has moved to agree to the amendments, and that said resolutions were this day adopted:

S.C.R. No. 13, SD 1, HD 1

S.C.R. No. 81, SD 1, HD 1

Sen. Com. No. 796, dated April 25, 2024, informing the House that the Senate has agreed to the amendments proposed by the House to the following Senate Concurrent Resolution, and that said resolution was this day adopted:

S.C.R. No. 45, SD 1, HD 1

## INTRODUCTIONS

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

Representative Nakamura introduced from LRB's Public Access Room: Virginia Beck, retiring coordinator; Andy Langhurst Eickholt, incoming coordinator; Courtney Mrowczynski, assistant researcher; Keanu Young, assistant coordinator; Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi, director, Legislative Reference Bureau; her staff, Ben Viernes; and her son, Reis Nakamura.

Representatives Lamosao and Aiu introduced tech support staff: Sarah Chang, Jonathan Misola, Kaleo Yogi-Hino, Bob Soi, EJ Jacob, Matthew Meheula, Nicholas Miyamoto-Pennywell, Alize Brash, Jaclyn Bregman, Ricky Mashita, Leihala Dutertre, and Niveen Bacalso.

Representative Poepoe introduced her staff: Charlotte Farmer, Kiera Williams, Ashley Perreira, and Nichole Cavada.

Representative Matsumoto introduced Air Force Recruiting Team: Master Sergeant Derek Guerin, Master Sergeant Frederick Hough, Master Sergeant Tenzin Choegoyab, Master Sergeant Mario Soriano, Jr., Technical Sergeant Victor Jones and Tatiana Jones, Staff Sergeant Marco Small Gonzalez, GERALYNE K. Miggins; and her staff, Sanjuana Soriano.

Representative La Chica introduced Richard Stacey, deputy attorney general.

Representative Kapela introduced members of the Hawai'i Workers Center.

Vice Speaker Ilagan introduced his staff: Nicky Watts, Kari Sochor, and Ariel Hall.

At 9:20 a.m., the Chair declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The House of Representatives reconvened at 10:09 a.m.

Representative Kila introduced 11th and 12th grade students from Nānākuli High School: Addeson Akuna, Anthony Fajardo, Caleb Coburn, Analisa Hussey-Keller, Richard Federico, Azlyn Kalua, Talitonu Keohuhu, Rayne Akau, Dylan Levey, Erica Fulgencio, Daven Melchor, Kaleokalani Gomes-McKeague, Kingston Salausa, Xander Troy Gueco, Ajayden Sylva-Kanagusuku-Curlee, Kaylob Amaral-Palakiko, Dennis Lolani, Trust Tinai, Angelika Kaeith, Marcos Sunny Ramos, Moana Budomo, and Rayden Akau; educational assistant, Selma Amaral; and Kumu Julie Reyes Oda.

## ORDER OF THE DAY

## SUSPENSION OF RULES

At this time, the Chair stated:

"Members, we will first take up a few measures out of order. Please turn to page 28 and refer to CCR 85-24."

On motion by Representative Morikawa, seconded by Representative Garcia and carried, the rules were suspended for the purpose of considering certain House and Senate Bills for Final Reading by consent calendar. (Representative Ichiyama was excused.)

## ORDINARY CALENDAR

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

## Conf. Com. Rep. No. 85-24 and S.B. No. 1511, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1:

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 1511, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

At this time, Representative Todd offered Floor Amendment No. 8, amending S.B. No. 1511, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1 as follows:

SECTION 1. Senate Bill No. 1511, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1, section 9, is amended by amending page 17, lines 5 to 9, to read as follows:

"SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024; provided that the amendments made to section 304A-3003, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by section 4 of this Act shall apply only to contracts entered into by the research corporation of the university of Hawaii after June 30, 2024."

Representative Todd moved that Floor Amendment No. 8 be adopted, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Todd rose to speak in support of the proposed floor amendment, stating:

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support. I just wanted to note that this is a very small floor amendment just to amend the date, just so that we're not

interfering with any current RCUH contracts. So, I would encourage you all to support this. Thank you."

The motion that Floor Amendment No. 8, amending S.B. No. 1511, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII," be adopted, was put to vote by the Chair and carried, with Representative Ichiyama being excused.

At 10:13 a.m., the Chair noted that Floor Amendment No. 8 was adopted.

At this time, the Chair stated:

"Members, please note the 48-hour notice for this measure. Now let's please turn to page 40 and refer to CCR 182-24."

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 182-24 and S.B. No. 63, SD 2, HD 3, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 63, SD 2, HD 3, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

At this time, Representative Belatti offered Floor Amendment No. 9, amending S.B. No. 63, SD 2, HD 3, CD 1 as follows:

SECTION 1. Senate Bill No. 63, S.D. 2, H.D. 3, C.D. 1, section 1, is amended by amending page 1, line 4, to page 2, line 3, to read as follows:

"§457- Temporary permit. (a) The board may issue a temporary permit to a practical nurse or registered nurse licensed in another jurisdiction who:

- (1) Completes an application on a form prescribed by the board;
- (2) Pays all applicable fees to the board as prescribed by administrative rules;
- (3) Provides proof of a valid and unencumbered license in another state, territory, or country by way of a license verification from the other state, territory, or country, or Nursys license verification report as prescribed by administrative rules; and
- (4) The board has determined that no disciplinary action has been taken or is pending with a nursing authority."

SECTION 2. Senate Bill No. 63, S.D. 2, H.D. 3, C.D. 1, section 1, is amended by amending page 3, lines 1 to 3 to read as follows:

"(4) The board has determined that no disciplinary action has been taken or is pending with a nursing authority."

SECTION 3. Senate Bill No. 63, S.D. 2, H.D. 3, C.D. 1, section 1, is amended by amending page 3, lines 12 to 17, to read as follows:

"(c) Beginning July 1, 2025, notwithstanding sections 457-7 and 457-8, an out-of-state registered nurse or licensed practical nurse may apply for a temporary permit based on the requirements of subsections (a) or (b), simultaneously with an application for a license to practice as a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse in the State."

SECTION 4. Senate Bill No. 63, S.D. 2, H.D. 3, C.D. 1, section 8, is amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2025."

Representative Belatti moved that Floor Amendment No. 9 be adopted, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Belatti rose to speak in support of the proposed floor amendment, stating:

"Mr. Speaker, this floor amendment does three simple things. It removes a requirement for fingerprinting and query report by the National Practitioner Data Bank, as well as makes an effective date of January 1, 2025. I ask members to support this measure as it streamlines the process for temporary licensure for nurses."

The motion that Floor Amendment No. 9, amending S.B. No. 63, SD 2, HD 3, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO NURSES," be adopted, was put to vote by the Chair and carried, with Representative Ichiyama being excused.

At 10:14 a.m., the Chair noted that Floor Amendment No. 9 was adopted.

At this time, the Chair stated:

"Members, please note the 48-hour notice for this measure. Please turn to page 41 and refer to CCRs 188-24 through 190-24."

At 10:15 a.m., the Chair declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The House of Representatives reconvened at 10:15 a.m.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 188-24 and H.B. No. 40, SD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 40, SD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

At this time, Representative Yamashita offered Floor Amendment No. 10, amending H.B. No. 40, SD 1, CD 1 as follows:

SECTION 1. House Bill No. 40, S.D. 1, C.D. 1, is amended by amending section 4 to:

- (1) Increase the amount and percentage by which the state general fund expenditure ceiling will be exceeded as a result of the appropriations contained in this measure; and

- (2) Make a technical, nonsubstantive amendment on page 3, line 6, to read as follows:

"SECTION 4. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the appropriations contained in this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by \$323,323,869 or 3.1 per cent. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

- (1) The appropriations made in this Act are necessary to serve the public interest; and
- (2) The appropriations made in this Act meet the needs addressed by this Act."

Representative Yamashita moved that Floor Amendment No. 10 be adopted, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Yamashita rose to speak in support of the proposed floor amendment, stating:

"Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In support. This amendment merely changes the expenditure ceiling for this measure. Thank you."

The motion that Floor Amendment No. 10, amending H.B. No. 40, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE GENERAL FUND," be adopted, was put to vote by the Chair and carried, with Representative Ichiyama being excused.

At 10:16 a.m., the Chair noted that Floor Amendment No. 10 was adopted.

At this time, the Chair stated:

"Members, please note the 48-hour notice for this measure."

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 189-24 and S.B. No. 3068, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 3068, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

At this time, Representative Yamashita offered Floor Amendment No. 11, amending S.B. No. 3068, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1 as follows:

SECTION 1. Senate Bill No. 3068, S.D.1, H.D.1, C.D. 1 is amended by amending Section 2 of the bill to read:

"SECTION 2. (a) In accordance with section 9 of article VII of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the appropriations contained in H.B. No. 40, S.D. 1, C.D. 1, will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be

exceeded by \$323,323,869 or 3.1 per cent. In addition, the appropriations contained in this Act will cause the general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further exceeded by \$221,189,453 or 2.1 per cent. The combined total amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by \$544,513,322 or 5.2 per cent.

(b) In accordance with section 9 of article VII of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the appropriations contained in this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by \$221,189,453 or 2.1 per cent.

(c) The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

- (1) The appropriations made in this Act are necessary to serve the public interest; and
- (2) The appropriations made in this Act meet the needs addressed by this Act."

SECTION 2. Senate Bill No. 3068, S.D.1, H.D.1, C.D. 1 is amended by amending Section 7(a) of the bill to read:

"SECTION 7. (a) The department of human services is authorized to fund six full-time equivalent (6.0 FTE) temporary positions to be funded by federal funds."

SECTION 3. Senate Bill No. 3068, S.D.1, H.D.1, C.D. 1 is amended by inserting a new section after Section 8 of the bill to read:

"SECTION 9. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$424,344 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to establish six full-time equivalent (6.0 FTE) permanent positions in the Hawaii emergency management agency for Maui wildfire recovery and emergency support functions.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii emergency management agency (DEF 118) for the purposes of this section."

SECTION 4. Senate Bill No. 3068, S.D.1, H.D.1, C.D. 1 is amended by renumbering Sections 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 as Sections 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16.

SECTION 5. Senate Bill No. 3068, S.D.1, H.D.1, C.D. 1 is amended by renumbering the existing Section 16 as Section 17 and further amending it to read:

"SECTION 17. Act 164, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, as amended by House Bill 1800, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1, passed by the legislature during the regular session of 2024, is amended as follows:

1. By amending Part II, section 3, item A-24 to read:

"24. BED160 - HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

OPERATING	BED	150,000,000A	[230,000,000A]
			A
	BED	3,100,000N	3,100,000N
		23.00*	23.00*
		45.00#	45.00#
	BED	13,533,889W	14,046,265W
	BED	3,000,000P	3,000,000P
INVESTMENT CAPITAL	BED	45,000,000C	C"

2. By adding two new sections to Part III to read:

"SECTION \_\_\_\_ . Provided that of the general fund appropriation for the Hawaii association of conservation districts (LNR141), the sum of \$400,000 or so much thereof as is necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 shall be expended in accordance with chapter 180, Hawaii Revised Statutes, in areas affected by Hurricane Dora in 2023; provided further that:

- (1) The moneys shall be used to match extramural funding for stormwater management for drought resiliency and reducing wildfire risk;
- (2) No later than thirty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2025, the department of land and natural resources shall submit a report to the legislature accounting for the usage of funds; and

- (3) These funds are deemed necessary to qualify for federal aid financing or reimbursement.

SECTION \_\_\_\_ . Provided that of the general fund appropriation for amelioration of natural disasters (DEF110), the sum of \$194,000 or so much thereof as is necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 shall be expended for civilian auxiliary aviation services, which may include search and rescue efforts, damage assessments, aerial photography of impacted areas, alerts and notifications, and transportation of supplies."

3. By adding a new section to Part V to read:

"SECTION \_\_\_\_ . Provided that the sums appropriated to the county of Maui (SUB401) for wildfire recovery projects in this act denoted in section 7 as items K-18.1, K-18.2, K-18.3, K-18.4, K-18.5, K-18.6, K-18.7, and K-18.8 shall be expended by the county of Maui for the purposes of this Act; provided further that the county of Maui shall reimburse the State for all debt service including principal, interest, and any other debt-related costs for the reimbursable general obligation bonds; provided further that any debt service reimbursements received by the State may be paid from tax revenue or any other source received by the county of Maui, and from reimbursements to the county of Maui by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as allowed by law."

SECTION 6. Senate Bill No. 3068, S.D.1, H.D.1, C.D. 1 is amended by renumbering the existing Section 17 as Section 18.

SECTION 7. Senate Bill No. 3068, S.D.1, H.D.1, C.D. 1 is amended by inserting a new section after the existing Section 17 of the bill to read:

"SECTION 19. Act 257, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, as amended by Act 175, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, is amended by amending sections 1 and 2 to read as follows:

"SECTION 1. [There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 to be deposited into the school facilities special fund.] Repealed.

SECTION 2. [There is appropriated out of the school facilities special fund the sum of \$200,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 for the school facilities authority to expand access to pre-kindergarten to eligible children of the State. The school facilities authority may expend the moneys appropriated in this section on:

- (4) The construction of new school facilities;
- (2) The renovation, improvement, and expansion of existing school facilities to increase pre-kindergarten student capacity; and
- (3) Any other costs the school facilities authority deems appropriate to increase pre-kindergarten student capacity within the State.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the school facilities authority for the purposes of this Act; provided that the appropriation authorized by this Act shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is made; provided further that the appropriation authorized by this Act shall lapse on June 30, 2024.] Repealed."

SECTION 8. Senate Bill No. 3068, S.D.1, H.D.1, C.D. 1 is amended by renumbering the existing Section 18 as Section 20.

SECTION 9. Senate Bill No. 3068, S.D.1, H.D.1, C.D. 1 is amended by renumbering the existing Section 19 as Section 21 and further amending it to read:

"SECTION 21. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored."

SECTION 10. Senate Bill No. 3068, S.D.1, H.D.1, C.D. 1 is amended by renumbering the existing Section 20 as Section 22.

Representative Yamashita moved that Floor Amendment No. 11 be adopted, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Yamashita rose to speak in support of the proposed floor amendment, stating:

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This amendment adds \$230 million from the Rental Housing Revolving Fund, the fund that was inadvertently left out in CD 1. Also lapses \$185 from the School Facilities Authority, which also

was inadvertently left out in CD 1. Makes corrections to the appropriations to HMS for six federal positions for case disaster management. And to DEF, six general fund positions for emergency support for \$424,344. Also, amends the expenditure ceiling and other technical non substantive changes."

The motion that Floor Amendment No. 11, amending S.B. No. 3068, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR WILDFIRE RECOVERY," be adopted, was put to vote by the Chair and carried, with Representative Ichiyama being excused.

At 10:18 a.m., the Chair noted that Floor Amendment No. 11 was adopted.

At this time, the Chair stated:

"Members, please note the 48-hour notice for this measure."

At 10:18 a.m., the Chair declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The House of Representatives reconvened at 10:19 a.m.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 190-24 and H.B. No. 2374, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2374, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

At this time, Representative Matayoshi offered Floor Amendment No. 12, amending H.B. No. 2374, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1 as follows:

SECTION 1. House Bill No. 2374, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1, is amended by deleting part I of the bill.

SECTION 2. House Bill No. 2374, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1, is amended by redesignating parts II and III as parts I and II, respectively.

SECTION 3. House Bill No. 2374, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1, is amended by appropriately renumbering certain section references accordingly.

SECTION 4. House Bill No. 2374, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1, is amended by adding a new part on page 3 to read as follows:

**"PART III**

SECTION 5. There are appropriated from the sources of funding indicated below to administration (JUD 601) the following sums or so much thereof as may be necessary to fund for fiscal biennium 2023-2025 all collective bargaining cost items in the agreement negotiated with the exclusive representative of collective bargaining units (1) and (10) and their excluded counterparts:

	<u>FY 2023-2024</u>	<u>FY 2024-2025</u>
General funds	-0-	1,709,922

SECTION 6. Funds appropriated by this part shall be expended by the chief justice in the respective fiscal year for the purposes of this part."

SECTION 5. House Bill No. 2374, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1, section 11, is amended by renumbering it as section 12 and making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment on page 6, line 6.

SECTION 6. House Bill No. 2374, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1, section 13, is amended by renumbering it as section 14 and amending section 14 to read as follows:

"SECTION 14. (a) In accordance with section 9 of article VII of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the appropriations contained in H.B. No. 40, S.D. 1, C.D. 1, will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by \$323,323,869 or 3.1 per cent. In addition, the appropriations contained in this Act will cause the general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further exceeded by \$365,395,743 or 3.3 per cent. The combined total amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by \$688,719,612 or 6.4 per cent.

(b) In accordance with section 9 of article VII of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and 37-93, Hawaii Revised

Statutes, the legislature has determined that the appropriations contained in this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by \$365,395,743 or 3.3 per cent.

(c) The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

- (1) The appropriations made in this Act are necessary to serve the public interest; and
- (2) The appropriations made in this Act meet the needs addressed by this Act."

SECTION 7. House Bill No. 2374, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1, section 14, is amended by renumbering it as section 15 and to read as follows:

"SECTION 15. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024."

Representative Matayoshi moved that Floor Amendment No. 12 be adopted, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Matayoshi rose to speak in support of the proposed floor amendment, stating:

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support. This simply amends to fix an oversight, adding the UPW settlement amount for the Judiciary, which was negotiated separately. This change will add \$1,709,992 to hazard pay for a grand total of \$365,395,743, and it fixes the expenditure ceiling amounts."

The motion that Floor Amendment No. 12, amending H.B. No. 2374, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS," be adopted, was put to vote by the Chair and carried, with Representative Ichiyama being excused.

At 10:20 a.m., the Chair noted that Floor Amendment No. 12 was adopted.

At this time, the Chair stated:

"Members, please note the 48-hour notice for this measure. Please turn to page 2 and refer to CCR 1-24 for the state budget."

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 1-24 and H.B. No. 1800, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1800, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

At this time, Representative Pierick offered Floor Amendment No. 13, amending H.B. No. 1800, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1 as follows:

SECTION 1. House Bill No. 1800, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1, is amended by amending section 4, page 47, lines 9 through 20, to read:

"2. AGS881 - STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS

		1.50*	1.50*
OPERATING	AGS	10,330,534A	<del>[-10,333,356A]</del> 10,585,556A
		17.00*	17.00*
	AGS	5,675,823B	5,717,241B
		4.50*	4.50*
	AGS	805,300N	<del>[-805,300N]</del> 907,500N
		1.00#	1.00#
	AGS	70,175T	70,175T"

Representative Pierick moved that Floor Amendment No. 13 be adopted, seconded by Representative Ward.

Representative Pierick rose to speak in support of the proposed floor amendment, stating:

"Thank you. We have a great state budget, and this amendment would remove about some million dollars on the pool project that's around the Capitol. I think we should be focusing money elsewhere and not on revitalizing a pool around the Capitol. Perhaps we just fill it up with dirt, move forward. And then with regards to the rail, a lot of our constituents

don't like the rail. So, I don't think we should be putting \$40 million-plus towards the rail. Let's nix that item and then pass the budget."

Representative Yamashita rose to speak in opposition to the proposed floor amendment, stating:

"Mr. Speaker, in opposition. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As far as the funds that are going for the pool, this is money that has already been allocated to the special fund for the Culture and the Arts for art, which this project was approved by their board for that purpose. And as far as other things, Mr. Speaker, my recommendation is that the members vote this down. Secondly, Mr. Speaker, normally we don't move to amend the budget without agreement with the Senate. If we did this, this would be substantial where it could reopen negotiations, it could waste hundreds, maybe thousands of staff hours that went into putting together this budget, it could extend session, it could add to cost of government, which I am opposed to. So, I vote no."

Representative Pierick rose to respond, stating:

"Thank you. It was mentioned that by passing this amendment, we're going to extend our work hours and increase our budget by a lot of money. This amendment is to decrease the budget by over \$50 million. I don't think passing this amendment is going to match that cost. Thank you."

The motion that Floor Amendment No. 13, amending H.B. No. 1800, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET," be adopted, was put to vote by the Chair and upon a voice vote, failed to carry, with Representative Ichiyama being excused.

(Main Motion)

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

"Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I'd like to thank, Mr. Speaker, you and your leadership team for your support as far as the Finance Committee. I'd like to thank the members of the Finance Committee for their support throughout the session. And, of course, all the chairs that have helped put this budget together and the members of this body, I thank you so much for all your help through this process.

"Of course, all of us know that this cannot be done without the hard work of our staff. And so, I told them they don't have to come down today, so I didn't have to introduce them all. But I do want to thank all of them for all their hard work and the long hours that they did put in on this budget. In House Draft 1, I thanked them individually, if I could insert that into this speech. Thank you, Mr. Speaker," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Yamashita continued, stating:

"This session began with an immediate focus on the Maui wildfire recovery efforts. The challenge was to balance the needs of all our community while ensuring core services for our state were not neglected. Despite the fact that funding uncertainties still exist with the Maui wildfire recovery efforts, this budget reflects the collaboration and ensures that resources for mental health services and health care for all, community-based care for the disabled and elderly, business and workforce development, child care and education, affordable housing, and public welfare will all be available.

"We crafted the state budget with careful consideration, reflecting the House's dedication to fiscal prudence, accountability, and transparency. Mr. Speaker, on Opening Day, you advised us that to center Hawai'i is to center values that make sense for island communities and for our responsibilities as stewards of the public trust. It would mean, for example, to say, among many things that we need and want, presenting themselves in the wake of the fire, that the needs and the wellbeing of the local people of Maui and the residents of Lahaina come first.

"Mr. Speaker, we delivered on that promise during this legislative session. We put significant resources and investments into this year's budget to support Maui's communities. \$1 billion in appropriations in 2024 and 2025 for Maui wildfire addressed food, housing, mental and health care, infrastructure recovery management, debris removal, and hazard mitigation. On behalf of my island home and my fellow representatives from Maui, I'd

like to extend my deepest gratitude for this body for placing Maui at the forefront of this year's budget. Thank you.

"Balancing the needs and strengths for a social safety net and the core functions as we address the recovery efforts to meet the needs of wildfire devastation, we're keenly aware of the lingering effects of COVID-19 pandemic and the critical needs to strengthen our state's social safety net. This was accomplished by funding both the budget and related bills for mental health, human services, housing, hazard pay for the employees who were on the job during COVID-19.

"Additionally, long outstanding support for key areas that had to be accommodated, which include these things, recurring funding for the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, the University of Hawai'i, direct student-centered classroom programs in the Department of Education, revamping our biosecurity system to prevent the state from being overrun by invasive pests and disease. Mr. Speaker, the Legislature made significant investments in biosecurity to protect our island and natural resources."

Representative Takayama rose to yield his time, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Yamashita continued, stating:

"Thank you. Safeguarding our environment against invasive species that endanger Hawai'i's native species and community has been a challenge. Designating a centralized agency to bolster the defense of our lands and shores is a key step to protecting our natural habitat and preserve the well-being of our state.

"Mr. Speaker, over 450 inspectors and personnel at the federal level protect the United States from Hawai'i. They make sure that insects and other potential harmful species do not move from Hawai'i to the mainland. Over 450 personnel from the United States government. Mr. Speaker, we barely have 100 to protect Hawai'i from the world. Less than 100 people take on the task of protecting the islands from the world.

"This budget includes converting 66 positions from special and revolving funds to general funds to increase personnel to well over 100 employees. This is just one of the necessary steps to protect our 'āina and preserve the integrity of our borders. This frees up non general funds that can be used to address current and new invasive species coming from out of state. It will ensure the capacity to implement and to react to unanticipated threats.

"Additionally, Mr. Speaker, we have increased the budget to place responsibility for an invasive species to the Department of Agriculture. We recognize that preventative action is needed now more than ever.

"I want to thank this body for their hard work in crafting this budget that will benefit the welfare of the residents of the State of Hawai'i and lays a solid foundation for a path forward. I urge my colleagues to support this measure. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, Chair. In support. One of the main focuses of the House this year was to reevaluate the biosecurity procedures of the state and to provide a more cohesive system to address the current invasive species that are already here, as well as new ones that might take hold in our communities. To that end, in conjunction with \$20 million in House Bill 2619, the biosecurity omnibus bill, the budget includes \$4,341,890 in general fund appropriations in order to convert 66 positions from special fund or revolving funds, to redeploy those non general funds to better respond to existing or future biosecurity threats.

"This budget also appropriates \$1.5 million for Da Bux Program, double bux program. This program partners with grocery stores and food hubs to offer SNAP nutrition incentives as a 50% discount on Hawai'i-grown fruits and vegetables. Not only does Da Bux help low-income residents afford more local fruits and vegetables, but it also has a significant impact on the economy by giving these consumers an opportunity to engage in Hawai'i's food system by supporting our farmers.

"There's also \$1 million and three positions for meat inspectors. More inspectors grows our ability to increase our local protein supply in the state. \$733,076 for improvements to animal quarantine software systems for the

Department of Agriculture. \$275,160 to convert 6.5 agricultural commodity aids to general funds from revolving funds. \$93,434 in additional funds for a grant writer position for the Department of Agriculture. This can help the department draw down more needed federal funding. Also, \$750,000 and three positions for the East Kaua'i Irrigation System maintenance. This is important for agricultural infrastructure.

"As a highlight to help my district, this budget also transfers positions and funds to create the West Hawai'i District Office for the Department of Accounting and General Services. This will help all schools in West Hawai'i get more support for much needed repairs and maintenance. Thank you, Chair, and may I yield my time to my colleague from Waipahu."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in strong support. Mr. Speaker, this budget stands as a testament to our commitment to fostering economic growth and prosperity throughout our state. This budget embodies our dedication to supporting communities, uplifting local businesses, and bolstering key industries.

"First, I am grateful to announce the allocation of \$400,000 towards the menstrual products and dispensers in state buildings. This investment not only promotes hygiene but also enhances accessibility for those in need, ensuring that basic necessities are readily available to all.

"Furthermore, the provision of \$15.5 million for home and community-based services is a crucial step towards supporting our caregivers who tirelessly serve our communities without receiving a raise in over 15 years. This funding will provide them with the resources and support they deserve for their invaluable contributions. Additionally, the allocation of \$5 million for high pressure processing equipment signifies our commitment to innovation and technological advancement in key sectors. This investment will undoubtedly drive progress, competitiveness in our industries.

"Moreover, this budget allocates \$34 million for the Hawai'i Convention Center, which plays a vital role in attracting business and tourism in our state. This funding will ensure that the convention center remains as a beacon of opportunity and economic activity for years to come.

"The allocation of \$63 million and 30 positions for the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, including \$3.5 million for a smart tourism destination management application, underscores our commitment to revitalizing our tourism sector in a sustainable and forward-thinking manner.

"Furthermore, the allocation of \$13 million for a state match for broadband deployment signifies our dedication to bridging the digital divide and ensuring equitable access to essential services for all residents.

"Lastly, the allocation of \$6 million for the HTDC Accelerator demonstrates our unwavering support for the growth and development of local businesses, particularly within manufacturing and technology sectors. This investment will empower entrepreneurs and drive innovation, further solidifying our state as a hub for opportunity and progress.

"I urge this body to support this budget as it represents a bold and comprehensive approach for fostering economic growth, supporting our communities, and positioning our state for a prosperous future. *Mahalo*. I now yield my time to the colleague from District 35."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In strong support. Mr. Speaker, supporting our *kūpuna* and our most vulnerable populations continues to be a priority for the state. This budget does that by providing \$5.75 million as a state match and \$9.78 million in federal funds for increased reimbursement rates for community, residential, and adult day program services.

"This budget also accommodated \$250,000 in Senate Bill 2305, which creates a Silver Alert program. Also, \$400,000 for the Healthy Aging Partnership Program, and \$250,528 and three positions to continue the Windward Community College education program and Women's Community Correctional Center. I now yield to my colleague from District 27."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In strong support. Mr. Speaker, May is Mental Health Awareness Month, so I'm very excited to highlight some of the investment that this budget does for mental health and healthcare services in our communities. We're at a critical point where we need to expand access to care and strengthen our safety net services. This is an excellent starting point, and I hope we'll continue to build momentum to care for the people of our state. This budget provided over \$32 million to address mental health in the state, as well as improvements at the state hospital, including \$6.6 million in general funds for the Iwilei Behavioral Health Crisis Center and supportive housing services to get immediate care for the public and ensure individuals are able to get the appropriate level of care.

"There's also \$971,119 for 10 positions for new forensic psychologist positions, and \$528,531 for pay increases to our existing forensic psychologists statewide. This budget also includes \$8.8 million for new and existing group homes to provide community-based care, \$6.8 million in contracts for additional forensic beds at Castle, and \$9.5 million for forensic beds at the Hawai'i State Hospital. This budget also has \$2,150,665 for four positions at our state hospital for increased security and improvements after the tragedy that happened last fall. Lastly, it has \$18.8 million for increases in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division contracts to support our service providers doing work in the community. I urge the body to support this budget. I would also like to now yield to my colleague from Mānoa."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Rising in support. This budget reflects this body's commitment to reducing vacancies in state government and investing in the professional development of our workforce. Among other things, this budget includes the following. For the Department of Human Resources Development, \$730,080 for five positions and marketing funds to assist with the recruitment backlog. For the Department of the Attorney General, about \$526,000 and five positions for the Criminal Justice Division, about \$337,000 and four positions for the Civil Recoveries Division, and about \$2.4 million for the Career Criminal and Victim Witness Assistance Program.

"Mr. Speaker, this budget also allocates \$17 million in insurance premiums for the state, \$2.5 million for Microsoft G5 licenses, which will eventually provide opportunities for AI deployment, and \$470,000 for emergency radio systems for Hawai'i Wireless Interoperability Network. Mr. Speaker, we won't solve our vacancy problem overnight, but this budget represents a step in the right direction. I'd now like to yield to my colleague from House District 32."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support. This budget continues to invest in affordable housing and demonstrates our ongoing commitment to creating more affordable rental and for-sale housing for low- and moderate-income families in Hawai'i as we address the housing crisis. This budget allocates \$180 million into the Rental Housing Revolving Fund for tier one, which covers AMI level 0% through 60% AMI, and this budget also allocates \$25 million for tier two of the Rental Housing Revolving Fund, which covers escalation costs for already ongoing projects.

"This budget allocates \$560,000 and three positions to the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation to administer these programs, \$10.5 million to the Hawai'i Housing Public Authority for repair and maintenance, \$1.3 million for Homeless Programs Office contracts, and \$1.5 million for State Rental Supplement Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I now yield to my colleague from District 44."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support. Mr. Speaker, the Legislature before you is in a time where our infrastructure is now needing maintenance and repair from far before. The legislatures before us had the opportunity and privilege to do groundbreaking projects, but it is now the time of this legislature to acknowledge the mismanagement and delayed repair and maintenance for many projects across the state. But with this budget, we make them significant investments to acknowledge that we need to take care of our aging infrastructure.

"As we work continuously with our federal partners to draw down federal monies, it is imperative that the state makes an effort to invest into our

roadways. But not just our roadways, Mr. Speaker. Our airports and our harbors, and improving the safety of overall transportation. We are committed to doing that by just some of the highlights here in this budget. We've increased the ceiling for security at the airports by \$5.3 million, keeping our travelers safe and allowing for expeditious travel. \$1.2 million increase for security at the harbors as well, making sure that cargo is flowing smoothly and expeditiously into consumers hands. A \$900,000 increase for roadside maintenance contracts, as the Department of Transportation has taken on the heavy task to make sure that we are responsible partners in providing wildfire mitigation. \$3 million increase for roadside maintenance across all counties as well, acknowledging our partnership with our counties. A \$300,000 increase for the Hawai'i County Police services on state highways that we have implemented on Hawai'i Island. And an additional \$5 million for stored property ordinance and debris removal programs that we partner with our counties to safely dispose of the debris that may cause a hazard to our roadways.

"Mr. Speaker, this budget is also reflective of acknowledging that there are communities throughout the state that have faced long disrepair and access. Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful to our colleagues for acknowledging that and allocating CIP monies for land acquisition and design to allow the full access of the Pa'akea Road emergency parallel route. This was years in the making and now we are finally at the finish line, so I'm grateful to my colleague from Wai'anae and the colleagues of Nānākuli that have sat in the seat before us. And at \$3.45 million, this emergency bypass route will allow residents to safely traverse in and out of the coast in any time of despair.

"As we also acknowledge our investments in the Department of Transportation, we do not forget those who are often left behind. It has been a priority for the last two years to take care of our *keiki* and our young and vulnerable populations. And through a \$100,000 allocation, we'll be working with the Department of Education, the Department of Health to craft policies to acknowledge and help our students who are deaf and hard of hearing and are often left behind in our school systems. Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful for the budget that we have crafted, and I urge all members to support this. I now yield to my colleague from House District 13."

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

"In support. In addition to what was already mentioned, and to help mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change, maintain our natural spaces, and respond to environmental issues, this budget provides \$5,850,000 for forest and resource management, \$2 million ceiling increase for state parks for repair and maintenance of equipment, \$10 million ceiling increase for state parks for repair and maintenance statewide, \$1.5 million for Act 90 transfer surveys, \$475,000 for mesonet stream gauges and well monitors, three positions and \$750,000 for the Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative, \$451,732 for DLNR's administrative office, and seven positions and \$647,296 for DLNR's Human Resource Office.

"I also wanted to mention and express gratitude for the \$2 million for a pilot project for rural air medical transportation. The bill that went along with the funding didn't make it, but luckily the funding made it into the budget after kind of a roller coaster of ups and downs. But I just wanted to appreciate my colleagues and Finance chair and leadership for understanding how much of a difference this project could potentially make in my district and for getting it back into the budget after it was removed on the other side. This could very well save lives, or at the very least, drastically improve healthcare outcomes and access to medical care for residents in my district. So, thank you for your consideration and support for that. I will now yield to my colleague from House District 17."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In strong support. Greater focus on direct student learning is a priority of this budget. When we invest in quality education and building more resilient education systems, our communities will thrive. \$21 million for summer learning hubs, \$12.9 million for increases to weighted student formula and English Language Learners program, \$6 million for increases in weighted student formula for small and remote schools, \$2.48 million for workforce readiness, \$1.65 million for complex areas to address inflation-based cost increases, \$1.3 million for Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy & Ready to Learn health technicians, \$413,915 for Advanced Placement exams, and \$10 million for school night security

contracts, active threat training, and Saferwatch panic buttons in schools. I now yield to my colleague from Kaimukī."

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

"Mr. Speaker, in support. This budget includes significant investments in higher education as follows, \$17.5 million to restore COVID-era funding as reoccurring items in the base budget, \$1.07 million and 6.5 positions for the nursing programs at UH Mānoa, \$510,000 and six positions for systemwide mental health services, \$1 million for wildfire mapping and vulnerability assessments, \$142,500 and four positions for education studies and Indigenous Teacher Education Program, \$925,000 and four positions for UH medical school professors on Kaua'i, Hawai'i, and Maui, and \$3.7 million for the community college Promise Scholarship program. I now yield to the vice chair of House Finance Committee."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support. This year, I, along with the Representative from District 23, chaired the grant-in-aid process for the House. Thank you for the opportunity and support to do that. At the beginning of this session, it was unknown if we would have enough funds to provide grant-in-aid this year. I am happy to share, though, that this budget includes a total of \$30 million in grant-in-aid for organizations, including \$20 million in capital improvement funds and \$10 million in operating funds.

"As in previous years, the number of applicants far exceeded the amount of funds we had available for grants-in-aid. This year, we had over 300 applications, and we were able to fund 164 of them, a little over 50%. This year's grant-in-aid funding spans across all of our islands and positively impacts all of our communities. I'd like to share just a few of the highlights that are included in grant-in-aid in this year's budget.

"It includes funding for organizations that focus on the following. Food banks and community food distribution sites. Hospitals and community health centers. Support for our youth and students, including organizations that provide after school activities, mentorship opportunities, and educational programs in the community. Support for our *kūpuna*, including organizations that provide free meals to *kūpuna*, interaction opportunities through community centers, and support for the Alzheimer's Association. Support for our environment, including preservation and restoration of our natural resources. Support for our most vulnerable populations, including those who are victims of human trafficking, those who are experiencing homelessness, those who are experiencing health conditions including AIDS, and those who are experiencing substance abuse. Support for local agriculture, including farmers and ag education. Support for our animals, including funding for all of the humane societies on all islands, in addition to animal rescue organizations and trap and neuter programs. And support for the culture and arts, including Native Hawaiian-serving organizations and programs that support art and music. This list highlights just some of the organizations that were funded through the grant-in-aid program this year.

"Thank you to the many organizations that applied and shared about their programs over this legislative session. And I want to thank them for the work that they do to support our communities and people in our state, and to partner with us in meeting those needs. I'd now like to yield my time to the CIP chair of the House Finance Committee, representative from District 23."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support. I've spent the bulk of my career in the Finance Committee, so I've seen my share of state budgets. This year was a particularly challenging year for us crafting the state budget, not because of lack of money per se. In past years, we've had huge budget shortfalls, which made it very challenging. This year was challenging because of the uncertainty of things due to the Lahaina fires. Our budget situation and projections seemed to change daily. So, I really want to give a heartfelt thank you to our Finance chair, our Finance vice chair, and the members of the Finance Committee for their leadership through a very tough budget season. I think the members of the House should join me in thanking them, if we could all thank them right now. They did great work, and I think it needs to be recognized.

"Mr. Speaker, I once again thank you for being your CIP chair this year. I appreciate the faith the members have put in me. And I think we came out with a great CIP budget that we can all be proud of, using the guiding principles of putting the focus on education, on health and welfare, and with an eye to the future.

"So, what's in the CIP budget. So, we have \$31 million for a new enterprise financial accounting system, which will be the accounting system for the entire state and will make it run smoother. In the Department of Agriculture, we have a total of \$41.7 million for improvements to state irrigation systems in the reservoir system. We have \$230 million for affordable housing statewide, \$15 million for clean energy initiatives, which would be a solar battery storage loan program, \$10 million for siren and emergency notification system modernization and maintenance, \$1.28 billion for the Department of Education, which includes over \$70 million for Title IX gender equity and ADA compliance projects.

"We have \$60 million for the state library system, \$40 million for a comprehensive child welfare information system in the Department of Human Services. A historic level, I'm told, of funding for the state hospital system at \$191.7 million. And then we have almost \$30 million in improvements for the state laboratory, including a new Biosafety Level 3 laboratory, which does all our disease testing and monitoring. And finally, Mr. Speaker, we have over \$400 million for the University of Hawai'i this year.

"We've done all of this staying within a \$1.5 billion fiscal year 25 budget. And I would be remiss if I did not mention that we've got \$118 million for Lahaina direct projects and ancillary projects. So, thank you to the members."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't sure the filibuster was going to end. But having said that, I rise with support with some mild reservations. And I would start by saying, what we've seen at a micro level, we have to look at a macro level. We have to kind of go up to 3,500 feet and look at the budget as something that, I am a member of the Finance Committee, but if I was a member of the public, deciphering what's in that budget from a macro level is very, very difficult. I mean, just to figure out that it was \$20 billion was something to add up all the figures and not understanding that I'm not alone, because five out of four members of Americans in this state have problems with mathematics. Five out of four don't know what they're talking about. That's supposed to be a joke, everybody.

"Having said that, Mr. Speaker, one of the disappointments is, I stood here when Iniki and Kaua'i was asking for \$3 billion. I find it disappointing when we've got only \$1 billion for Maui. This was going to be Maui centric. The budget doesn't look Maui centric. And my sense is, it's going to catch up with us in other sessions and it's going to be a little bit money that's coming lately. I would have loved to see that a bit more frontal. That is a bit of a problem.

"The other problem is, and everybody gave nice speeches about the budget, but what we don't do, we don't measure the efficacy of the money that we're putting or the money that we're throwing at some of these problems. Everybody knows in the Finance Committee, I always ask metric questions. How are we moving the ball down the field? Instead of, like for health, are we actually getting healthier or worse? I think we're getting worse, but the numbers are not specific to build into our budget process. We know the governor stood there and said, we're going to cut homelessness in a half. I really appreciated that metric. But the point is, we've gone over budget with the, I forget how much it was for the expenditure override. But are we going to measure how well we do with that? I'm not sure of that. I would like to see that's something built in as performance indicators as it goes.

"Mr. Speaker, there's a couple of other things that I want to mention. And that is some of the conspicuous things absent in this budget that's going to hurt this budget. And I mention this because we could be losing L&L Drive-Inn, we could be losing Zippy's, we could be losing Serveco. Look, 80% of all the jobs in Hawai'i are from the private sector. They feed our economy. Those guys don't have a deduction because of this session for their state taxes. They are now subject, instead of going from generation to generation,

to having the big boys who come in from the mainland buy them out and then we suddenly sell ourselves to others.

"The second thing that I think is conspicuously absent in here, and it has to do with HECO, our power grid is in danger. The bill that was supposed to securitize or help them get the funding to support themselves with I think now 105 lawsuits, there's nothing in here to help HECO. I would love to have seen that.

"For those reasons, Mr. Speaker, I think it's kind of summarized, if any of you read the Star Advertiser and the questions they have in the polls. For those of you who have been beating on your chest, please absorb these numbers. In terms of how well the state legislature is doing, not well and below average 69%, Mr. Speaker, 69%. Not well or below average, that means flunking. We are in our own eyes, doing fantastic. In the eyes of the public, not so. How many are doing average or fair, 27%. And in the final analysis--"

Representative Nakamura rose to a point of order, stating:

"Mr. Speaker, please confine remarks to the budget, which is the subject matter at hand."

The Chair addressed Representative Ward, stating:

"Representative Ward, continue."

Representative Ward continued, stating:

"I am confining my remarks to the confines of the budget by the way that we reacted in our filibuster. I'm trying to give some reality, Mr. Speaker. These are the realities. Those are the people who see the budget, not the way that everybody stood up and praised the budget, but the facts, the way that there are other people other than we, the minority. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, we're not doing well enough in the eyes of the public. We're underperforming and we're not--"

Representative Garcia rose to yield his time, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Ward continued, stating:

"Thank you. And we're not meeting the needs because we don't measure them and we don't give them a sense of how we're progressing. Otherwise, why would we be 69% in failure? I know we had a favorable rating of 18%.

"My point is this, if we've got this money that we're spending and we're not meeting the needs of the people, Mr. Speaker, there's some disconnect of this budget and the needs that are out there, maybe too much defined by us rather than defined by the people of the State of Hawai'i.

"But the point is, Mr. Speaker, we can do better. And I'm going to end on what to me is heart wrenching. When the governor stood there and spoke about 63% of the Hawaiian community being ALICE families. I'm not sure this budget is going to help those who are the working poor. And for those reasons, Mr. Speaker, this is a bill that goes through, it goes through the motions. It's not Maui centric. It leaves out the power grid. It leaves out a lot of our small businesses. And finally, Mr. Speaker, we can always do better. For those reasons, I yield to my colleague from Kapolei."

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

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support with brief comments. And before I give my comments, may I request permission to insert written comments as well. Mr. Speaker, on this day of debate, I would like to kind of frame my remarks on this bill around three points, where we have been, what we have done or will do with the bill we are about to pass, and what future work we or future legislators will need to do when this legislature and this House reconvenes in 2025.

"Mr. Speaker, it may come as a surprise to you, since last year I voted in opposition to this bill, but because of the work done by, as my neighboring Representative from McCully-Mō'ili'ili said, by the work done by the Finance chair, the Finance Committee, and by leadership, this is a better bill. First, on points of process. In September of 2023, legislators received a



request from 14 community groups to do a better job with the budget process, and we responded. We've seen more transparency. We've seen budget sheets that are made available to the public. We see more educated conversations about what's happening with the budget because of the reforms that were adopted by this legislature, and for that I am grateful.

"What have we done with this bill? As so many of my colleagues before me have said, we are investing in health and human services in numbers that we have not done before. So, that is very important. I'd like to focus on one piece that I'm most familiar with, which is the Homeless Programs Office budget. And in that line-item budget, I'm going to combine comments about both what we've done and what more we have to do. In that piece of the budget, we have allocated \$1.32 million to the Homeless Programs Offices for state contracts that deal with a very specific problem of homelessness. It does outreach, it provides supportive housing, it pays for those services that respond directly to the homeless problem that we see in our community.

"Now, the governor only asked for \$1.32 million, and we respected that request. But we know from the community out there that there is this notion of the true cost of government. What is the true cost of government? And there was ask from the community that we in fact increase this line-item budget 20% just so that homeless programs could maintain their current contracts. Well, from this budget, we went up to what the governor stated, and it's going to give those homeless programs contractors the opportunity to rebid, because I believe that's what the Department of Human Services is going to do, so that we can, in fact, one, hold them accountable and begin to really address the true cost of government and hopefully in a future budget, fund the true cost.

"So, Mr. Speaker, this budget may not be the perfect budget for everybody, but it is a budget that does address the basic needs of our community and our people, and it does put Maui center. So, for those reasons, I support this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Representative Belatti's written remarks are as follows:

"As noted in my oral remarks, all members of the Legislature received a letter entitled 'Urgent Reforms for Hawaii's Legislative Process' dated September 25, 2023, and signed by 14 community groups.

"I applaud these 14 groups that bravely stood up, calling for much needed legislative reforms to ensure true transparency and accountability in the crafting of the state's budget that includes the budget bill such as HB 1800 and other bills impacting the state's overall budget. These groups include Common Cause, the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus, the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Labor Caucus, Food+ Policy, Good Food Movement, Hawai'i Home Birth Collective, Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action, Hawai'i Workers Center, HuliPac, Indivisible Hawai'i, Living Wage Hawai'i, Our Hawai'i, Partners in Care, and Save Medicaid.

"Their letter publicly requested three critical reforms to enhance the legislative process. First, these community stakeholders requested passing the base budget a month before the session concludes to provide ample time for legislators and the public to review and provide input so that the decision-making process around important budgeting matters would be inclusive and well-informed. Along these lines, they also proposed making a line-by-line draft of the final budget publicly available a week before the final vote as this reform would significantly enhance transparency and accountability and ensure critical funding is allocated where it is needed most.

"Second, community stakeholders requested stopping the practice of referring non-fiscal bills to the Finance or Ways and Means Committees to eliminate unnecessary hurdles for bills without appropriations or significant impact on tax revenues. Finally, community stakeholders requested ending the 'cattle call' practice of last-minute decision-making during the conference committee phase and extending the legislative session when necessary to ensure the thorough evaluation of each bill's merits.

"In crafting HB 1800 this year and as I stated in my verbal remarks, this Legislature implemented one of these reforms, in part, by providing budget worksheets before the vote on this bill, thus providing some improved transparency around the decisions being made. More reforms such as these need to be adopted and implemented by future legislators if we are to have a truly transparent and fully informed budget-making process that the public

deserves and that does not leave large gaps in funding critical areas that is government's responsibility.

"As I also noted in my verbal remarks, HB 1800, CD 1 allocates an additional \$1.32 million for State Homeless Programs Office contracts. According to Partners In Care (PIC), a community coalition of more than 60 non-profit homelessness providers, individuals with lived experience and concerned community members, this additional funding represents a mere 5% increase to the State Homeless Programs Office contracts. What's really needed to maintain current contracts is a 20% increase of \$5,280,000 as has been advocated for throughout this legislative session.

"Without this basic increase in funding, homeless programs and services are in danger. PIC explains that 'despite the need to expand services and the increases in operational costs, most contracts have not been increased in ten years,' thus not even keeping pace with inflation. Furthermore, 'recruitment and retention of front-line staff have become increasingly difficult due to flatlined salary structures and acute increases in the cost of living' felt by all in our community. According to a True Cost coalition survey cited by PIC in communications widely shared with legislators during this legislative session, 40% of service organizations report they will have to reduce services or face closure without increased adequate funding. This highlights a dire situation and a gap in funding that is not addressed by HB 1800, CD 1 and should not be ignored. This further reflects a critical priority area for future lawmakers to fund to ensure basic public safety and health that includes safe access to public spaces in our communities."

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

"In support and just as a brief comment. I am grateful for this budget, especially the work around University of Hawai'i and restoring the base funding. I think it's really critical. And I'm happy that we're back to a place where we can start talking about investing in higher education."

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

"*Mahalo* Mr. Speaker and appreciate all the comments thus far in respect to the budget and in particular for Lahaina. I want to request to enter further comments into the Journal also. And so, one of the biggest things, literally this word, one word in this entire budget brought tears to my eyes. And I want to thank the CIP person for, sorry, I don't know your district number, for working with the other house to insert the word 'dredging' for Mala Boat Ramp. \$3.2 million was put into the budget for last year, and I wanted to track it. And so, I appreciate also the funding that's put into the budget for a statewide tracking system on the budget itself and the funds that we vote through as we are.

"And so, that dredging has everything to do with our safety. Our emergency boats and things of that nature that cannot launch, has not been able to launch since before the fire. And so, it's life and death, it's critical. But unfortunately, the previous year the word 'dredging' was not inserted. So, thankfully it had been worked through both houses, and that one word really is going to save lives. And so, I appreciate that one particular thing for Mala Boat Ramp and the \$3.2 million.

"And the other thing is the tracking system, the reason why I feel it's so critical is because of what I just explained. I tried to, the funds that went through last budget, I asked DOBOR, DLNR, if I can track that money to make sure it's being utilized as stated in the budget, and I was told there is no tracking system. So, as I learned what we vote through today will go to B&F. B&F gets the total amount, then it's up to the departments to ask for the money that we implement, that we designate for each program, for each department. But if those departments do not ask for it, then it sits. And that has been the issue for me with this one particular item from Mala. And so, now, this tracking system, I'm very encouraged that not just myself, but others can track how the monies are being utilized or not being utilized. So, I appreciate that.

"Those are my brief comments at this time. I appreciate everybody's work, and in particular also the water reuse planning statewide. I've always said that it's a wasted resource. And Maui County really has to focus on doing this, and it can help for fire suppression and everything else, and also funding for erosion efforts and fire prevention. So, again, I will put more words into the Journal, but I just want to thank everybody for their focus, love, and support for Lahaina. *Mahalo*. In support."

Representative Cochran's written remarks are as follows:

"The SCR for HB 1800 explains that the administration fails to have a plan on how the funds asked for will be utilized. Till today there is not an actual detailed plan. In and of this point I am very leery of giving these multiple millions of dollars to the governor. I am so far supportive of DHS who I can physically see working directly in and around HD14 at this point. The continued use of the sentence within all of our fiscal bills, 'The legislature finds that the devastating wildfires brought on by winds from Hurricane Dora' is utterly false. It appears to me that the Legislature is trying to rewrite the narrative of cause and history of the fire. As of my writing there is yet to be a report or officially confirmed cause of the fire. This will be vetted through the courts.

"I appreciate the funding being dedicated to Maui and Lahaina in particular. What I am questioning is the actual implementation of how the funds get utilized and by who.

"The other point I cannot understand and have not gotten an explanation is to why funds from FY2023-2024 are no longer listed in the final budget bill. There was \$41 million for all the Upcountry schools, and they are no longer in the biennium HB 1800. Also, majority of the funds for Maui are listed for both Lahaina and Upcountry. I can't tell how much of it will really end up going to Lahaina.

"What I have learned is that we the Legislature creates this budget, then the money goes to Budget & Finance who then waits for the respective departments to ask for the funds. Then, we the Legislature have to trust that the departments have asked for and are utilizing the funds as stated by us. I am happy to see funds in the budget for a tracking system as one currently does not exist. I am looking forward to actually having an open, transparent tracking system to hold the administration and departments accountable for their spending of funds we the Legislature approves."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1800, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes, with Representatives Garcia and Ward voting aye with reservations.

At 11:10 a.m., the Chair noted that the following bill passed Final Reading:

H.B. No. 1800, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1

At 11:10 a.m., the Chair declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The House of Representatives reconvened at 11:34 a.m., with Speaker Saiki presiding.

At this time, the Chair recognized the Clerk who announced:

"Mr. Speaker, I have been informed by a representative of the President of the Senate that the conference committee report for House Bill No. 1800, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1, Conference Draft 1, was adopted, and said House Bill, Relating to the State Budget, passed final reading in the Senate at 6:48 p.m. on April 26, 2024.

"In addition, I have been informed by the Assistant Clerk of the House that at 11:11 a.m. on this day, House Bill No. 1800, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1, Conference Draft 1, was duly transmitted by the Legislature to the Governor pursuant Article VII, Section 9 of the Hawai'i State Constitution."

The Chair then stated:

"Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Mr. Clerk, could you also notate all of the dress code violations on the floor today? Thank you very much."

## CONSENT CALENDAR

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

At this time, the Chair stated:

"Members, there is no discussion on these items that were agreed to by this body for placement on the consent calendar."

## Conf. Com. Rep. No. 6-24 and H.B. No. 1944, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1:

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1944, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

## Conf. Com. Rep. No. 7-24 and H.B. No. 2070, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1:

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2070, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PROCUREMENT," passed Final Reading by a vote of 47 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Aiu voting no, and with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

## Conf. Com. Rep. No. 8-24 and H.B. No. 2365, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2365, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT PLANNING," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

## Conf. Com. Rep. No. 9-24 and H.B. No. 2315, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1:

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2315, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONDOMINIUMS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

## Conf. Com. Rep. No. 10-24 and S.B. No. 2693, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2693, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO STATES OF EMERGENCY," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

## Conf. Com. Rep. No. 18-24 and S.B. No. 2217, HD 1, CD 1:

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2217, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO REPORTING PERIODS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

## Conf. Com. Rep. No. 21-24 and S.B. No. 2216, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1:

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2216, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

## Conf. Com. Rep. No. 22-24 and S.B. No. 3123, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3123, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ACCESS TO VITAL RECORDS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

## Conf. Com. Rep. No. 23-24 and H.B. No. 2478, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2478, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE PACIFIC MARINE FISHERIES COMPACT," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 24-24 and S.B. No. 3154, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3154, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO REGULATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 27-24 and S.B. No. 2529, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2529, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PROVIDER ORDERS FOR LIFE SUSTAINING TREATMENT FORM," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 28-24 and S.B. No. 2960, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2960, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FARMERS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 29-24 and S.B. No. 2715, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2715, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 31-24 and S.B. No. 2119, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2119, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO OUT-OF-STATE PRESCRIPTIONS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 34-24 and S.B. No. 3365, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3365, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PLANT CARE COMPONENTS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 36-24 and S.B. No. 2721, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2721, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO OCEAN RECREATION," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 38-24 and H.B. No. 2435, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2435, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LICENSING," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 39-24 and H.B. No. 2482, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and

H.B. No. 2482, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MEETING NOTICES," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 42-24 and H.B. No. 2399, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2399, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 43-24 and H.B. No. 1633, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1633, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONTRACTORS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 47-24 and H.B. No. 2481, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2481, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TIME SHARE COMMISSIONERS OF DEEDS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 59-24 and S.B. No. 3192, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3192, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII RESEARCH," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 62-24 and S.B. No. 2532, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2532, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CRIME," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 64-24 and S.B. No. 2600, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2600, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONDOMINIUMS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 65-24 and S.B. No. 2575, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2575, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 67-24 and S.B. No. 2819, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2819, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRAFFIC SAFETY," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 69-24 and S.B. No. 3312, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and

S.B. No. 3312, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO STATE GESTURE," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 75-24 and S.B. No. 2731, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2731, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES FOR IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN WAR VETERANS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 77-24 and S.B. No. 2504, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2504, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO STATE PROGRAMS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 78-24 and S.B. No. 2289, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2289, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO KALAUPAPA," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 79-24 and S.B. No. 2537, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2537, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ENERGY," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 80-24 and S.B. No. 2133, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2133, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOUSING," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 81-24 and S.B. No. 1258, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 1258, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 84-24 and S.B. No. 2079, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2079, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE IMPORTATION OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 87-24 and S.B. No. 3364, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3364, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DESTINATION MANAGEMENT," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 88-24 and S.B. No. 2659, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2659, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO REGENERATIVE TOURISM," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 91-24 and S.B. No. 3070, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3070, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM FUNDING PERIOD," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 92-24 and S.B. No. 2526, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2526, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 93-24 and S.B. No. 2516, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2516, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 94-24 and S.B. No. 2287, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

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, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 97-24 and H.B. No. 2453, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2453, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WATER INFRASTRUCTURE," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 103-24 and H.B. No. 2715, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:**

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, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 105-24 and H.B. No. 1760, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1760, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO STATE FINANCES," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 108-24 and H.B. No. 2546, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2546, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 109-24 and H.B. No. 2339, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2339, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO 911 SERVICES," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 110-24 and H.B. No. 1836, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1836, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 112-24 and S.B. No. 3109, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3109, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 114-24 and S.B. No. 3290, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3290, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 116-24 and S.B. No. 3083, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3083, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 117-24 and S.B. No. 3094, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3094, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PEER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 118-24 and S.B. No. 2943, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2943, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 119-24 and S.B. No. 2439, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2439, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LIMITATION OF ACTIONS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 120-24 and S.B. No. 2475, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and

S.B. No. 2475, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 121-24 and S.B. No. 1099, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 1099, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 122-24 and S.B. No. 2937, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2937, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ACCESS TO LEARNING," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 124-24 and S.B. No. 2861, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2861, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EXCLUSIVE LISTING AGREEMENTS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 125-24 and H.B. No. 2480, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1:**

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, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE CERTIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 129-24 and H.B. No. 2641, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2641, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO APPRAISAL MANAGEMENT COMPANIES," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 136-24 and H.B. No. 1533, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1533, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DEATH BENEFITS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 139-24 and H.B. No. 2801, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2801, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ASSESSED FINANCING," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 142-24 and H.B. No. 2376, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2376, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FUNDING ADJUSTMENTS FOR STATE PROGRAMS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 143-24 and H.B. No. 2377, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2377, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FUNDING ADJUSTMENTS FOR STATE PROGRAMS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 144-24 and H.B. No. 1801, SD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1801, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO STATE BONDS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 147-24 and S.B. No. 3153, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3153, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DAM AND APPURTENANCE IMPROVEMENT OR REMOVAL GRANT PROGRAM," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 151-24 and H.B. No. 2042, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2042, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 153-24 and H.B. No. 982, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 982, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TOBACCO ENFORCEMENT UNIT," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 158-24 and S.B. No. 2497, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2497, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 161-24 and S.B. No. 3305, HD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3305, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 163-24 and S.B. No. 2401, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2401, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FERAL CHICKENS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 170-24 and S.B. No. 116, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 116, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES," passed Final Reading by

a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 171-24 and S.B. No. 3220, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3220, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR CARRIERS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 173-24 and S.B. No. 2841, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2841, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WATER SAFETY DAY," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 176-24 and S.B. No. 2726, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2726, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONDOMINIUMS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 178-24 and S.B. No. 2991, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2991, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT CREATION," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 181-24 and S.B. No. 2461, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2461, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 183-24 and S.B. No. 3139, SD 2, HD 3, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3139, SD 2, HD 3, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CRISIS SERVICES," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 186-24 and S.B. No. 3092, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3092, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Ganaden, Martinez, and Nakashima being excused.

At 11:36 a.m., the Chair noted that the following bills passed Final Reading:

H.B. No. 1944, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2070, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2365, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2315, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2693, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2217, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2216, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3123, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 2478, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3154, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2529, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2960, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2715, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2119, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3365, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2721, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2435, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2482, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2399, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 1633, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2481, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3192, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2532, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2600, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2575, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2819, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3312, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2731, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2504, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2289, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2537, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2133, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 1258, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2079, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3364, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2659, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3070, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2526, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2516, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2287, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2453, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2715, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 1760, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2546, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2339, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 1836, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3109, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3290, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3083, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3094, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2943, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2439, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2475, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 1099, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2937, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2861, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2480, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2641, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 1533, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2801, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2376, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2377, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 1801, SD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3153, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2042, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 982, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2497, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3305, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2401, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 116, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3220, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2841, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2726, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2991, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2461, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3139, SD 2, HD 3, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3092, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1

At this time, the Chair stated:

"Members, please remember to submit to the Clerk the list of House and Senate Bills on the consent calendar for which you will be inserting written

comments in support or in opposition. This must be done by adjournment of today's Floor session."

## ORDINARY CALENDAR

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### Conf. Com. Rep. No. 2-24 and H.B. No. 1911, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1:

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1911, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

#### Conf. Com. Rep. No. 3-24 and H.B. No. 2058, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2058, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DANGEROUS DOGS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

#### Conf. Com. Rep. No. 4-24 and H.B. No. 2458, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1:

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2458, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT," passed Final Reading by a vote of 50 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Amato voting no.

#### Conf. Com. Rep. No. 5-24 and H.B. No. 1916, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1916, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"In opposition. This bill has a great intent behind it, it's to protect judges' information from the public. So, let's say that a judge gives a ruling on somebody, somebody is upset with that, they want to retaliate against the judge, find him, assassinate him. This bill would protect his information so that it would be harder for them to find his information and get him.

"This bill also includes our information, as an opt-in program, to be private. So, if I want my house address, personal email, personal phone number to be private, we can opt into that program with this bill. I'm against legislators having the opportunity to opt into that program, because I think we should be that much closer to the public. People should be allowed to walk up to our house, knock on our door and say, hey, I'd like to talk to you about this. Because we're in the community and we're of the community. Judges perhaps should have a little bit more protection. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In strong support. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Brennan Center for Justice conducted a webinar nationwide entitled, 'The High Cost of Public Service.' We know that public servants have come under direct threats. This measure is a response to the kind of discord and conflict that we see brewing in the community. We have seen family members of legislators, judges attacked, physically attacked. And this comes from people on both sides of the legislative aisle. We have a problem of discourse in civility, and this type of measure is needed because of the threats to family members and public servants. I think this is the step in a right direction. It's not the only thing that we can do to encourage civility and safety for all of our public servants. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, yes, in strong support and just want to request words to be entered into the Journal, please. Thank you."

Representative Cochran's written remarks are as follows:

"Although my personal information has been out in the public eye for over a dozen years since being a public official, this bill will not change my situation in this respect. What I hope this bill does is emphasize the need to protect our public officials at all costs.

"After the Lahaina fire, I had a resilience hub I had created ripped out from under me and destroyed with malice and hate. The hub was built to help the community where the government never came. So, this horrible act harmed the community. It gave me PTSD like seeing the town of Lahaina I grew up in going down in flames in front of my eyes. There ended up being a group from the neighborhood in cahoots with whom I can only surmise in tearing the life supporting, community-built hub down. The group defamed my name, called myself and well respected *kūpuna* every name in the book, posted scary and threatening videos calling me out on Facebook.

"About 20 people participated in this act of bullying and harassment which scared myself and the couple other supporters at the hub at the time. This group took donated items which were specifically given to myself to disperse within the nearby community not anywhere else. Kadar of Temple of the Peace and Linda Puppolo of The Maui AIDS Foundation were devastated to hear of their items literally stolen and taken to an unknown site. I had over \$1,200 in my own personal items taken which value constitutes a theft 1 charge. This act was threatening, bullying, harassment and purely illegal. Horrible social media posts were constant. The most alarming point is that these people only live a few blocks from me. The main person talking smack online is shown toting automatic rifles and handguns. I went back to the Capitol to ask Sergeant-at-Arms if they could protect me, and they said only in the Capitol building. I have lived and continue to live in fear and have since installed cameras around my home. Really, how is this fair?

"I'm explaining this incident to highlight the need to show that public officials out in the community doing their jobs to support the community can still have opposition within the same community. The state needs to show that we the public officials lives and mental well-being matters. Living in paranoia of being attacked or worse killed is not how anyone should live. If this bill can protect us, then please implement ASAP."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1916, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION ASSOCIATED WITH CERTAIN PUBLIC SERVANTS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 50 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Pierick voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 11-24 and S.B. No. 3037, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 3037, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"In support. This is a great bill that helps to fight the sexual exploitation of children. We should be fighting this kind of activity. So, thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3037, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PROMOTING PORNOGRAPHY FOR MINORS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 12-24 and S.B. No. 2845, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 2845, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

"In opposition. So, this bill prohibits anybody under 21 years old from having ammunition. So, if you're 20 years old, 21 years old, 19 years old, 18 years old, you can't have ammunition. Ammunition is a valuable thing because you can put it in the gun to defend yourself. Let's say you're a female, you're 18 years old, and somebody is coming at you to rape you. If

you pull out your gun, you can potentially prevent yourself from being raped.

"This same body passed Senate Bill 1, now Act 1, where a 14-year-old can have an abortion. From different perspectives, you can kill your baby."

The Chair addressed Representative Pierick, stating:

"Representative Pierick, please confine your remarks to this measure."

Representative Pierick continued, stating:

"Thank you. The topic is ammunition. Ammunition is a self-defense tool. And we're talking about people under 21 years old with regards to this. There's an inconsistency with this bill and the rest of our laws in our state that say that a 14-year-old can terminate the life of their child--"

The Chair addressed Representative Pierick, stating:

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

Representative Pierick: "Thank you. But the 14-year-old girl can't arm herself--"

Speaker Saiki: "Representative Pierick, please confine your remarks to the measure before us."

Representative Pierick continued, stating:

"Thank you, I am. The 14-year-old person can't use ammunition to defend themselves from rape, which will cause the pregnancy. So, we need to be allowing people to arm themselves with ammunition to prevent themselves from getting into these kinds of things. Thank you."

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

"Mr. Speaker, thank you. In support. This measure makes it clear that, we already have on the books that you have to be 21 or older to own a firearm. This makes it clear that you have to be 21 or older to purchase ammunition, we're just being consistent. The representative who just spoke asked for consistency. This bill makes our statutes consistent so that those who are 21 and older are the only ones that can purchase firearms, and that 21 and older are the ones that can purchase ammunition. So, I urge all members to support this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2845, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FIREARMS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 45 ayes to 6 noes, with Representative Ward voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Garcia, Gates, Kila, Kong, Pierick, and Souza voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 13-24 and S.B. No. 2927, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2927, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VI, SECTION 3 OF THE HAWAII CONSTITUTION TO MAKE THE SENATE CONFIRMATION PROCESS FOR JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS MORE UNIFORM," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes to 3 noes, with Representatives Garcia, Matsumoto, and Pierick voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 14-24 and S.B. No. 3034, HD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 3034, HD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Hussey-Burdick rose to speak in opposition to the measure, stating:

"No vote and brief comment. Mr. Speaker, this bill is a gift to people who intentionally drug and take advantage of women, and it terrifies me. This bill shifts the burden of proof to the victims of involuntary intoxication. That means the people who were drugged would have to prove that beyond a reasonable doubt. How is anyone who is slipped a roofie in a bar supposed



to be able to prove that? In their drugged state, they're supposed to hold on to the cup and take it from the bar so they can use it in court later?

"I recognize that the scope of this bill is very narrow in terms of using it as a defense when the drugged victim then goes on to commit another crime, but let's think about the situations this would impact. If a person was drugged, maybe even someone who was the designated driver, otherwise completely sober, if they started driving a car before the drug kicked in, they would not then be able to use involuntary intoxication as a defense unless they could prove they were drugged beyond a reasonable doubt. If the person was drugged and then was forced to become an accomplice to a crime in their altered state, they would have to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that someone else involuntarily intoxicated them.

"Mr. Speaker, people get drugged and forced into prostitution. The bottom line is, there's no way I could possibly predict all the truly terrible ways that this bill is going to harm victims of involuntary intoxication, but I know that it will. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3034, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PENAL LIABILITY," passed Final Reading by a vote of 44 ayes to 7 noes, with Representatives Amato, Cochran, Hussey-Burdick, Kapela, Perruso, Poepoe, and Souza voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 15-24 and S.B. No. 3033, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3033, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PHYSICAL EVIDENCE," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 16-24 and S.B. No. 2347, HD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 2347, HD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Souza 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. 2347, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CRIME," passed Final Reading by a vote of 47 ayes to 4 noes, with Representative Souza voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Amato, Hussey-Burdick, Kapela, and Perruso voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 17-24 and S.B. No. 2333, HD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 2333, HD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"In opposition. Mr. Speaker, SB 2333 allows the chief election officer to use accurate copies of paper ballots rather than the originals when conducting a precinct audit of the electronic voting systems tally, in this Conference Draft 1. As I said before in this floor, Mr. Speaker, we the people, we own the Office of Elections. And there is a reason why we have enshrined in law the requirement for a precinct audit, and that is to ensure that the election results which are given from those machines are indeed accurate.

"It was said that the reason for using digital copies is a matter of convenience. Mr. Speaker, that's a lame excuse given by Scott Nago. During an audit, precincts are chosen at random and just 10% of ballots are audited. This is to assure public trust. We the people deserve transparency, and it's my firm belief that the original paper ballots are to be counted and used during precinct audits. And with the dark cloud hovering over our state, why do we think it's okay to move in the opposite direction of transparency? Do we think that the public is dumb to sit by and not question this move? I urge this body to vote no and stand on the side of common sense and stand for the use of paper ballots in the precinct audit. No vote."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I couldn't have said it better. In opposition. May the remarks of the gentleman to my right, may I adopt his words as if they were my own. I couldn't have said it better. Thank you," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"In strong support. I will say it better. This measure clarifies and updates the conduct of the audit used with modernized voting equipment and technology for elections by mail. Should an issue arise during the conduct of the post-election audit, which impacts the results of the election, the audit may be expanded to include first, additional contests, and further, additional precincts. There are additional safeguards in this measure of checks and balances, including logic and accuracy tests of the voting equipment before and after counting voted ballots, and the comparison of ballots received and accepted by the county elections division to voted ballots counted, that is the turnout, by district precinct reported in the election results. This measure does improve integrity and security of our elections, and I urge members to support this measure. Thank you."

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

Representative Matsumoto's written remarks are as follows:

"Allowing the chief election operator to use copies of paper ballots rather than the original paper ballots for the purposes of auditing an electronic voter system's tally raises concerns from the public regarding the integrity of the election. In order to maintain the public's confidence in our democratic processes, I oppose using electronic copies of ballots instead of the original physical ballots."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2333, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTION AUDITS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 46 ayes to 5 noes, with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Matsumoto, Pierick, and Ward voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 19-24 and S.B. No. 2197, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2197, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO GAMBLING OFFENSES," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 20-24 and S.B. No. 2193, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2193, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COMPUTER CRIME," passed Final Reading by a vote of 49 ayes to 2 noes, with Representatives Amato and Hussey-Burdick voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 25-24 and S.B. No. 3011, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3011, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO NOISE," passed Final Reading by a vote of 44 ayes to 7 noes, with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Kahaloa, Lamosao, Matsumoto, Pierick, and Poepoe voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 26-24 and S.B. No. 3236, HD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 3236, HD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In strong support. This is regarding Hawaiian succession. Currently, a DHHL beneficiary is unable to pass their property onto a successor who is less than 50% Native Hawaiian. And this is when they're in their 15-year compliance, which is a rental period. This measure

would correct that unintended consequence experienced by these individuals and give them a break. And, Mr. Speaker, we know there's still 29,000 on the waitlist. This type of bill helps many more get, but we still have a long ways to go. So, this is a good bill, and it will help the DHHL community. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3236, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE LAND TRUST ACT," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 30-24 and S.B. No. 2718, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2718, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATED TO ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES," passed Final Reading by a vote of 50 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Amato voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 32-24 and S.B. No. 2557, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 2557, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"In opposition, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if this bill is constitutional. This removes the Office of the Public Defender from representing individuals who are subject of a petition for involuntary medical treatment, under chapter 353. I'm really so grateful to the body and to the governor's office for putting so much more emphasis into mental health and to the efforts of moving people out of pretrial incarceration and into services like those offered by the state hospital.

"The unfortunate thing is that when people have these hearings, they are going to be committed. Law states that commitment is the equivalent of imprisonment. Since, I believe, 1956, the law of the United States says that, if you are facing potential imprisonment, you get an attorney if you cannot afford one. Of course, when a right is given to an individual, it is rarely pulled back by the government. I think we should defer this measure until a future session in which we can work with the Judiciary to create an appropriate court-appointed program that does not yet exist for civil attorneys who do this kind of practice. And until then, unfortunately, the next best option is having individuals represented by the Office of the Public Defender. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, in support. I want to make sure that the members know that this measure allows a court to appoint an attorney for the subject of a petition for assisted community treatment if the interests of justice require one to be appointed. So, the judge has that authority to appoint counsel for that individual. Yes, this measure does repeal language that entitles the subject of a petition for assisted community treatment to legal representation by a public defender, but the court can name a court-appointed attorney to represent that individual. So, I urge members to support this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Representative Ganaden rose to respond, stating:

"Second time. First off, I want to thank the chair of Judiciary for hearing this and for all his work. This is one of the I think only instances in which we disagree. I am not sure that the Judiciary yet has a program in place to appoint court-appointed counsel for these kinds of instances. And because that program is not in place, individuals who are facing potential charges and potential commitment may be housed in pretrial imprisonment for a duration unknown. For that reason, again, I'm not in support."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2557, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LEGAL REPRESENTATION," passed Final Reading by a vote of 45 ayes to 6 noes, with Representatives Amato, Ganaden, Hussey-Burdick, Kapela, Perruso, and Poepoe voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 33-24 and S.B. No. 2476, HD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2476, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DENTAL HYGIENISTS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 35-24 and S.B. No. 2066, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 2066, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

Representative Cochran's written remarks are as follows:

"I am not in favor of allowing HHFDC to waive numerous exemptions over Maui County laws, rules, ordinances, etc. Maui County has fast-tracked 201H projects, yet the projects have stalled. Imposing the 45-day clock onto the process has added pressure and hardship for the council to push projects that should have been better vetted with more community input.

"I appreciate the efforts to streamline the building process. I believe there are enough ways to expedite affordable housing projects, building inventory is not contingent on more laws or removal of laws in place. We would be better off focusing on creating two types of housing inventory. One, investment properties (we have more than enough), and two, affordable in perpetuity housing in order to address our housing shortage."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2066, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOUSING," passed Final Reading by a vote of 47 ayes to 4 noes, with Representatives Amato, Cochran, Hussey-Burdick, and Kapela voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 37-24 and S.B. No. 795, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 795, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support. We need to diversify our economy and we need good paying, ecofriendly jobs. This is why I'm a strong advocate of the film industry, and I support encouraging their success in Hawai'i. Encouraging compliance with the motion picture, digital media, and film production income tax credit requirements is a win for the industry, helps fund good jobs, and is a win for Hawai'i and its people. I urge my members to join me in supporting this. Thank you."

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

"Mr. Speaker, strong support. I reiterate what I've said many, many times on this floor, we should be the Hollywood of the Pacific. This one gets us closer to it. But, Mr. Speaker, it's rather embarrassing to know that Kentucky and Georgia beat us out every year. We're still in the top five. We can do much better. We have the perfect environment, and we should be unequivocally the Hollywood of the Pacific. Hopefully next time we will even ratchet up our attractiveness as this bill does right now. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 795, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TAXES," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 40-24 and H.B. No. 2457, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2457, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 41-24 and H.B. No. 2193, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2193, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"In support. This is a tough on crime bill against fireworks. This law lets police and fire officials to check places where fireworks are sold or kept to make sure they follow safety rules. It sets rules for inspections and record keeping by the Department of Law Enforcement. So, many constituents in Waipahu, they don't like the fireworks going off at all hours of the night and this bill seeks to address that issue. Thank you."

Representative Takayama rose in support of the measure and asked that his written remarks be inserted in the Journal, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Takayama's written remarks are as follows:

"Mr. Speaker, I support this measure because it will enable the Illegal Fireworks Task Force to continue its successful efforts to reduce the nuisance and dangers of illegal fireworks, especially illegal aerials. In less than one year of operation, the Illegal Fireworks Task Force has taken more than 150,000 pounds of illegal fireworks off our streets.

"Mr. Speaker, I enjoy fireworks. But not when they occur in random aerial bomb explosions that rattle our homes, frighten our pets, and torment veterans suffering from post-traumatic distress. We've already seen positive results from the seizures made by the task force.

"HB 2193 will give the joint state-city-federal task force expanded authority to conduct searches and inspections for illegal fireworks at licensed fireworks dealerships, while our budget bill appropriates \$1.2 million for the task force.

"*Mahalo* to the chairs of the Committees on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs and Finance for their support of this important measure."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2193, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FIREWORKS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 44-24 and H.B. No. 2090, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2090, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOUSING," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 45-24 and H.B. No. 2581, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2581, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 46-24 and H.B. No. 2475, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2475, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL OCEAN ACTIVITY," passed Final Reading by a vote of 50 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Garcia voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 48-24 and H.B. No. 2298, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2298, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support. After more than 30 years of farmers' pleas for help in fixing Hawai'i's coffee labeling laws falling on deaf ears at the Legislature, this year we're finally making progress. And by 2027, after

a tiered phase in, specialty coffee geographic origin names will not be allowed to be used on packages that don't contain a majority of product from that region. So, if coffee has the name Kona or Ka'u or Kaua'i on it, it will be at least 51% from that region. This increase from 10% to 51% is progress. It's huge progress.

"But while we are here today to celebrate this victory, and I am incredibly grateful for it, it has also taken us too long to get here. For more than 30 years, Hawai'i has been the only region in the world to allow the use of regional names on packages of specialty ag crops with only 10% genuine content. And this marketing devalues the product, damages the economic interest of Hawai'i's farmers, and deceives consumers. You can't buy local eggs where only half of the eggs in the carton are local and the rest are imported. You can't buy Georgia peaches that are only 51% from Georgia, or Idaho potatoes that aren't all from Idaho. You can't buy Champagne that's not from Champagne, or Bordeaux that's not from Bordeaux, and we wouldn't spend extra money buying French or Italian wine, only to later realize that it's made from grapes that are 90% from California.

"And further, a recent study and a 2010 study on the economic impacts of our labeling laws reinforce what farmers already knew, that allowing these blends to bear origin names harms farmers.

"I've given a speech about coffee labeling just about every year that I've served, so I could have pulled up my notes from past speeches and used those, but those are already in past Journals and don't need to be said again.

"So, what I'd like to add this year is that we should all think long and hard about why it took us so long to get here, to take a half step toward doing the right thing. Because we have issues here in Hawai'i that can't afford to wait 30 years, and we have plenty of things that we are dealing with today that might be better if we had taken action 30 years ago. So, whatever it is that causes this inertia in the way that we run things here, that makes it easier for us to do nothing than to do something, day after day and year after year, we should really think about that and try to do better.

"So, again, *mahalo* from me, and I know from the coffee farmers to everyone in support of this bill today. The farmers will be back undoubtedly to fight for 100%, and hopefully it won't take 30 more years to get there."

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

"In strong support. As people around the world get to know our regional coffees, from Ka'u all the way to Kaua'i and to my personal favorite, Kona coffee. In these hallowed chambers, things do not happen without 51% of the members in this body. So, as we all know, 51% or a majority is important. This is also important for agriculture, when we choose to use regional names to label Hawai'i coffee. Passing this bill means we provide truth in labeling to all bags of Hawai'i coffee by moving the percentage to 51%, as our representative from Kailua-Kona stated before. This bill is three decades in the making, and all Kona legislators have fought for coffee, including our current governor when he was in the Legislature. Thank you, members, for your support. You don't know how much this means to our coffee farmers all across the *pae 'āina*, including in Kona. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In strong support. I'd like to adopt the words of the representative from Kailua-Kona as if they were my own, and I would also like to adopt the words of the representative from Hōlualoa as if they were my own as well," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Kapela continued, stating:

"I'm so grateful to every single member who has helped get this across the finish line. Thirty years. It's taken 30 years to adopt something that truly helps our farmers, that truly helps agriculture. So, for me, all I can think about is the incredibly hard-working farmers that live on Hawai'i Island who have come back year after year after year, who are now old and gray but still so kind and still carry so much love for the land every single time they've stepped into this building. Thank you for supporting them."

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

"In strong support and may I adopt the vice chair of Agriculture's words as if they were my own. Thank you," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2298, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONSUMER PROTECTION," passed Final Reading by a vote of 49 ayes to 2 noes, with Representatives Kong and Onishi voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 49-24 and H.B. No. 2020, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2020, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Amato 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. 2020, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY," passed Final Reading by a vote of 50 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Amato voting aye with reservations, and with Representative Garcia voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 50-24 and H.B. No. 2390, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2390, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY," passed Final Reading by a vote of 49 ayes to 2 noes, with Representatives Garcia and Kong voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 51-24 and H.B. No. 2354, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2354, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY REVIEW BOARD," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 52-24 and H.B. No. 2369, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2369, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII COMMUNITY-BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes to 3 noes, with Representatives Alcos, Amato, and Garcia voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 53-24 and H.B. No. 2278, HD 2, SD 3, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2278, HD 2, SD 3, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support. Macadamia nuts are one of Hawai'i's most gifted products. Yet, as we stand here today, consumers have no guarantee that the mac nuts they purchase in a local shop or with a local name are indeed local macadamia nuts. This measure is critical, as it impacts 600-plus macadamia nut farmers, with most on Hawai'i Island and some in my district too.

"The macadamia nut industry produced over 400 million nuts in 2021 and is our second most valuable agricultural commodity here in Hawai'i. However, in 2022, our state's production declined by 29% from the year prior. This is why we looked at protecting this commodity last session, to make sure that this industry stays viable and that we keep farming jobs and macadamia nut manufacturing facilities here in Hawai'i.

"This measure simplifies current mac nut legislation and requires a disclosure label on primary macadamia nut products. Over 2,000 pages of testimony on this bill worked its way through session. There have been many, many, many discussions with stakeholders, and I am pleased to say

that we found consensus with our Senate counterparts, and with the support of our Speaker, to move this bill forward. I honestly didn't believe this would be possible this session. But we have a bill. And this measure is meant to protect the consumer, protect our local farmers, and protect the Hawai'i brand. Thank you, members."

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

"In strong support, may I adopt the words of the vice chair of Agriculture as if they were my own. *Mahalo*," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2278, HD 2, SD 3, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LABELING OF MACADAMIA NUTS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 50 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Pierick voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 54-24 and H.B. No. 2144, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2144, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTION," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 55-24 and H.B. No. 2553, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2553, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"In opposition. This bill allows pharmacists to administer vaccines to three-year-olds, but parental consent isn't mentioned in the bill. There were some pharmacists that submitted testimony on the bill, and they mentioned that, yes, parental consent is not mentioned in the bill, and it's not needed. So, I'm voting no, because I think parents should be involved in the process of their kids, at three years old, getting vaccines from pharmacists."

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

"In support, Mr. Speaker. And I hope that nobody's suggesting that three-year-olds are going to start walking down to Longs to get vaccinations."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2553, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PHARMACISTS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 47 ayes to 4 noes, with Representatives Garcia, Kila, Kong, and Pierick voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 56-24 and H.B. No. 2359, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2359, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII BROADBAND AND DIGITAL EQUITY OFFICE," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 57-24 and H.B. No. 1577, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1577, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Ward rose in support of 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:

"Since when did the Legislature get into the towing industry?"

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1577, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE TOWING FEES," passed Final Reading by a vote of 50 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Kong voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 58-24 and S.B. No. 2687, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 2687, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Mr. Speaker, in support. This bill would prevent the distribution of deceptive deepfakes during an election period. This is similar to House Bill 1766, which crossed over to the Senate. Mr. Speaker, while the use of artificial intelligence or AI technology has its benefits, its potential for misuse can't be ignored. And deepfakes are manipulated media of a person's image, video, or audio, saying or doing things that they didn't. And it can be damaging not just to a candidate who's running during an election, but to any individual when this is used irresponsibly.

"Mr. Speaker, this bill goes after these bad actors who recklessly distribute these deepfakes regardless of the risk. And while it does not prevent people from creating deepfakes, it does create strict disclosure requirements as well as penalties. And I just wanted to *mahalo* our House Judiciary and Senate chairs for helping to advance this measure, the conferees and as well as House leadership for their support. *Mahalo*."

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

"Mr. Speaker, in support. If anybody is unsure of the danger of this bill, there is a Mayor Blangiardi speaking of the great benefits of marijuana. And we know that Mayor Blangiardi, with prosecutor Alm, *et cetera*, were one of the reasons why there was such a push back. So, what this bill does is already active out in there in social media. And I know this is an election year, we should be very aware of it. And hopefully passage of this bill sends a message to the community, don't play around with AI. And I think we should apologize to the mayor for whoever implicated him to being a lover of weed. 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 S.B. No. 2687, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes, with Representative Garcia voting aye with reservations.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 60-24 and S.B. No. 3191, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3191, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII," passed Final Reading by a vote of 50 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Amato voting no.

At 12:15 p.m., the Chair noted that the following bills passed Final Reading:

H.B. No. 1911, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2058, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2458, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 1916, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3037, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2845, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2927, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3034, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3033, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2347, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2333, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2197, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2193, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3011, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3236, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2718, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2557, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2476, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2066, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1

S.B. No. 795, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2457, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2193, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2090, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2581, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2475, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2298, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2020, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2390, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2354, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2369, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2278, HD 2, SD 3, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2144, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2553, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2359, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 1577, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2687, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3191, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1

**LATE INTRODUCTIONS**

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

Representative Gates introduced Wai'anae residents: Jesse Mikasobe-Kealiinohomoku and Ian Ross.

At 12:15 p.m., the Chair declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The House of Representatives reconvened at 1:11 p.m.

Representative Cochran introduced members of Lahaina Strong.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

At this time, the Chair stated:

"Members, before we take up the first motion, could you please note that CCR 99-24 will be placed at the end of the calendar today."

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 99-24 and H.B. No. 2361, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:**

By unanimous consent, action was deferred to the end of the calendar.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 61-24 and S.B. No. 2182, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2182, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO OCEAN STEWARDSHIP," passed Final Reading by a vote of 50 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Garcia voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 63-24 and S.B. No. 2834, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2834, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE LANDLORD-TENANT CODE," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 66-24 and S.B. No. 2657, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2657, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MAKAHIKI COMMEMORATION DAY," passed Final Reading by a vote of 46 ayes to 5 noes, with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Matsumoto, Pierick, and Ward voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 68-24 and S.B. No. 2350, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 2350, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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 S.B. No. 2350, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO NOISE POLLUTION," passed Final Reading by a vote of 50 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Garcia voting aye with reservations, and with Representative Kila voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 70-24 and S.B. No. 2753, HD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2753, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO BUILDING CODES," passed Final Reading by a vote of 49 ayes to 2 noes, with Representatives Garcia and Pierick voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 71-24 and S.B. No. 2512, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 2512, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition, strong opposition in fact. Mr. Speaker, this bill is about an emergency. It's about handcuffing the governor. And I think we have to first realize what an emergency is, particularly as we have Maui Strong here. They know what an emergency is, and they know what a crisis is. According to the HRS, an emergency is defined as an occurrence, or imminent threat thereof, which results or may likely result in substantial injury or harm to both life and/or property.

"We want to be open. We want to be certain that the emergency is taken care of. But, Mr. Speaker, this bill says, before the governor can release any money, we've got to get a mother-may-I of 14 days from the Legislature. Mr. Speaker, that makes no sense. We've got houses burning, we've got, it could be an Iniki as we had in 1992. Why do we want to hesitate when lives are at stake?

"I can't understand this. Even HIEMA was against this. The department of budget was against this. When you get those who are in the business of fixing emergencies and they're against it. And it doesn't make good sound policy, it looks like a grudge match. And I don't know who the authors of this bill is or whoever got something to go with the governor. But let's not handcuff the governor, Mr. Speaker. This could cost people's lives and property.

"And because of those reasons, anybody who votes yes for this bill is really asking for endangering the people of Hawai'i. And that's not why we're here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

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

"Mr. Speaker, in support. I am in support of this bill, and I just want to clarify a couple of points. First of all, we have established a major disaster fund in our state treasury as well as in statute, and that fund has emergency dollars that are made available to the governor if he or she decides that there is a disaster that needs to be responded to immediately. And typically, we've funded that in the amount of \$5 million on an annual rolling basis. This year's budget appropriates additional millions of dollars into the major disaster fund. And that's funds that the governor can tap in the event of emergency without having to ask us either way, in any case.

"But when I think the administration uses their emergency powers in a way to move additional millions of dollars, potentially from existing appropriations, then this body, the Legislature, has the right to know about that, because that will affect appropriations in future budget years, and that we will have to account for and also make sure that we set aside money for in the future. So, I'm in support of this bill. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2512, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT POWERS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 49 ayes to 2 noes, with Representatives Pierick and Ward voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 72-24 and S.B. No. 2132, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2132, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD-TENANT CODE," passed Final Reading by a vote of 50 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Pierick voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 73-24 and S.B. No. 2342, SD 2, HD 3, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 2342, SD 2, HD 3, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Ward 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 S.B. No. 2342, SD 2, HD 3, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION," passed Final Reading by a vote of 44 ayes to 7 noes, with Representative Ward voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Gates, Holt, Hussey-Burdick, Kong, and Pierick voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 74-24 and S.B. No. 3157, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3157, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DIRECT NEGOTIATION FOR PUBLIC LAND LEASES," passed Final Reading by a vote of 44 ayes to 7 noes, with Representatives Amato, Belatti, Garcia, Hussey-Burdick, Kapela, Perruso, and Poepeo voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 76-24 and S.B. No. 2983, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2983, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SOLICITATION OF FUNDS FROM THE PUBLIC," passed Final Reading by a vote of 49 ayes to 2 noes, with Representatives Pierick and Ward voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 82-24 and S.B. No. 2974, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 2974, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Amato 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. 2974, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT," passed Final Reading by a vote of 50 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Amato voting aye with reservations, and with Representative Kapela voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 83-24 and S.B. No. 2919, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 2919, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In strong support and I'd like to thank all those, especially the Housing chair, that worked on this bill to get the language just right. Because of concerns raised by Kailua residents three decades ago against vacation rentals that were proliferating in our community, changing the quality of life in our neighborhoods, the City & County grandfathered in all the existing vacation rentals and banned new ones. Since that time, due to the advent of the internet advertising, as well as no will to enforce in the city, we have had an exponential growth in the number of vacation rentals, illegal vacation rentals.

"We now have a city council and a mayor that actually have tried very hard to change the situation and bring those properties back into residential use. Unfortunately, because of the way our state law was written, they were challenged in court by investors who find that doing a rental once a month every 30 days is still good business. And this law will allow them to change the duration and hopefully bring those properties back into residential use. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, in opposition. There's a lot of great people that have submitted testimony in support and in opposition to this. My team sent out a mailer to every single home in our district, and we received a bit of response. More people responded that they wanted me to vote no on this bill. So, what should I do? I should vote no on this bill because the community, my community, when I survey them, they asked me to do that. So, I'll be voting no. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In super, super strong support. And I give a lot of credit to my fellow Lahainaians of Lahaina Strong who has been walking the halls here days on end and just weeks and tirelessly. So, I appreciate all their efforts to getting us to this point. And with that I am in super strong support. Thank you very much."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2919, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY," passed Final Reading by a vote of 46 ayes to 5 noes, with Representatives Kong, Onishi, Pierick, Tam, and Ward voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 86-24 and S.B. No. 2337, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2337, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOUSING," passed Final Reading by a vote of 50 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Hussey-Burdick voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 89-24 and S.B. No. 572, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 572, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

"Thank you, in opposition. So, this bill would allow the governor to seize control of a vessel for 100 days, so the boat would not be in operation, if they perceive that there's an emergency to the state. Our state survives largely in part to goods being brought in by boats and ships. And if the governor's going to reach his power and seize a boat, he could be inhibiting our commerce in our state. So, we don't need that, we don't want that. So, I'll be voting no so that we can have free commerce."

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

"Mr. Speaker, in support. Regarding the previous remarks from the speaker, in the conference draft there was an exemption made to the vessels that do commerce, so they will not be affected by this measure. Thank you."

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

"In strong support. May I adopt the words of the vice chair as if they were my own. And I would just like to say to my colleagues that this bill is very important because we have let invasive species run rampant throughout our communities unchecked for so long. And this is one of the tools that we are going to use to really get a grasp on a lot of the issues like coconut rhinoceros beetles, little fire ants, so forth, and new invasive species that may be coming to our shores. So, in in strong support. Thank you," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Ward rose to respond, stating:

"Mr. Speaker, second time. This is in defense of everything that's said, I agree with. The only thing is, why 100 days? I think that's too long. We can't get the job, we can't find these guys out within at least a week or two or so, 100 days is like a shutdown. I mean, that's too extreme. If it was modified, I would agree. But to shut down Matson and Pasha and all the other guys, which, as my colleague said, we are dependent upon 90-some percent of everything that we have. To put those guys in mothballs for 100 days, even though for the great cause, that's too long and it's inefficient. If we can't find a rhinoceros beetle within a week, we don't know what we're doing. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 572, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes to 3 noes, with Representatives Garcia, Pierick, and Ward voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 90-24 and S.B. No. 2413, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2413, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE," passed Final Reading by a vote of 50 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Pierick voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 95-24 and S.B. No. 2536, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2536, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PROCUREMENT PREFERENCES AND RECIPROCITY," passed Final Reading by a vote of 50 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Pierick voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 96-24 and H.B. No. 1902, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1902, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 98-24 and H.B. No. 2467, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2467, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO RENT CREDITS FOR DEMOLITION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS ON PUBLIC LAND LEASES," passed Final Reading by a vote of 46 ayes to 5 noes, with Representatives Amato, Belatti, Hussey-Burdick, Perruso, and Poepoe voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 100-24 and H.B. No. 2471, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2471, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INSPECTIONS ON PUBLIC LAND," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 101-24 and H.B. No. 2499, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2499, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PROCUREMENT FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 102-24 and H.B. No. 1832, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1832, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support. Mr. Speaker, there's no secret that the state has difficulty hiring. There are many reasons for this, and this bill addresses one of them. This bill addresses trying to get DHRD or the minimum qualification review to get done sooner. Right now, departments like DOH have 700-plus vacancies. That puts an undue pressure on the employees that are currently working at DOH, and also just leaves a lot of services that DOH cannot render.

"And for DHRD's part, DHRD is so overtaxed that it's difficult for them to get this minimum qualification check done on the applications for sometimes as much as six months, leading to people forgetting they even applied to the state by the time they get a call back. What this bill attempts to do, again, is to provide relief to not only DHRD, but to all of the departments that have come to me in the last couple of years asking for relief for this hiring problem. Asking for relief and asking for our help to fill these vacancies that just pepper their departments.

"This bill doesn't force the departments to take on all hiring. It's not an attempt to decentralize DHRD. But it is an attempt to allow departments to select which positions they want to take on themselves, which positions they determine are high need in order to do the minimum qualification review themselves and immediately call back and fill those positions with interviews.

"We also changed this bill, Mr. Speaker, out of concern for DHRD, that the list once vetted by the department, which they're already doing this vetting for internal hiring, that this list will then be sent to DHRD for one more review, which DHRD said they could get out in about two to three days. But in the meantime, the interviews will already be taking place.

"I am in strong support of this bill. I think that this bill is, again, not a magic bullet, it's not going to fill 700-plus vacancies at Department of Health. But I think it's a good start, and I'm very proud of us as a legislature for moving forward with this and bringing some relief to our departments. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, in support. I'd like to have the words of the previous representative from Kāne'ohe adopted as if they were my own, and reiterate that this is a good bill because it reduces red tape in the government and allows the individual agencies in our states to process their applications versus another department," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HIRING," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 104-24 and H.B. No. 2484, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2484, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONFORMITY TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 106-24 and H.B. No. 2563, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2563, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Nakamura moved to recommit Conf. Com. Rep. No. 106-24 and the attached proposed conference draft to the Committee on Conference, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"In support. I'm very grateful that this body is doing that. This is a gut and replace bill. And in order to basically get this out of our record of having done that, we're recommitting that. So, thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and Conf. Com. Rep. No. 106-24 and H.B. No. 2563, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR

AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY," were recommitted to the Committee on Conference.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 107-24 and H.B. No. 2192, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2192, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Mr. Speaker, in support. This measure addresses a long-standing problem in my district of an abandoned cemetery that has been the target of thefts and desecration by trespassers. This measure will enable our community to enact security measures, and will hopefully turn a community eyesore into an asset. So, on behalf of myself and my fellow Pearl City representative, I'd like to thank members for their support. Thank you."

Representative Chun rose in support of the measure and asked that the remarks of Representative Takayama be entered into the Journal as his own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support. So, this bill authorizes the DCCA to appoint a limited owner of a cemetery in need of perpetual care or protection. I thank the CPC chair for the opportunity to work on this bill, as well as my conference committee co-chair, and for the excellent staff that helped me in learning through the process as we completed this bill in conference committee. With this bill we set a precedent of protecting and respecting our cemeteries and our loved ones who are placed there. *Mahalo.*"

Representative Souza rose in support of the measure and asked that the remarks of Representative Takayama be entered into the Journal as her own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support. I'd like to adopt the words from representative from Pearl City as if they were my own. I'd like to also insert additional comments. Many of my constituents have their ancestors buried in Sunset Memorial. And so, I just want to commend the hard work of this body for passing this important measure. *Mahalo,*" and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Lamosao's written remarks are as follows:

"Mr. Speaker, I rise in favor of preserving the Sunset Memorial, a cherished asset in our community, as a tribute to our ancestors interred in the memorial park. This legislation will ensure its preservation, and I extend my gratitude to the bill's sponsors and the state for their dedication to maintaining this important site. Thank you."

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

"Mr. Speaker, in support. I'd like to thank the introducer for this measure, as there is constituent in House District 44 whose family member is buried at the cemetery in Sunset Memorial. Two weeks ago, they recently cleaned the cemetery after being dismantled and vandalized by several folks. They're excited to learn that through representative from Pearl City's efforts that this will no longer be occurring. And I'd like to, again, reiterate my thanks to the representative for this measure. *Mahalo.*"

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

"In support. I'd like to adopt the words of the representative from Pearl City as if they're my own. And I'd like to add from 'Aiea, too. Thank you very much," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2192, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CEMETERIES," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.



**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 111-24 and S.B. No. 2591, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2591, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO BURIAL SITES," passed Final Reading by a vote of 50 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Pierick voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 113-24 and S.B. No. 2601, HD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 2601, HD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"In support. This is a good bill. This basically expands the ability for somebody who was sexually assaulted to have justice. So, let's say you're a child and you've been sexually assaulted, once you reach 18 years old, the law is currently that you're not allowed to file for civil action until eight years after the incident. This bill would expand that to 32 years. So, a scenario could be the child has been raped or sexually assaulted as a child, they reach their 18th birthday, 31 years later, 32 years later, they receive counseling and say, you know what, you should seek vindication on what was wronged you when you were a child. This bill would expand access to vindication. So, this is good. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2601, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 115-24 and S.B. No. 2725, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2725, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PASS-THROUGH ENTITY TAXATION," passed Final Reading by a vote of 46 ayes to 5 noes, with Representatives Cochran, Hussey-Burdick, Kapela, Perruso, and Poepeo voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 123-24 and S.B. No. 3207, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 3207, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Amato 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 opposition to the measure, stating:

"Mr. Speaker, in opposition, if I may. Let me begin. He's a super guy, does his job, and he's got a super salary, which is right now about \$240,000. But according to this bill, as we raise the cap, it becomes higher than the governor. The governor only makes \$165,000, lieutenant governor \$162,000, and the attorney general \$162,000. I would be willing to pay \$500 million, or \$100 million, or \$10 million, or whatever it takes to get us in the top five or the top ten in the nation.

"Mr. Speaker, right now we can't even read and do math at the third grade. I'm not sure we're going to reward something that otherwise is mediocrity. And that's not what the basis of our nation has from the beginning, we are a meritocracy. And I think we should make it more performance based. In fact, if it was performance based, even raising his salary, I would totally agree. Somebody is going to say, well, there is a portion of it that is performance based, but let's make the whole thing performance based. Just like you and I, when we go out for reelection, what did we do as the representative? It's either up or down. And I think it should be the same with the superintendent. Again, who is a nice man. But in terms of the salary, I don't think it's deserving to go any higher. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In strong support. The previous speaker's comments are antithetical to prior comments he has made with regards to market rates and government intervention. So, he typically argues the

inverse, which is that the market should not be dictated by government. In this situation, he's saying the inverse. So, I am perplexed by that.

"Also, just to correct the record, actually, the State of Hawai'i and some of our student bases is in fact in the top 10. That is a direct result from the superintendent, his team, our teachers, our principals and vice principals. I want to make that point clear.

"Furthermore, if we do not pass this proposal, it means that the superintendent salary will revert by statute to a maximum of \$150,000. To me, that's not fair, that's not justified. And as I referenced before, a superintendent with comparable qualifications, with a similar school size, earns \$356,000 annually. And so, what justification do we have for that position to only yield 40% of what the market is bearing. That is not fair to me, Mr. Speaker.

"The proposal as it's written, it does not say that the salary cap will increase. It would be that the Board of Education, moving forward, would set the superintendent salary. That is fair, that is transparent, and that's why I'm asking my colleagues to support this proposal.

"When the Board of Education was asked specifically about this proposal, the board chair at the time, Haruki, said that he would likely appoint a commission to see what we should pay the superintendent and to make a recommendation to the board, and the board would vote on that. That is a fair and transparent process.

"And so, although there might be some disagreement, we want to support our superintendent. We want to support our assistant superintendents, our deputy superintendents. And we want to continue to support the continuum of professionals that work in that industry, because they are preparing our kids for the future.

"Now, what happens if this bill doesn't pass, and the superintendent says he cannot do it anymore. He can't do it, he walks away. The deputies, because their salary would decrease, say they would walk away. And I would argue it puts our teachers, our principals and vice principals, in a compromising position. Because how could they negotiate for higher salaries if we pay our superintendent 40% of what the market is bearing. That is not fair. That to me would be despicable, actually.

"So, if in fact the superintendent, the deputies, the teachers, the principals and vice principals, they are doing their job. Top 10 fourth grader reading scores in the nation, according to NAEP. Very high scores with Strive HI when you look at the larger consortium. Other verifiable metrics that say that we are moving in the right direction. I am humbly asking my colleagues to please support this proposal. Thank you."

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

"Strong support, Mr. Speaker. And may I have the words of the chair of the Education Committee entered into the Journal as if they were my own," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Amato rose, stating:

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the chair of Education. And I'd like to change my vote from reservations to yes."

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

"Mr. Speaker, in support. I'd also like to adopt the words of the Education speaker as if they were my own. And then just brief comment. This is not an issue of looking at an immediate raise. As mentioned in the measure and in testimony, the superintendent is still subject to a rigorous review process by the Board of Education. This is really a policy of ensuring stability in our leadership. And because of the domino effect that it would trigger by reducing the salary back to \$150,000 because of the sunset on June 30, 2024, this might create an exodus of the great administration and the leaders that we already have. And just noting that they're already doing this work, this hard work overseeing 20,000 employees in the department. So, for the future of our *keiki* and to deliver the best quality education possible, I urge my colleagues to support this measure."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3207, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," passed Final

Reading by a vote of 39 ayes to 12 noes, with Representatives Aiu, Alcos, Garcia, Hussey-Burdick, Kapela, Kila, Matsumoto, Perruso, Pierick, Poepoe, Tam, and Ward voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 126-24 and H.B. No. 1827, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1827, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Belatti rose in support of the measure and asked that her written remarks be inserted in the Journal, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Belatti's written remarks are as follows:

"Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support of House Bill 1827, Conference Draft 1.

"As a long-time proponent of investing in Hawai'i's workforce, especially its healthcare workforce, this measure almost triples state funds of \$2,450,000 to \$6,800,00 by collaborating with community partners to support the Public High School Health Care Workforce Certificate Program, public high school classrooms to be used for healthcare training, and the Certified Nurse Aides Glidepath Program. These monies are investments in our future that prepare our public school students for immediate placement into living wage jobs with career ladders that can help them achieve even more for themselves and their families. This measure also addresses and fills an immediate and critical need in our community for skilled workers in a variety of settings from hospitals to nursing homes, clinics, and other healthcare settings across the state.

"For these reasons, I wholeheartedly support House Bill 1827, Conference Draft 1."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1827, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 127-24 and H.B. No. 1686, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1686, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE," passed Final Reading by a vote of 50 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Garcia voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 128-24 and H.B. No. 1640, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1640, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING," passed Final Reading by a vote of 50 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Pierick voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 130-24 and H.B. No. 1925, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1925, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT," passed Final Reading by a vote of 49 ayes to 2 noes, with Representatives Garcia and Pierick voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 131-24 and H.B. No. 2107, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2107, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"In strong support. We recognize that access to language resources is crucial for disseminating information effectively to migrant communities. Especially in times of crisis, ensuring language accessibility becomes even more imperative. The Maui wildfires have highlighted the importance of providing resources in multiple languages to ensure that all members of our diverse population can access vital information and resources. Moving

forward, we must prioritize the development and dissemination of multilingual resources to better serve and support our migrant communities during emergencies. *Mahalo*."

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

"Thank you. And I want to echo my colleague next to me in relationship to this bill. Strong support. I was going through the fires and realizing in the early days that the language barrier, in particular for our Filipino community, which makes up the brunt of where I live, had huge challenges. And I would hope that in the future, FEMA and all these other outside entities that come to wherever in the world, that they research the culture, the people, the languages that are affiliated in the areas that they come into to help because they had zero interpreters. There was no one there to bridge that gap for the language barriers. And I know today that a lot of our Filipino speakers lost out on benefits, lost out on help because they didn't realize they could appeal. They didn't have the opportunity to ask questions and to learn what the details and repercussions of their decisions were.

"So, I look forward to this being supported and to assist in future disasters and any hardships that we may face. Because today, we still currently need this professional help in our communities and especially for the future. So, I *mahalo* for this bill being pushed forward today. Thank you."

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

"In support, Mr. Speaker. Like many of my colleagues, I had an opportunity to actually visit Lahaina. I went there in August of last year for an event at the Lahaina Community Center for the Filipino community. Myself and other members of the Filipino Lawyers Association, we attempted to assist individuals with extending their SNAP benefits, getting a variety of other issues dealt with regarding their housing or benefits. We ran into this problem firsthand. So, for those of us that were there, we saw how dire the need was for language interpreters to rebuild Lahaina in the next few years. I didn't know until I got there how strong the Filipino community was across the state, but particularly in the Lahaina community. For that reason, in strong support."

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

"Mr. Speaker, in support. I too am very grateful to have been given the opportunity to assist with the Hawak Kamay, which means hand in hand, Resource Fair, which was in September in Lahaina. My friend Kit Furukawa in the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce just got all of the Filipino folks together and told us, hey, looks like our immigrant population, they're not seeking services.

"And typical of any immigrant population, one in every four Hawai'i residents here in Hawai'i is of Filipino descent, and one in every nine is of limited English proficiency. And for that community, they have this fear of authority. They have a fear of being told no. And when they have to go through just pages and pages of immigration papers, financial forms, food assistance, housing, it can be very, very overwhelming. And so, it was a very humbling moment to be there in September along with other Filipino, Ilocano, Visayan speakers. But this is really essential as it gets information out quickly and it gets information out to people who need it the most."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In strong support. I want to request and adopt the words of the representative from Lahaina as my own. Thank you," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2107, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATED TO DISASTER SERVICES," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 132-24 and H.B. No. 2248, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2248, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO BEACH MANAGEMENT ON THE NORTH SHORE OF OAHU," passed Final Reading by a vote of 50 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Pierick voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 133-24 and H.B. No. 2685, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2685, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ENERGY," passed Final Reading by a vote of 50 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Garcia voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 134-24 and H.B. No. 2743, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2743, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support. I want to, first of all, thank you, Mr. Speaker, Finance chair and Water & Land chair, for helping to shepherd this bill through our process. We worked during the interim with the counties, with advocates and stakeholders and with a group of representatives, including my partner working on this project, the representative from Kailua-Kona, representative from Wahiawā, the representative from Līhu'e, the representative from Kohala, representative from Kāne'ohe, who, at the end of the day, came up with a 35-page document that, because of financial constraints, because of legal constraints and really differing opinions internally about how to proceed and philosophies on how to move forward with this issue.

"We did come up with a five-page bill that is a study, that the University of Hawai'i will conduct to tell all of the landowners in our state whether or not they will have ability to hook up to a wastewater treatment facility. And I think this is an incremental step, but a very important study that will give landowners information that they currently do not have. So, I'm very grateful for this incremental step.

"In the meantime, there are 83,000 cesspools throughout the state emitting 50 million gallons per day of raw sewage. And I'm very hopeful that in the interim to come, that we can continue the dialog to expand the discussion internally, that we can find solutions that are going to make a difference for our environment and for all of the homeowners that are impacted with a cesspool that government said was okay to have many, many decades ago. So, thank you so much for the opportunity, and I hope that members will support this bill. Thank you."

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

"Thank you chair and appreciate this effort also. In support. I just want to add in relation to cesspools and since the wildfires in Lahaina, in particular the Waikeolu Terrace area, which is a priority one area. Now that literally the slate has been wiped clean of the homes and things and we're just down to the bare bones dirt, now is the time. If we're going to convert these properties out of cesspools and into sewerage with the county, I think hopefully this study and this discussion will incorporate that. Because I think the discussions occurred perhaps way before the fire had occurred. So, now we're looking at a very different landscape. And I think we have a great opportunity today to revisit the cesspool situation in the Lahaina area. *Mahalo.*"

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2743, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WASTEWATER," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes to 3 noes, with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, and Pierick voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 135-24 and H.B. No. 2224, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2224, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In strong support. This session, I was able to work with a remarkable group of stakeholders who are also members of the Legislative Kupuna Caucus, along with our Senate counterpart, the senator from Ala Moana and Waikīkī, with one goal, to take a hard look at our long-term care system. Changing our long-term care system is so important

because we are spending more money on long-term care than ever before, but the outcomes of that care are not improving. Quite simply, spending more money will not get us where we need to go in terms of delivering better care.

"Our goal of making things better for the people who need long-term care, whether in an institutional or community-based setting, begins with this bill. The Executive Office on Aging, in coordination with the State Health Planning and Development Agency, will begin the crucial task of creating a long-term care master plan for the state.

"I want to thank the chair of Human Services and the chair of Finance for supporting this bill, and also the funding for it. And I look forward to continue working on this issue with interested stakeholders so that we can provide our *kūpuna* with a long-term care system that works for everyone. 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. 2224, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LONG-TERM CARE," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 137-24 and H.B. No. 1148, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1148, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Belatti rose in support of the measure and asked that her written remarks be inserted in the Journal, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Belatti's written remarks are as follows:

"Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support of House Bill 1148, Conference Draft 1.

"The statewide expansion of the Mental Health Technician ('MHT') certificate of competence program from Windward Community College in this bill is a testament to what can be done when our sister agencies work together to address workforce needs.

"Developed as a collaboration between the Hawai'i State Hospital, the Department of Health's Adult Mental Health Division, and Windward Community College, the MHT program is an excellent example of upskilling our workforce, building career ladders that provide opportunities and brighter prospects for our residents, and addressing the critical needs in our communities for qualified mental health workers.

"For these reasons, I wholeheartedly support House Bill 1148, Conference Draft 1 as a wise investment of just \$210,150 of taxpayer monies into our state's future."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In strong support. And I just wanted to express my deep gratitude for this body. The Majority Caucus supported this initiative recognizing Windward Community College, who has embraced the fact that they host the state hospital on their campus and set up a program to train entry-level workers in that hospital in collaboration with the hospital, and are now wanting to extend that training to grow our own mental healthcare providers across the state. I also wanted to thank the majority leader for not giving up on this bill once it died in the Senate, and most particularly to the vice chair and the chair of Finance that allowed it to come back at the last moment. 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. 1148, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

At 1:57 p.m., the Chair noted that the following bills passed Final Reading:

S.B. No. 2182, HD 1, CD 1  
S.B. No. 2834, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1  
S.B. No. 2657, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1  
S.B. No. 2350, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1

S.B. No. 2753, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2512, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2132, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2342, SD 2, HD 3, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3157, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2983, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2974, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2919, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2337, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 572, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2413, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2536, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 1902, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2467, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2471, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2499, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 1832, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2484, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2192, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2591, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2601, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2725, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3207, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 1827, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 1686, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 1640, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 1925, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2107, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2248, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2685, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2743, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2224, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 1148, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 138-24 and H.B. No. 2430, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2430, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SUMMER ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 140-24 and H.B. No. 2742, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2742, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE LANDLORD-TENANT CODE," passed Final Reading by a vote of 50 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Pierick voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 141-24 and H.B. No. 2380, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2380, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 145-24 and S.B. No. 3116, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3116, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE PRESCHOOL OPEN DOORS PROGRAM," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 146-24 and S.B. No. 2284, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2284, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO A WILDFIRE FORECAST SYSTEM FOR HAWAII," passed Final Reading by a vote of 50 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Pierick voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 148-24 and S.B. No. 1170, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 1170, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

Representative Cochran's written remarks are as follows:

"First off, some Maui County council members have never heard of this. This affects them directly and it appears they have not been confided in or given heads up that this is coming down the pipeline. Even HHFDC has concerns along with the Department of Planning and Permitting. I have never understood how housing credits given to the developer of DHHL has helped to build the physical units our community actually needs in the area it is sorely needed.

"Why should DHHL be given credits when that is their mission to build for the Hawaiian people. The eminent domain process should go through the proper channels not mandated in a bill for an entity."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 1170, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING CREDITS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 46 ayes to 5 noes, with Representatives Cochran, Hussey-Burdick, Kapela, Perruso, and Poepeo voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 149-24 and S.B. No. 3202, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 3202, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"In support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 1961, the very first Hawai'i State Legislature passed Act 187, which was a groundbreaking first and only of its kind dual state and local zoning code, and this is known as our Hawai'i State Land Use Law. And at the time, Hawai'i was facing rampant development of agricultural land in ways that were disconnected from existing town centers. And the Legislature took bold action at the time. And the stated intent of our Hawai'i State Land Use Law is to preserve and protect agricultural and conservation zoned land, while making it easy to develop housing in areas where housing exists currently.

"And to implement that, the state developed four state land use districts. There's the agricultural and conservation districts, which encompass 95% of land in Hawai'i. There's the rural district and then there's the urban state land use district, which is 4.5% of land in Hawai'i. And then the state delegated zoning authority to the counties in varying ways in those state land use districts. And in delegating that authority, the state very clearly, in the preamble to Act 187, retained zoning authority.

"At the time, it was sort of the heyday across the country in the '60s and '70s of single-family zoning. And so, all of the counties, in adopting their municipal zoning codes in the urban state land use district, adopted zoning codes which essentially restricted multi-generational households in the urban district. This was different than the development pattern in Hawai'i previously. Our plantation towns, our plantation camps were developed traditionally with multi-generational households. And this is different than essentially humans have lived for all of human history in multi-generational households.

"And now fast forward 60 years to today, we have essentially filled up our urban state land use district with predominantly single-family homes. And as UHERO has shown, we have the highest regulatory burden of any state in the country on housing development. And because of it, we are developing far too few homes in our urban state land use district, far fewer homes than needed, even for our natural born population. And we're pushing development into our agricultural districts.

"So, in my opinion, at least, we are failing on the twin tenants of our Hawai'i State Land Use Law. We are not preserving and protecting agricultural land, and we have not made it easy to develop housing within

the urban state land use district. And this is having just tremendously negative consequences throughout Hawai'i. Every single day, 180 people are moving to the mainland. In a lot of ways, these are economic exiles from Hawai'i.

"Graduation season is coming up. And I used to be a high school teacher, and I always go to graduation with really mixed emotions. On the one hand, I'm so proud and filled with joy at these high school graduates who have worked so hard to get to the point where they're at. Some who have done everything right to get to that point, some who have overcome just tremendous odds. And they're standing there on the stage, and at the same time, filled with profound sense of loss and sadness that for so many of these, this will be the last time that they are full-time residents of Hawai'i. Those who go to college, many, if not the majority of them, will never be able to return because there are no housing options for them when they come back. And those that stay, like many of my generation and all the generations that have come after, will have to work two or three jobs just to remain in Hawai'i.

"And so, I think that this is the greatest public policy challenge of our time, in how do we fulfill, again, the twin tenants of our State Land Use Law, make it easy to develop housing in the Urban State Land Use District, preserve and protect agricultural land.

"SB 3202 is not going to solve the housing crisis, but it's a step in the right direction. And there's been a lot of misinformation out there about the bill, so I just want to clarify some aspects of it. The bill does require the counties to take action on ADUs. Based on the feedback from my colleagues here, based on feedback from the Senate, based on feedback from two Honolulu City Council members—"

Representative Nakamura rose to yield her time, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Evslin continued, stating:

"The bill has changed to, while the counties have to take action to allow ADUs, they have a lot of flexibility in how they allow those ADUs to be developed. They can allow ADUs in a significantly less than the entire urban state land use district, if they choose. There are no development restrictions on the allowance of those ADUs, so counties can continue to impose all of their existing development standards or impose new development standards. Things like floor area ratio, height setback requirements, off-street parking requirements, impermeable surface requirements, all of those stand, and the counties can impose them however they choose.

"In addition to that, existing requirements such as Honolulu County's owner occupancy requirement or the *'ohana* unit requirement, which requires a blood relative to live in the unit, nothing in the bill preempts the counties from imposing those.

"In addition to that, the bill is very explicit that counties can continue to reject permits due to a lack of infrastructure. The intention here was to push the counties to act but give them a lot of flexibility in how they choose to act. In addition to that, the subdivision component of the bill would require ministerial subdivision. The intention there is to reduce red tape on subdivisions. The impact fee section would reduce impact fees for small units. It would eliminate impact fees for the conversion of single-family homes to multifamily. And then lastly, the covenants section of the bill would simply require future covenants not to restrict against ADUs.

"So, again, this bill isn't going to solve the housing crisis, but I do think it's an important step in the right direction. And I also want to just thank my colleagues here for the ongoing dialog on the bill, the feedback that I've gotten from the bill, the debate that we've had here on the floor about the bill. I also want to thank the many stakeholders and advocates, both in support and against the bill. I've learned a lot through this process, and the bill has changed throughout the process based on their feedback.

"At the end of the day, I hope that every member here can vote their conscience, do what's right for their communities, and do what's right as they see for Hawai'i. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In strong opposition. This, according to my community, is the unkindest cut of all. It's the worst bill that we're going to put through because it's going to turn my community into something it doesn't want to be. I appreciate the Housing chair and his comments, a great history of the crisis that we've had, probably from the beginning. Because we've always had an identity crisis. Sometimes we think we are Los Angeles and can spread out. Sometimes we think we can, like Hong Kong, go up. We still haven't figured it out, Mr. Speaker. But this one is not the solution.

"The problem is, even if what he just said is true, those people who come in and buy land and then build all of these ADUs, you think that's going to lower the price of housing? You think this is going to help people at all? It's going to bring more, just like the Airbnb came in and they bought houses and they're doing their Airbnb and making lots of bucks, like Maui's got 20 properties per individual for some crazy reason. The point is, this is going to make it worse.

"One of the big developers has contacted my office and said, you guys are heading in the wrong direction, you think you're solving a problem, but you're actually creating one by cutting up land but not making any of the costs go down. So, we're creating a market. If we think Airbnb was a problem, this is the mini developer series of monster homes and places like Hong Kong that we have not seen.

"But hey, you guys have heard enough of what I had to say. I want to quote what the chairman of the City Council has said about this particular bill, Mr. Speaker. He has said, 'we are deeply disappointed in the conference draft of SB3202, which was amended in relative isolation and in the final hours of this year's Legislative session without any public input or discussion. We oppose this measure and are disappointed by the significant changes posted on Saturday, April 27, for a final House and Senate vote this Wednesday, May 1.' That's where we are today, sir.

"As you may recall, the Honolulu City Council (through Resolution 24-65) voiced its collective concerns over the bill's original version, which drew criticism from communities and Neighborhood Boards across O'ahu.' In fact, last night, Mr. Speaker, I went to the neighborhood board. They reminded me again how bad this bill is and how it doesn't fit in who we think we are. Now, I know the neighbor islands love this bill because they've got big lots, they've got a lot of expansion. We should make this bill applicable to those that are under 500,000. But that's another issue.

"Let me proceed with Council Chair Waters in his statement. 'Blanket mandates for additional development in residential neighborhoods across the state discount years of thoughtful planning by our communities and county councils. New density requirements not included in previous drafts violate House-Senate Conference Rules and the State Constitution, which requires three readings in each chamber, putting the legality of the entire measure into question.'

"I proceed on page two of his letter. 'Two additional dwelling units per single-family dwelling, which appears to not include *'ohana* units, put our communities at risk of out-of-state speculation,' which I mentioned earlier. Buy up the land, develop it as high density as you can, sell it off at the highest market you can get, and we are left holding the bag. Density, traffic, infrastructure, shortage of utilities, *et cetera*. He didn't say that, I just said that, Mr. Speaker.

"Continuing with Council Chair Waters, 'it does not appear that counties can deny applications for permits of additional dwellings based on adequate infrastructure, such as police, fire, emergency services, traffic, and parking.'

"And he goes on and on again not in support of this but in saying that, and I, let me summarize it with my own words. We have a housing crisis, but, Mr. Speaker, this is not the solution. We have problems with already monster houses, which we're trying to shut down. We're trying to shut down Airbnb. And what we are creating now with the intention of very good multiple housing for those who don't have housing, we're going to create a market that's going to make it where people move in with the money and all those who are the ones, the 15,000 leaving every year are going to even leave more and quicker. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I see you've given me the time out sign."

Representative Matsumoto rose to yield her time, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Ward continued, stating:

"Mr. Speaker, you see, I pay very close attention to you, sir. Having said that, my community is totally against this particular bill. And as the good gentleman from the North Shore has coined the term, keep the country, country. Hawai'i Kai says to me to say to you to say to all of our colleagues, keep Hawai'i Kai, Hawai'i Kai, don't pass this bill. Thank you, sir."

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

"In opposition, Mr. Speaker. This bill has caused a division between certain parts of our state. And I have always tried, when legislation comes up that is specific to a neighbor island or a particular community, to defer to the representative from that area and trust that they and their constituents understand the situation on the ground and what their needs are and what might harm them. We've heard from many suburban districts on O'ahu, from neighborhood boards, from residents, from our City Council, that they do not like what this bill would force them to do.

"They have been working very methodically with a lot of public input on Bill 64, which would allow one 'ohana unit and one ADU. This would force two ADUs, and it's being done in the name of intergenerational housing, which I can say we already have in my district with our 'ohana units. And it's also being done in the name of affordability. And we heard in testimony on Maui, when they instituted a policy to allow two additional ADUs, that prices went up.

"I would ask this body to follow the old saying, do unto others as you would have them do unto yourself, and leave the communities that do not want to be part of this, that want to make their own way along a similar path, but with their own nuances, let them do their own thing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In opposition. I won't bore everyone too much, I know I've spoken a lot on this bill. To me, I actually agree with the Housing chair on a lot of things, that we don't want to continue to expand into agricultural areas, we don't want to keep converting ag or conservation land into residential zones. But I think the fundamental disagreement is where the development should take place. I think that we did figure out whether we should be expanding horizontally or vertically. And the plan that I thought we had was transit-oriented development along the rail line.

"Now I can only speak for O'ahu, I cannot speak for the neighbor islands. And honestly, I'm just another representative coming from a suburban district. But I have been listening to my constituents, and I've been thinking about this and how this would apply to Kāne'ohe and Kailua, and it disturbs me.

"It seems like this bill is trying to expand horizontally without expanding the bounds horizontally. It's trying to pack in more houses into our neighborhoods where that was never the intention, and that would change the fundamental nature of our communities. And that I cannot support.

"I think that we should be building more housing. I certainly think that building more housing would be good and would drive down prices. I think that that should be vertical housing along rail stations. That's why we're building this rail in the first place for O'ahu. Again, I can't speak for the neighbor islands, maybe the neighbor islands want this. I can say that O'ahu and the suburban districts definitely do not want this.

"I wish there was another way. I honestly wish that we had the space in Hawai'i to expand like a Las Vegas, like a Los Angeles, that we could continue to expand into wide open deserts, that we had space to build houses for everyone who wants to live here, and everyone could have a single-family house. It's just not that way in Hawai'i. And if we try to do what this bill is intending to do, I really fear that we're going to reach a point where we can't turn back, where the nature of our communities is going to be so different, so dense, so compact and have so many more cars and people on the streets that it's going to be irreversible.

"I agree with the representative from Kailua that if we allow more ADUs, it's not necessarily going to make housing prices go down. I mean, anyone here who has tried to buy a house in the past has seen that housing prices for

a large lot that could possibly have room for expansion for other homes, that they go for more because the homebuyers know that they can expand, that they can perhaps build a rental unit, get more income from that. This bill would make every lot that. And expecting the price to go down when you're adding, for all the lawyers in here, when you're adding more sticks to the bundle, I think it's just fallacy. So, I stand in strong opposition to this bill. Thank you."

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

Representative Cochran's written remarks are as follows:

"As much as 'ohana units are a positive addition to any property and needed to create more housing, this bill will have unintended consequences not yet discussed openly and transparently to all counties it will affect. To me, this is shoving something down the throats of the county and mandated upon them a drop-dead date to adopt and conform or else deemed done regardless of their input. Housing in residentially zoned lots seems appropriate but not all residential lots can fit two ADUs. This is foolhardy and made out to have positive impacts for our housing needs. I disagree and want it put on record for posterity."

Representative Hussey-Burdick rose to speak in opposition to the measure, stating:

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In respectful opposition. I appreciate that the chairs did remove the most controversial portions of the bill, requiring the counties to approve significantly smaller minimum lot sizes. However, this bill still requires the counties to approve additional ADUs without any kind of mechanism to prevent outside investors or companies from buying up all these properties, adding on ADUs, and renting them out at top dollar. This, Mr. Speaker, is urban sprawl, and it is not the answer to our housing crisis.

"Most of our districts are already struggling with overburdened sewer systems and roadway congestion. If every lot could suddenly generate an additional two to three times the rental income by adding on ADUs, it will actually increase the cost to buy the whole lot and push the dream of homeownership even further away from our younger generations. This bill ensures that people like me will only ever be able to rent tiny rooms in crowded houses, surrounded by a dozen roommates.

"There are so many easier and better ways to reduce the cost of living. Like imposing a steep vacant homes tax to incentivize the existing 20% to 25% vacant units to go back on the market and bring prices down, investing in high density, transit-oriented development in the urban core, or fixing the unacceptable permitting backlog that is caused by corruption, bureaucracy, and outdated technology. The passage of this bill would almost certainly result in a flood of new permit requests to build ADUs, exacerbating the existing backlog to unprecedented levels. Flooding the market with new ADUs might temporarily reduce the cost of those units until the market adjusts, but this bill will not actually reduce the cost of housing. It only benefits the developers and the construction industry. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Rising in opposition with brief comments, please. Mr. Speaker, let me preface my remarks by saying how much I appreciate the Housing chair's commitment to solving the affordable housing crisis. As a fellow freshman, I've gotten to know him quite well during our first term together, and I know he's very knowledgeable and passionate about this issue, and I feel we're very fortunate as a body to have someone with his expertise serving in this capacity.

"Mr. Speaker, the Legislature is designed to be a marketplace of ideas, a place where reasonable minds can differ. As much as I respect the representative from Līhu'e, I'm afraid that's where we are today with this bill, two reasonable people who happen to disagree. As someone who represents a community within Honolulu proper, I know that we do not have the sufficient infrastructure in place in older neighborhoods like Mānoa to support the type of densification being proposed by this bill.

"As pointed out previously, there are no assurances that this bill will lead to an increase in our affordable housing inventory. Rather than stress communities throughout urban Honolulu and to help keep the country, country, I believe the more prudent course of action would be to focus on

transit-oriented development projects to meet our affordable housing needs. Mr. Speaker, I do vaguely recall a member of this body saying the Aloha Stadium site could serve such a purpose, but I digress.

"Lastly, we voted just a short while ago on Senate Bill 2919 that strengthens the county's ability to rein in short term rentals, which I support. In that conference committee report, we noted how that bill reinstates and supports home rule authority relating to zoning. Mr. Speaker, I'm concerned that our credibility as an institution is questioned when we selectively use the home rule argument to suit a particular need. If we believe that the counties are best positioned to address housing on a county-by-county basis, we should not impose restrictions on their planning and zoning authority in a piecemeal manner, as SB 3202 does.

"As this bill made its way through conference, I was hoping it would be amended to exempt the City & County of Honolulu, but since no such amendment was included, I'm afraid I have no choice but to continue my opposition to this bill. Thank you."

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

"In support. Mr. Speaker. From the beginning and inception of this measure, I have stood up in support. And as we have been bombarded by the hundreds of emails in opposition, I have read this. I have supported this measure from inception, and I encourage you to email your representative if they are in support or opposition of this measure. I have been bombarded from many folks in the O'ahu urban core and outer core opposing this measure. I have received one email from one of my constituents in support. Mr. Speaker, if folks had the time, money, and opportunity to rally around this measure the same way folks in opposition has, I'm sure there'll be a much different email outcome.

"Mr. Speaker, the lots awarded by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands right now rest at 5,000 square feet, and that is the reality for lessees being awarded lots. To the comments of being squeezed into houses and not affording rent, that is the reality of folks right now. In House District 44, from my house to the nearest H-1 access without traffic, it takes 20 minutes. On a commuting day from the H-1 corridor Kapolei exit to Mā'ili on any given day can range from 45 minutes to an hour on the already extenuating travel the folks must take.

"I understand full heartedly that folks have had to oppose this measure based off of the concerns of constituents, but time and time again, the Legislature has been asked to tackle this issue, and I would like to find a way that we can move this measure forward. I understand the concerns that have been raised, but I raise the concerns of what's the reality happening now. With the opposition of urban sprawl, we've now faced rural sprawl. You have lots in my district and homes in my district worth near \$200,000 to \$300,000 but have now been appraising by 100% and even at times 150%. These homes are not affordable to the folks in my community, but they are affordable to the folks who cannot afford a home in the urban core.

"Mr. Speaker, my residents and my constituents are being priced out of their own neighborhood that they can no longer call home. So, the arguments raised at keeping their neighborhood, their neighborhood, I have said time and time again, I cannot keep my district, my district if the folks who make this character of my district leave.

"I hope that there is a better way we can find a path forward, and I understand that housing is a contingent issue, but in respect to the resolution that was posed by the City Council, my council member was the only one to vote in opposition. So, for the districts that she represents from Mākaha all the way to Kapolei, I stand in support of SB 3202."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In opposition, request to adopt the words of the representative of District 51, and Mānoa, District 22, striking being a freshman. Thank you, Mr. Speaker," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support. And I want to adopt the words of our Housing chair and just say, I appreciate his hard work on this issue that is really an attempt to tackle one of the most important and most challenging

issues in our state. We continue to not make enough progress on this issue. And sometimes moving forward is hard. And yes, increasing density means you also have to look at traffic and infrastructure and other things, but we can't continue to use the need for all those things at the same time to be an excuse to take action on anything. So, I appreciate the hard work put into this session, I think a really sincere attempt to do something good for the state."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to adopt the words of the Housing chair in support. I've received hundreds of emails like everyone else in opposition, but the ones that actually did come from my district, mind you, there were only about three, but each of them were saying, please, yes. So, for that reason, still in support. Thank you," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

Representative Takenouchi's written remarks are as follows:

"I remain seriously concerned about the impacts that this bill will have when implemented in the City and County of Honolulu, especially in the urban core where we are already experiencing overcrowding in our residential neighborhoods. While the other county planning departments have come out in support of SB 3202, I have not heard adequate assurances from leaders in the executive administration or the legislative branch on O'ahu that they feel this is a feasible option to build housing stock for our island. Forcing this mandate on all of the counties without assurances they are able to create a thoughtful, effective program is premature and unnecessary at this time.

"I was a staff member for District 27 from 2012 until 2022 when I took office. The very first 'monster home' issue I worked on was in 2014, before they were widespread in the news or even carried the moniker 'monster home.' Since then, it has been an ongoing challenge to monitor projects as developers routinely buy up longtime family properties with single-family homes, raze the buildings, and replace them with units housing two, three, four, or more sets of renters. With this influx of people comes an influx of vehicles that eliminate all available on-street parking for visiting 'ohana or visitors trying to use our neighbor facilities like parks and pools.

"My constituents want to welcome new neighbors who will be a part of their longtime, close community, but we are hitting a tipping point where the number of people and cars being crammed into residential neighborhoods is at an all-time high. And, when we talk about the counties continuing to have oversight on building regulations, all of my monster homes have legally obtained permits and passed their building inspections even upon follow-up requested checks for violations. The one thing residents have found sometime helpful is inspectors finding more than the allotted number of individuals in a living space, when they could prove it.

"With this bill, three separate dwelling units will all be allowed to legally house multiple sets of renters in these overstressed spaces. I cannot in good conscience support this bill if it does not explicitly mandate protections to keep an already stressful situation from becoming utterly chaotic. A minimum of two parking stalls per ADU would greatly address some of the fears coming from my constituents, as it would keep the living space ratio on the lot controlled and ensure real off-street parking options are being considered in the building plans. Because we know that many renters – families, married and unmarried couples, or just sets of roommates – will likely bring two or more cars with them. I don't blame them for their reliance on vehicles. It's just how we have set the current system to work, even in urban Honolulu. In my district, the city is having to cut bus routes and condense services. If we are going to talk about building density, let alone mandating density, we need to provide real transportation alternatives to go along with that.

"I reiterate that implementing this program on O'ahu feels premature given what we are already seeing happen in our residential districts. I hope that the Honolulu City Council will take judicious time, after we thrust this situation upon them, to craft a system that will take into consideration the

very real concerns residents are raising about their neighborhoods morphing into overcrowded spaces they no longer recognize."

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

Representative Ward rose to respond, stating:

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is it possible to adopt all the remarks in the opposition to be in the Journal as if they were comments of my own? Some really good points have been made, Mr. Speaker. I will choose the gentleman from Kāne'ohe," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Ward continued, stating:

"My point is, Mr. Speaker, this is not about us, it's about the people out there. Who in my district, people say, oh, you guys are so well off. No, they worked their tails off to pay their first and second mortgages. And that's why they're so insistent upon keeping Hawai'i Kai, Hawai'i Kai. Keeping their neighborhood part of their own. It's the king of the castle or the queen of the castle.

"So, it's about quality of life. Quality of life is deteriorating. We already know that. And this is one of the ways, and I forget which person said, we should exempt Honolulu County. The neighbor islanders love that, I don't think there's one neighbor island, Mr. Speaker, who doesn't love this bill. And if, probably, I was on the neighbor island they wanted, I would probably say the same. The point is, it doesn't belong on O'ahu, it doesn't belong in our districts. And you could tell by the opposition. And if we're listening to our constituents, there should be a negative vote on something that seems to be for many reasons, obviously, still on the docket to be voted for.

"For those reasons, Mr. Speaker, I would hope we would continue to listen to the people of Hawai'i. And to know this one-size-fits-all and we're going to let the deterioration of the quality of life continue is not going to be the best way, as policymakers, for the future of, not only our state, but for our individual districts. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition, and I'd like to adopt the words of the representatives from Waimānalo and Mānoa as if they were my own," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Ichiyama continued, stating:

"First, I want to begin by acknowledging the hard work of the Housing chair on this bill. I think he's been very diligent throughout session. And this bill is much different than the form that it was introduced in.

"However, I oppose this bill as it's currently drafted for two reasons. But really it comes down to fairness. The first reason that I cannot support this bill as currently drafted is because our Honolulu City Council has said, this is not the right way for them to implement accessory dwelling units. In fact, they have said, let us do it our way, let us do it in accordance with our statutorily required general plan, and we're moving in this direction. I think they said that very loud and clear when they passed their resolution earlier this session.

"And ultimately, it's the City Council and the counties that will have to deal with the impacts of this legislation. They're the ones who are going to have to look at increasing sewer fees, at additional burdens on our first responders, our police, fire, ambulance, on increased demand and uses on our parks, complaints about parking and traffic. We at the State Legislature do not have to deal with the consequences that will result as of this bill, it's the counties. And to me, it's a matter of fairness. If the counties say, let us do this in our own way, we agree with you on the goal, let us work together to reach that goal. Then I think that, as a matter of fairness, they should be allowed to do that.

"And the second reason, Mr. Speaker, is that there is a path in this bill that treats O'ahu differently than the rest of the counties. And that it's a mandate that if they choose not to adopt an ordinance requiring two additional dwelling units or the reasonable equivalent, that they have a second option, they have to meet a certain number of minimum units as outlined in the 2019

housing study. And for all of the counties, they have to meet 50% of the need or half of the need of units outlined in that study. But for O'ahu, we have to meet 150% of that need, 50% of that through additional dwelling units, and 100% of that need through apartment units. And I think it's unfair for O'ahu to have a different standard than the rest of our sister counties.

"And just to be clear, looking at this 2019 study, the estimated need for O'ahu is 22,000 units. So, O'ahu is being required, potentially under this bill, to add another 30,000 units. And I think, Mr. Speaker, that's unfair. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In opposition. We addressed this issue in the CPC Committee and I had the opportunity to question the planning director from Hawai'i County. I personally am somewhat offended that this legislature is being used to circumvent the opposition of a bill like this by our own Hawai'i County Council. The planning director basically admitted that he's coming to the State Legislature and to the proponents of this bill because he cannot get similar requirements passed by the county council.

"And that really offends me because we always talk about home rule and the ability for our county councils to do what is best for the people within the county, and that we should be looking at general policies that enhance or work together in tandem with the counties. But this is a bill that really goes against the will of our sister body, the county councils. And despite the fact that it may seem like the neighboring counties all support this, I don't actually believe Hawai'i County's County Council supports this type of a measure, and they have not chimed in. But it really is a concern of me when the planning director is saying, I can't get this past Hawai'i County, so therefore can the state do it for me? So, with that being said, I'm in strong opposition. Thank you."

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

"In support. May I adopt the words of our Housing chair as if they were my own. Just a brief comment. Housing and homelessness in our communities, especially mine of District 45, has been a top priority. And I know that any tools that we can provide our state to address our housing crisis is something I'm in strong support. For my generation, I believe it's getting increasingly harder to envision calling Hawai'i home and long term. And I hope that this measure will help us achieve that. And that is why I'm in support. *Mahalo*," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"Mr. Speaker, in support. This measure, I really feel is one of those, *mahalo* to our Housing chairs for leading this charge. But I feel that this is one of those measures that really gives the opportunity and empowers our families to build their own housing within lots that they currently reside in. I know it still gives the counties the development authority to approve or reject those applications. But as somebody who was born and raised in the Philippines, we have long adopted this concept of housing family compounds, where families can live side by side, sharing meals, hosting parties, and being this support system for one another. And not saying that this is what's going to happen here in Hawai'i, but I just don't believe that we're suddenly going to see an influx of all these developers that are going to come in and buy our homes and turn them into these expensive luxury homes and raise rents.

"It's really a solution for our local family so that when the family expands, when their kids choose to have kids of their own, they don't have to be outbid for another home, they don't have to sell their home to afford another, and they won't have to move to the mainland in search of a more affordable option. And this is really about multi-generational housing for me, that's why I feel like this is a bold policy that's enabling legislation. Because I also don't feel like our counties would really just suddenly kind of do things because it has taken us decades to get to this point, and we haven't really addressed the solution, and we haven't really enabled our families to build their own housing for our own families. So, for this reason, I support this measure."

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



"Mr. Speaker, in opposition. I really appreciate the good work of the Housing chair to amend the bill from what it was when it stipulated minimum lot sizes of 2,000 square feet and 1,200 square feet. I think those were eye awakening numbers. But overall, I think that this bill is a one silver bullet kind of solution to the housing problem. All solutions need to be on the table, whether it's expanding into agricultural land, whether it's expanding more into commercial business areas, and also, of course, whether we treat the counties differently.

"This is a problem, I think, especially for Honolulu in this bill. Honolulu has two options, but option B, that of growing into the possibility of developing 30,000 more units, is not a real option for Honolulu. And so, I think that the mandate for at least two accessory dwelling units, or the reasonable equivalent, will lead to greater densification to the detriment of the current lifestyle and the current traffic parking problems.

"The City & County seems to be fully aware that densities must be increased. They are willing to go for one more accessory dwelling unit, but having at least two is too much. At least two could mean three, four, whatever. And I think that all of this is compounded by the fact that there is no easy mechanism to make the cost of housing and real property in Hawai'i less with this bill. Thank you."

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

"In support. Mr. Speaker, with a 50,000-unit shortage of housing throughout the State of Hawai'i, we need all kinds of strategies. This strategy is one option. SB 3202 started off very differently from what this final bill is turned out to be. There are many safeguards put in place for the counties. The counties have a lot more authority to figure out whether or not additional density is suitable in any given neighborhood, given either site constraints, parking limitations, infrastructure limitations, and the list goes on and on. There are many guardrails added to this bill from when we first started.

"With the cost to build an affordable housing unit in Hawai'i, the high cost of labor, the supply chain issues, the high interest rates, it ranges from, if you have low-income housing tax credit financing, maybe \$125,000 per unit and up to \$500,000, \$600,000 units these days to build an affordable rental unit. And we simply don't have all the resources, at the state and the county and the federal levels, to accommodate this need. And that's why we need all kinds of strategies.

"SB 3202 is not the fix, it's not the silver bullet, but it is one strategy that will make sense for some families who have a desire to increase densities on their lots. But I think we need multiple strategies. I think members mentioned strategies around transit-oriented development. On the neighbor islands, it's development around our bus stations. We need to do smart growth. We need to partner with our counties to decide where that growth is going to occur. And we need to be at the table to help finance these improvements as well.

"So, standing in support and thankful for the voices on both sides of the fence, because we know that we need multiple strategies to help the families in Hawai'i."

At this time, Representative Ward moved to recommit Conf. Com. Rep. No. 149-24 and S.B. No. 3202, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1 to the Committee on Housing, seconded by Representative Garcia.

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

"Mr. Speaker, I rise in favor of the recommitment. Mr. Speaker, I think we've heard from probably almost two dozen people and those who haven't spoken. But this is, as you can see, O'ahu centric in its position against this, which generally is not a wise strategy. We are a state legislature, we should have all counties involved. I'm not saying that if the chair was from O'ahu there would be a different bill, but maybe it would be a little bit different. They would perhaps have carved it out.

"But I think this is a very divisive bill, given what we have heard from so many different people. And I owe an apology to the gentleman from the Big Island. I said there was nobody from the neighbor islands against this. My apologies to the gentleman. The point is, we can do better. And I think going back and not rushing through this but have it back into the Housing

Committee would be the more prudent thing to do. It would be where discretion is the better part of valor, I think Shakespeare said. For those reasons, Mr. Speaker, recommitment is a simple process. Let's go back to the drawing board, let's get a better bill out. Thank you."

Representative Nakamura rose to speak in opposition to the motion to recommit, stating:

"Mr. Speaker, in opposition to the recommitment. We have spent the entire session debating this bill. Clearly, we have members in support and in opposition to this bill. Clearly, we've gone through the process. I do not believe we should continue to repeat this process again next session."

The motion to recommit Conf. Com. Rep. No. 149-24 and S.B. No. 3202, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO URBAN DEVELOPMENT," to the Committee on Housing, was put to vote by the Chair and upon a voice vote, failed to carry, with Representative Kapela being excused.

(Main Motion)

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3202, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO URBAN DEVELOPMENT," passed Final Reading by a vote of 29 ayes to 22 noes, with Representative Garcia voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Belatti, Chun, Cochran, Garrett, Hashem, Holt, Hussey-Burdick, Ichiyama, Kapela, Kobayashi, Kong, Marten, Matayoshi, Nishimoto, Onishi, Perruso, Poepoe, Quinlan, Sayama, Takayama, Takenouchi, and Ward voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 150-24 and S.B. No. 1035, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 1035, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In strong support. Healthcare is a human right. And on Maui, Maui is in crisis in many ways. Even before the pandemic and fires, we had a 43% shortage of doctors. In the last six months, we have had six anesthesiologists resign, one of our only two neurosurgeons quit and the second will likely follow, and one obstetrician just moved to the continent.

"The Big Island is losing an anesthesiologist, forcing their surgical center to stop procedures. The only urologist on Kaua'i just put in their resignation. Maui's current operating room capacity is only 40% of international standards. In Hawai'i, we are at much less than a third world capacity in many things that are health related. And we have an aging population. The only beneficiaries to this whole dire situation are big insurance companies and hospital executives with high pay.

"Investing in our healthcare industry is crucial for economic diversification and resilience. One fix is encouraging leaner operations. By nurturing efficient private practices, we are helping everyone. This bill provides an exemption to the regressive GE tax, which is a good start in a positive direction. I thank both the Health chair and the Finance chair for their wisdom in bringing this excellent and much needed bill to the floor."

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

"Mr. Speaker, may I adopt the words of my colleague from Maui and a couple of comments in addition, please. Mr. Speaker, what I like about this bill is that my side of the aisle has been trying to get a GET tax exemption of services for probably as old as many of us in this particular room. This is obviously music to our ears. It takes not only the medical services but also dental services.

"The bottom line is this, this session has not really focused on reducing the cost of living for our people. This one does. Not a whole lot, but it's a beginning. And that's one of the biggest concerns from every poll that is taken in this state. Do the cost of living. And that's why I said earlier, 69% don't think we're doing a good job here. I forgot to mention, you know what percent says we're doing a great job or better? Four percent, Mr. Speaker. That's something we need to contemplate. But this is a great bill, it's a great beginning to get the cost of living down. Thank you."

Representative Matsumoto rose in support of the measure and asked that her written remarks be inserted in the Journal, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Matsumoto's written remarks are as follows:

"Exempting medical and dental services provided by healthcare providers to patients who receive Medicare, Medicaid, and TRICARE benefits from the GET is an effective measure to address the lack of accessible health care and the rising cost of living in Hawai'i. The rising cost of living in the state has become detrimental to the survival of local medical practices, forcing many to close their doors or relocate to the mainland. This measure will help curb the growing shortage of medical and dental practices by providing tax relief to providers in the form of an exemption from the GET for services to patients who receive Medicare, Medicaid, and TRICARE. For this reason, I support this measure."

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

"In support. I just want to say that, like the representative from Hawai'i Kai mentioned, our caucus has pushed for the exemption of medical services for a long time. And so, this is music to our ears. I think hopefully next session we'll go one step further and exempt all medical and dental service, not just those reimbursed through Medicaid, Medicare, and Tricare."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In strong support, brief comments. Mr. Speaker, your Committee on Health advanced numerous GET exemptions around the issue of doctors and medical services, particularly around Medicaid, Medicare, or Tricare. So, this bill before us is welcome to me."

"But I would add one caution. In asking the director of taxation the anticipated revenue loss due to this GET exemption, because we had been told earlier that there was not going to be revenues to be able to really do these kinds of exemptions, I would note that what the director of taxation informed me of is that in fiscal year 2026, this particular measure will be a \$33.6 million loss. In fiscal year 2027, \$77.5 million loss. When we go further into fiscal year '31, it's \$92 million."

"So, again, I'm in very strong support of this exemption for the GET. But it raises the question, as we move forward with all of our tax policies, as we look at lost revenues, what are we going to be doing with the majority of our tax policy to address cost of living, tax relief for working families, and to ensure that we have an economic system that benefits working families. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

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

"Mr. Speaker, In support. I was actually the only one that voted in opposition to this bill when it came for third reading because of the reasons stated by the previous speaker on the tax loss. But I just want to thank the Finance chair for figuring out how to make this work in the budget and giving this tax relief to much needed medical services. Thank you."

Representative Yamashita rose in support of the measure and asked that his written remarks be inserted in the Journal, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Yamashita's written remarks are as follows:

"Mr. Speaker, SB 1035 is a General Excise Tax exemption on Medicare, Medicaid, and TriCare Medical and Dental services."

"The impact to tax collections has been estimated by the Dept. of Taxation as:

- FY26: -34.6 million
- FY27: -77.1 million
- FY28: -80.5 million
- FY29: -84.0 million

"This will strengthen the social safety net by providing greater access to health care for the lowest income families and elderly, and this will ease the fiscal burden on doctors and dentists practicing in Hawai'i."

"SB 1035, CD 1 would exempt independent primary care practices from the GET for Medicare, Medicaid, and Tricare patients, who are among the most expensive and vulnerable patients."

"The result should be an increase in access to health care affecting, most severely, neighbor island and rural populations, *kōpuna*, and high-risk patients. Lower access to care results in poorer health outcomes and higher healthcare costs."

"Per the State Health Planning and Development Agency, the impact of losing essential healthcare providers for Medicaid patients will increase emergency and hospitalization rates, thereby increasing the amount needed for state Medicaid 40% matching contributions. This could be a greater impact than the loss in GET revenue."

"I urge my colleagues' support."

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

"Thank you, in support. It was previously mentioned that \$90 million will be not in the state budget due to this bill, and I think that is music to my ears. That means \$90 million will be in the hands of the residents of Hawai'i versus ours."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 1035, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE GENERAL EXCISE TAX," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

#### **Conf. Com. Rep. No. 152-24 and H.B. No. 1830, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1830, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in strong support and a brief comment. Today is May 1st, which is not only lei day, but it also begins the start of Mental Health Awareness Month. As the purpose of Mental Health Awareness Month is to shed light on the mental health issues and stigmas that people face, it is fitting that we are discussing this measure today. Mental health touches a lot of issues we face as a society, as causes of some people facing homelessness to our criminal justice system, workplace productivity, and truancy, just to name a few. It is something that, as policymakers, we cannot ignore."

"As mental health became a priority for the Majority Caucus this session, it was important that we addressed issues of access and provider shortage. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, this bill is one step in easing those providers shortage of burdens."

"Each profession in this bill, psychologists, social workers, and marriage and family therapists, work tirelessly every day to meet the mental health needs of our state. But becoming a fully licensed professional is not an easy journey. Many prospective mental health professionals leave the islands to pursue their clinical hours, oftentimes due to the cost-of-living issues combined with having the ability to be reimbursed for their services in other states. Just like prospective doctors who are more likely to stay in Hawai'i when pursuing their medical residency here, mental health professionals who complete their clinical hours here are just as likely to stay. That is why this bill is important, to give these professionals the ability for reimbursement while pursuing their clinical hours."

"Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I want to truly thank you for prioritizing mental health by assisting these individuals who dedicate themselves to becoming mental health professionals. As we look at the needs of not only our *keiki*, but every person in need of mental health services, this bill takes a step forward to ensure that we have these professionals ready to help. Thank you."

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

"In support. I'd like to adopt the words of the representative from Waipahu as my own. And I'd just like to thank him for all of his work during the interim to make sure that all of the stakeholders and all of the concerns raised last session were addressed in this year's bill. Thank you," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In strong support and may I have the words from the representative from Waipahu entered as if they were my own," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1830, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 154-24 and H.B. No. 2619, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2619, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"In support. This bill is in honor of the late Representative Clift Tsuji, who served alongside many of you here in this very chamber representing his beloved island home. In his 75 years, he saw the consequences of invasive species and fought tirelessly for biosecurity during his tenure as Ag chair.

"This bill recommits our state to protecting our environment, our food security, and our way of life against invasive species. It places the leadership of all biosecurity efforts on the Department of Agriculture and starts to give them the tools they need to be successful in this endeavor. This bill funds nearly \$20 million in staffing and programing to help manage and eradicate invasive species like the coconut rhinoceros beetle, little fire ants, rose-ringed parakeets, coqui frogs, two-lined spittle bug, and so many more.

"Let us not surrender in the battle against invasive species and keep up our efforts in biosecurity. We want our *keiki* to be free to play safely on playgrounds without fear of being bitten by little fire ants. And we want our scenic Hawaiian landscapes to behold and proudly display coconut trees across Hawai'i.

"Let us honor the memory and work of the honorable Clift Tsuji by passing this bill. And thank you to the chair and vice chair of Finance and the chair of Agriculture & Food Systems for making this happen. *Mahalo*."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In strong support. May I adopt the words of the vice chair of Agriculture as if they're my own," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"Mr. Speaker, strong support. And to note that, Clift Tsuji was a dear friend, and I was his vice chair long, long ago, if people can remember that. I was a vice chair, you can ask Clift Tsuji. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support. In January of this year, there were 49 little fire ant active sites on the island of O'ahu, including 14 in Kāne'ohe. Over the last few months, the number of active sites has grown. This bill includes \$2.5 million for little fire ant response, and \$2 million for a public awareness campaign that will help to educate the public about the many invasive species in our communities and the threats they pose to our natural environment and the safety of our people. I'd like to thank the chair of Finance and the chair and vice chair of the Agriculture Committee for their work on this biosecurity bill that will help to address the spread of little fire ants across our state and in my community. Thank you very much."

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

"Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In support. And may I adopt the words of the vice chair of Agriculture and the vice chair of Finance, except for the part thanking me.

"Mr. Speaker, this is a very, very important bill that, for the first time in our state history, there is a comprehensive look at biosecurity, not only that plant quarantine is actually doing the work, but that it is coordinating between departments, between different entities to make sure that we are using technology to have mapping oversights of where they are spraying and that we do not duplicate that spraying that would compromise our

environment. These types of things that are being put in place are very, very important. We have to protect our environment, but at the same time, we have to make sure that we keep our communities safe.

"The bill also allows the department to do actual research into what type of pesticides to use for our unique kind of environment that we have, the unique shrubbery and plant life that we have throughout our state, that we don't harm them going forward. And because there are a lot of things that are not allowed in our state that could work, but they need that kind of work done so that we can make sure that it fits, not only for agriculture and for our communities, but for different kind of crops that are, I think, going to be important that we kind of look into all those things. I actually should have wrote all this down before I started speaking. But anyway, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to add additional written comments into the Journal. Thank you."

Representative Yamashita's written remarks are as follows:

"The Hawai'i Department of Agriculture's Biosecurity Program is a multi-level, collaborative program that prevents the introduction and establishment of new invasive species; detects and controls established pests, and promotes the growth of agriculture.

"The invasive species problem seems insurmountable, but this measure provides for aggressive action towards solving the problem. Included is language that:

- Holds Department of Agriculture and invasive species partners to be accountable and transparent as they work to control little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and coqui.
- Increases inspector positions to strengthen the ability to protect our island and the state from new invasive species from entering.
- Funds programs for control of rose-ringed parakeet, feral chickens, and two-lined spittlebug.
- Implements pest management programs for farms, nurseries, and ranches, benefitting agricultural producers.
- Tracks progress through public awareness campaigns.

"The budget includes conversion of 66 positions from special funds or revolving funds to general funds. This will free up non-general funds to be used to address current or new invasive species.

"HB 2619, CD1 provides:

- 1,000,000 Risk Assessment
- 1,200,000 Pest Management Systems Approach
- 1,100,000 Brown Tree Snake Rapid Response
- 500,000 Pest Diagnostics
- 1,500,000 Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response
- 1,000,000 Green Waste
- 500,000 Compost Reimbursement
- 2,000,000 Public Awareness Campaign
- 2,500,000 Little Fire Ants Response
- 100,000 Coqui Frog Response
- 100,000 Invasive Species Outreach
- 2,000,000 Tech Upgrades
- 500,000 Import Replacement Fund
- 1,500,000 Biosecurity Facility Planning
- 300,000 Rose-Ringed Parakeet
- 800,000 Two-Lined Spittlebug
- 200,000 Feral Chicken Control at Counties"

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

"In support and I'd like to adopt the words of the vice chair of Agriculture as if they were my own, and thank the Ag chair and vice chair, Finance chair and vice chair, and members for adding the rose-ringed parakeet funding and pilot program to this bill. Thank you," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2619, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 155-24 and H.B. No. 1953, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1953, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"In opposition. So, this bill would basically create policies or best practices that can be perceived as soft on crime. Waipahu has crime, and we don't want crime in Waipahu. So, to counteract that crime, we want tough-on-crime policies. And this bill wouldn't do that. So, I'll be voting no."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1953, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE PENAL CODE," passed Final Reading by a vote of 49 ayes to 2 noes, with Representatives Garcia and Pierick voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 156-24 and H.B. No. 2074, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2074, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In strong support. First, I'd like to *mahalo* the chair of the Education Committee and the chair of the Finance Committee for getting us to this point. This measure is very important to many members, as been evidenced by this being the number one priority for the Native Hawaiian Caucus in the House, and also by the numerous testimonies provided by organizations and individuals in every step of the way.

"For Hawaiians, the life of our language, 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, is tied to the health and well-being of our people and culture. Ka Papahana Kaiapuni is an important program that both advances the revitalization of our language and educates the next generation of students. Its success supports the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians, our language, and our culture. Ka Papahana Kaiapuni programing has also been and continues to be integral to the state fulfilling its constitutional obligations.

"Article X, Section four of the Hawai'i State Constitution gives the state the duty to promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history, and language. Further, the Constitution states that, 'the State shall provide for a Hawaiian education program consisting of language, culture and history in the public schools.'

"The Department of Education has experienced a significant growth in the demand for Hawaiian language immersion education to be provided in Hawai'i's Kaiapuni schools. Over the past decade, enrollment has grown by approximately 1,400 students, and yet resources have consistently declined since 2008. This act is to address the immediate and long-term requirements in response to the growing demand for Kaiapuni education access by appropriating funds to establish multiple full-time equivalent Kaiapuni staff positions.

"This funding will support positions distributed at the state level, reinforcing educational support to ensure the successful cultural, linguistic, and academic achievements of the Kaiapuni students. And additionally at the school level, these positions will be designated to provide new Kaiapuni program school sites and classrooms with faculty necessary to facilitate daily student instruction, thereby strengthening the overall educational foundation. So, for those reasons, I'm in support. *E ola mau ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i.*"

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

"In strong support. May I adopt the words of the chair of the Native Hawaiian Caucus. Thank you," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"In strong support, same request," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to adopt the words of the chair of the Hawaiian Caucus, and I'd like to note that one of the positions that is funded is the immersion teacher in our DOE High School. So, it's just to keep her there, it's not to expand the program. And we can expect to have similar bills trying to actually expand the program, especially as our younger students, where we have full classrooms, move up, we will need to keep adding teachers. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support. *E ola ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i.*"

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

"In strong support. I would like to adopt the words of the chair of the Native Hawaiian Caucus. Thank you," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"Same request, please," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2074, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO KAIAPUNI EDUCATION," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 157-24 and S.B. No. 2257, SD 3, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2257, SD 3, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 159-24 and S.B. No. 2305, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 2305, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"In strong support. Mr. Speaker, more than 20 years ago, my father, who was suffering from dementia, wandered off while on a shopping trip with my brother in Kāne'ohe. Simply wandered off. And that is what happens with people who suffer from Alzheimer's and other related dementias. My brother and I spent several hours driving through Kāne'ohe town and had the help of Kāne'ohe police in searching for him. Fortunately, we found him several hours later, safe and sound.

"Fast forward 20 years later and circumstances really haven't changed for families with *kūpuna* or developmentally disabled who wander off. They're on their own in terms of organizing a search for their loved ones. If they can convince police to join them, they'll have the help of police.

"This bill advances us to the modern age in terms of enlisting the public by alerting them to missing persons who are vulnerable. And for that, I'd like to thank my Pearl City colleague, who is the co-convenor of the Kupuna Caucus, for advocating this bill. And I'd also like to thank the chair of Finance Committee for funding it in the budget. And with that, I like to ask my fellow members to support this bill. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In strong support. Mr. Speaker, this measure creates a Silver Alert program designed to send out a message to utilize the community's help in locating our *kūpuna* and vulnerable individuals when they go missing. When someone suffering from dementia or a cognitive impairment wanders off, they can forget where they are, become confused, and end up severely injuring themselves, or in worse cases, leading to their untimely death.

"This was the case for Mililani resident William Burr, a Vietnam War veteran who was diagnosed with dementia. He went missing last October and his body was unfortunately found many months later. One of the advocates for this bill was Joseph Burr, William's brother, who testified at

nearly every public hearing from his home in Ohio, sharing the belief that if this program was in place, his brother might have been found alive. This is the story of countless others who go missing every year and how this program can help bring them home safely.

"Mr. Speaker, I want to give a shout out to the Alzheimer's Association of Hawai'i for really championing this measure, along with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Executive Office on Aging, as well as many other community and governmental agencies. This effort began last year with meetings including with the Department of Law Enforcement, that was open to housing the program, as well as with the California Highway Patrol and the Arizona Department of Public Safety, who both shared their *mana 'o* on their state's Silver Alert systems.

"Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chair of Human Services and the chair of Finance for helping to get this bill through. And I also want to thank this body for prioritizing safety for our *kūpuna* and our vulnerable individuals. Losing a loved one who wanders off can be the most terrifying situation for families and caregivers. But today, we are not only giving them hope, but we are also providing the help needed so that their loved ones can be found. Thank you."

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

"Mr. Speaker, declare a potential conflict. I may have to use this measure to locate you sometime in the future."

The Chair addressed Representative Kila, stating:

"Probably no conflict."

Representative Kila continued to speak in support of the measure, stating:

"In support. May I adopt the words of the previous speaker, please," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Kila continued, stating:

"Mr. Speaker, I have appreciated watching the Honolulu Police Department evolve their position on this measure. When it was first introduced, Honolulu Police Department vehemently opposed this measure, constantly pointing to the fact that they would not be able to implement this. Today before us, SB 2305, Honolulu Police Department is now willing to come to the table to help enact this measure.

"Mr. Speaker, this body last year committed \$1 million to the Alzheimer's Association by funding a public awareness campaign around this disease. Mr. Speaker, this body has been friendly to our older population, but we've also been acting to support our aging population. From the appropriation last year to the measure this year, we continue to work to make sure our aging population is continued to be looked after and cared for. So, I'm very grateful to have watched this measure evolve, and I look forward to one day having the safeguards in place to really help the families who will really benefit from this bill. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Chair. In strong support. So, during the fire, sitting at the hub that I had up on Lahainaluna Road, there was an uncle with sundowners, and he'd walk by several times a day, just in the afternoons, and especially in the evening hour when the sun's going down, hence sundowner. And I want this Silver Alert to be activated, yes. But also, to look into the families, because we had to call and find out if the family needed help with oversight, to prevent him from actually leaving the yard, going through the gate, and walking down the street a half a mile. So, there is hardship within the family unit to have oversight on their loved one who's afflicted with Alzheimer's and sundowners. So, I'm hoping that in conjunction with a Silver Alert, that we look into the families where we see the constant person being lost and going through this situation. So, *mahalo*."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2305, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

#### **Conf. Com. Rep. No. 160-24 and S.B. No. 2070, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2070, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

#### **Conf. Com. Rep. No. 162-24 and S.B. No. 3087, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3087, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

#### **Conf. Com. Rep. No. 164-24 and S.B. No. 3279, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3279, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

#### **Conf. Com. Rep. No. 165-24 and S.B. No. 2837, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 2837, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In strong support of this measure, brief remarks. First, I'd like to thank the vice chair of the Committee on Health & Homelessness, who took on the Herculean effort of negotiating numerous health bills, very complicated issues. And Senate Bill 2837, CD 1 is one of those complicated measures. I'm grateful that she was able to help and the conference committee was able to negotiate language that states that the Maui State Veterans Home shall be assimilated into a state agency having a Maui affiliation. I think this is a good compromise that really affects the intent of ensuring that any state veterans home on Maui will be having its revenues go back to the island and the residents of Maui, as we know that the state veterans home on O'ahu does that very thing here with O'ahu Regional System.

"Mr. Speaker, I'm also in support of this measure because I think, and as I stated when we were talking about the budget, how I wanted to talk about where we have been, what we will be doing with this bill in front of us, and the future work that we have to do with this legislation. What this legislation highlights is that we have to grapple with understanding what O'ahu Regional System, what Maui Regional System, what the entire HHSC Corporation looks like as we move into the future.

"So, again, as this bill looks at making sure that O'ahu will start the process of getting the state veterans home on Maui, we need to ensure that the commitments that were made to the Committee on Health & Homelessness, that the Maui Health System Regional Board will be reconstituting itself. Because we have very serious, serious issues that we need to deal with with all of these regional systems. In another bill, Mr. Speaker, and I'll just touch on it really briefly, Senate Bill 3128, we left the transfer of O'ahu Regional Health Systems back into DOH up in the air.

"So, these are the kinds of issues that we will need to grapple with in the future. In the past, and I look to my colleague to my left from District 20 who represents Kāhala, Kaimukī, Kapahulu, he was in this House from 1978 to 1994 as a House member and a Senate member. In 1995, he left and HHSC was created. In 1995 to 1997 he was the administrator of HHSC. In 2012 to the present he has served in this House and he has seen us go through regionalization, the public-private partnership that created the Maui Health System. We are going to have to grapple with these issues of what does O'ahu Regional Health Care look like, what do all the other regions look like, and what does HHSC Corporation look like. So, that is the work for the future that is hinted to by this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In strong support. It is high time we did more to respect, honor, and support our veterans. Today, I am proud to support this bill, which will ensure that we do not add even more delays to building a much needed and much deserved veterans home on Maui. Maui needs to control its health care. Having a state agency with a Maui connection is a good start. Yet, we should all watch this project to ensure control of Maui health care stays on Maui and that our veterans get the support I know we all want them to have. Thank you, vice chair of Health & Homelessness for your excellent work in negotiating this."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2837, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE OAHU REGIONAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 166-24 and H.B. No. 1932, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1932, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION," passed Final Reading by a vote of 46 ayes to 5 noes, with Representatives Belatti, Hussey-Burdick, Kapela, Perruso, and Poepeoe voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 167-24 and H.B. No. 1763, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1763, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOUSING," passed Final Reading by a vote of 50 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Pierick voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 168-24 and H.B. No. 2790, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2790, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand in support of HB 2790. Again, I would like to thank everybody who worked on this bill over this session. Hawai'i has the third lowest rate of homeownership in the entire nation. And we all know that providing pathways to homeownership is imperative for our state. And this bill relates to the Hula Mae Program, which is a first-time homebuyer program that existed in our state for many years but hasn't been utilized since 2013. And I've been pushing for this bill for many, many years, because I know firsthand what an impact it can make in the lives of those in our community.

"My husband and I were able to buy a home in 2013 with the Hula Mae Program, and we wouldn't have been able to do it without it. The Hula Mae Program offers a very low interest rate, 2.95% at the time. It required us to live in our house for 10 years, we've been there for over 11. And it allowed for a smaller downpayment. And also required homeowner classes to help you make decisions on the best way to get a loan, or what type of home would be within your range. And so, we were one of the last families that were able to utilize this. And I'm really encouraged that HHFDC will be reinstating this program. This bill will provide accountability to have HHFDC provide a report to the Legislature on how they're doing. And I know this program will make a positive impact in our state. Thank you."

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

"In strong support. And I would like to adopt the words of the Mililani representative. Thank you," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2790, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOUSING," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 169-24 and H.B. No. 2404, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2404, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"In support. This bill provides tax relief and incrementally increases standard deduction amounts. This is a good bill. And I thank the body for helping Hawai'i by reducing this tax burden."

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

"Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In support. This is a monumental piece of legislation that will give tax relief to the working families of Hawai'i. By 2030, it will result in the biggest tax cut in state history by saving taxpayers more than \$5 billion. It starts off in 2025 by doubling the standard deduction, and as minimum wage increases are applied in the years to come in 2026 and 2028, and they are pushed into higher tax brackets, what this bill does is adjust the brackets to make sure that we are not taxed higher rates and slowly gives everybody more relief. So, I urge everybody to support this bill. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, in support. I just want to thank the Finance Committee and Finance chair for their work on this measure. I know that there's a lot of moving parts and there's going to be some stuff we have to kind of piece together over time. Taxes are complicated. But I think it became very clear to me with my first couple of years in office here, that we have a massive structural issue with how we tax people within our state. I think this is an important component, along with future analysis of a variety of taxes. But I do think it's a step in the right direction.

"We need to begin to shift our tax code away from things like income tax and more towards wealth-based taxes, like property taxes. So, I am glad that this is taking a very critical first step. And also, that most of us here, almost all of us, will see a pretty substantial tax cut, which will be pretty reflective of how the general public will also be seeing things on a week-to-week basis with their paychecks. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support. This is a really important bill. We talk about cost of living all the time in the state, and we've been looking for an income tax cut for a very, very long time. Really encouraged that we're going to be putting more money in the pockets of those in our communities. And if I could have more written comments inserted into the Journal. Thank you."

Representative Matsumoto's written remarks are as follows:

"Hawai'i's cost of living has been the center of debate in the Legislature for quite some time. After years of advocating, we have finally brought a historic income tax cut to the floor for a final reading vote. This measure will provide much needed income tax relief to the individuals and families across the state who are struggling financially due to the high cost of living and tax burdens imposed on them. For this reason, I stand in support of this measure."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support. I'd like the words of the Finance chair inserted into the Journal as if they were my own," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Kitagawa continued, stating:

"And just a few brief comments. So, in addition to helping families, this bill will also help single tax filers, including our *kūpuna* who are on a fixed income. So, it has a broad range of people that it will be assisting in our community.

"I'd like to thank the chair of Finance and you, Mr. Speaker, for all of your work on this bill and for your foresight in ensuring that Hawai'i residents

would not be paying more in taxes, especially due to the increase in minimum wage. This bill will reduce the cost of living for all of Hawai'i residents, which we have been working towards in the past few years in the Legislature. Thank you."

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

"Mr. Speaker, strong support. And I could not have said it better because he gave my speech, and he gave the enthusiasm that is behind this historic bill. That's the chair of Finance. I would only add one thing. I've talked about the ALICE families and how 63% of the Hawaiian community is ALICE families. This is straight on, spot on to help the ALICE families. That gives me a lot of joy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And may I have his remarks entered into the Journal as if they were my own. Thank you," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to adopt the words of our chair of Finance as if they were my own," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Nakamura continued, stating:

"And at the start of session, we all talked about the high cost of living in Hawai'i. We talked about the plight of over half of our population of ALICE families who are struggling to make ends meet and are living paycheck to paycheck. By incrementally increasing the standard deduction for all taxpayers, by incrementally changing income tax brackets pegged to increases in minimum wage until 2028, we are going to be making some impactful changes to our tax code.

"A family of four making the median household income of \$88,000 a year will see a tax savings of \$348 next year, \$1,546 in 2025, and by 2030, this family will see a tax savings of \$3,393. That's \$3,393 in additional income per year. This family will go from paying the second highest income taxes in the country to the fourth lowest. Mr. Speaker, the scale and breadth of this tax relief bill, pegged at over \$5 billion, is unprecedented. I'd like to acknowledge you, the chair and vice chair of our Finance Committee, and our Senate colleagues for bringing this bill before us."

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

"In support. And as the loyal opposition, it's our job to hold the majority accountable, but also to recognize when a good bill is here. And the fact is, this is an excellent bill for the people of Hawai'i. And as the majority leader said, the fact that we are the second highest taxed income state in the country is a horrible reputation to have. But now that we're dropping to the fourth, congratulations Majority Caucus."

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

"Mr. Speaker, thank you. In support with reservations. So, HB 2404, CD 1, when enacted, will significantly alter Hawai'i's tax landscape, as previous speakers have mentioned, primarily through two mechanisms. One, a substantial increase in the standard deduction, and second, a consolidation of tax brackets through the elimination of the bottom brackets. This policy, while seemingly beneficial through a broad lens, disproportionately favors higher income earners, therefore exacerbating existing inequalities within our state.

"By 2025, the financial implications of these changes become apparent. According to the Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy, the state stands to lose \$656 million in revenue, a substantial fiscal shortfall. However, the distribution of these tax breaks under this bill are of even greater concern. A substantial 42% of these benefits, as others have mentioned, will accrue to the top 20% of earners, individuals making over \$147,000 annually. In stark contrast, those in the lowest 20% income bracket earning less than \$27,200 will receive an average tax break of only \$335. This discrepancy highlights a clear skew towards benefiting those who are already well-off.

"As the policy fully matures by 2031, the pattern of inequality intensifies. The projected loss in state revenues balloons to nearly \$1.4 billion. The tax breaks continue to disproportionately benefit the wealthy, with 43% of the benefit going to the top 20% of earners. The top 1% of earners with an

average income of \$1.5 million will enjoy a tax break of approximately \$12,800, which starkly contrasts with the \$469 tax break to those in the bottom 20%.

"There are more targeted ways of designing tax policies so as to better support those who are struggling, our working families who are having to move to the continent to survive. I support the taxation of wealth as the foundation of our budgeting policy. But as we are all well aware, the state has no power to tax property at this point in time, and neither chamber passed out any legislation this session that would have advanced that approach. I think that this bill, HB 2404, is a particularly risky approach, forwarding as it does broad substantive changes in tax policy that will have significant impacts on state revenue without any new progressive tax revenue generators. For these reasons, I have reservations."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In strong support. Mr. Speaker, in strong support because I've long believed that we needed to adjust the standard deduction and income brackets. But also in acknowledgment of the analysis just provided by the previous representative, the representative from Wahiawā, this does raise serious questions about out years and what we would need to do. I also agree that we should be looking at taxing wealth, but this body has time and time again turned away from doing the one thing that we could do, which is to add additional taxes through a conveyance tax on very high income or high-priced properties. So, it's, again, with a lens, this is something we need to do, but this creates future work for us as to how we're going to ensure tax fairness in our state for working families. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With reservations. This is a huge tax cut for working families, but this is also a tax giveaway to the wealthy. For those reasons, I am with reservations. And I would like to insert written comments into the Journal."

Representative Kapela's written remarks are as follows:

"This bill has been hailed as the biggest tax cut for working families in Hawai'i's history. While it does contain some provisions that benefit everyday people, it is also an egregious tax giveaway to the wealthy.

"I recently received an analysis of the conference draft of HB 2404 from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP), one of the nation's foremost nonpartisan tax policy organizations. According to ITEP, under this proposal, in 2025 the top 20% of income earners in Hawai'i—who earn an average of around \$150,000 per year—will receive 43% of the tax breaks, totaling roughly \$271.5 million. The bottom 40% of income earners will receive less than half that amount, at roughly \$117 million. Six years from now, in 2031, the situation will get even worse, with the top 20% receiving over \$590 million in tax cuts, while the bottom 40% will receive roughly \$210 million in relief.

"This bill also carries a shockingly high cost. ITEP estimates that the proposal will cost nearly \$656 million in tax revenues in 2025 and roughly \$1.4 billion adjusted for inflation in 2031. These are huge sums of money for our state that could be used to establish programs that truly invest in working families, like paid family leave, a child tax credit, a well-funded public school system, free community college, universal healthcare and mental health programs, food security for low-income residents, and so much more.

"Finally, this proposal does not fix the child and dependent care tax credit, which is something the House strongly supported this year and that was originally included in this bill. Last year, we promised the public that we delivered significant tax relief for child care. We later learned that very few people can claim the credit because we failed to make an additional amendment to fully implement it. Sadly, the final draft of this proposal does not fix that problem for working parents.

"Some parts of this bill are good, such as increasing the standard deduction. Yet, it also has glaring problems that need to be addressed in future years. For that reason, I have serious reservations about its impact on the fiscal future of our island home."

Representative Hussey-Burdick rose to speak in support of the measure with reservations, stating:

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also with reservations. I typically try to either choose a yes or no on final reading votes. But I think this bill has a lot of good parts in it. Of course, I support tax breaks for our poorest among us, it's desperately needed for working families. But the wealthier tax brackets I don't think need these same tax breaks. And I worry about how we're going to close this revenue gap in future legislative years. So, I'm with reservations on this bill. Thank you."

Representative Yamashita rose to respond, stating:

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Still in support. So, Mr. Speaker, this is a foundational piece into restructuring our whole tax code. Going forward, we will be meeting with UHERO and others to complete the task. We have, as we know, the GET will sunset that the counties have. And I think that has to be part of the discussion going forward as far as how we mix that into our tax policy going forward. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working on this issue going forward, and I urge my colleagues to still support this bill. Thank you."

Representative Ward rose to respond, stating:

"Thank you, Chair. In support. First of all, democracy is self-correcting. Anything that we pass here, if it doesn't work, we can change it. But I'm a bit pained that we have a bill that helps the poor, which turns into an argument of class warfare. Mr. Speaker, that is not the intent of this bill. And as the chair of Finance has just spoken, this is macroeconomics. But if there's one thing that we should do with the tax policy, and this is one thing that I would say we as a body have forgot and neglected, and that is, Mr. Speaker, diversifying the economy."

"When we raise the economy, all boats rise. When the sea rises, the tide rises, all boats rise. And one of the things you can point to, not the tax code, oh, you're being unfair. Class warfare is very unhealthy. We've already shown how socialism and communism doesn't work. Between China and Russia, there was 125 million people killed to implement that kind of stuff. My point is, Mr. Speaker, there's a better way of doing it. Let's help the poor. Let's not turn it into class warfare. Thank you."

"So, if we want to complain about the rich and the poor, let's get the economy and the opportunities which allow these people to rise rather than, oh, you're being unfair. Class warfare is very unhealthy. We've already shown how socialism and communism doesn't work. Between China and Russia, there was 125 million people killed to implement that kind of stuff. My point is, Mr. Speaker, there's a better way of doing it. Let's help the poor. Let's not turn it into class warfare. Thank you."

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

"In strong support and adopting the words of the Finance chair as if they were my own," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Perruso rose in support of the measure with reservations and asked that her written remarks be inserted in the Journal, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Perruso's written remarks are as follows:

"HB 2404, CD 1 proposes significant changes to Hawai'i's personal income tax structure by more than quintupling the standard deduction in five steps from 2024 to 2031 and eliminating the bottom five tax brackets in three steps from 2025 to 2029. These changes aim to simplify the tax code and provide relief, but they raise concerns about the distribution of benefits and potential fiscal impacts."

"In 2025, the bill is projected to cost the state \$656 million in lost revenues. The distribution of tax breaks would be skewed towards higher-income earners: \$271 million, or 42%, would benefit the top 20% of earners, who make an average of \$300,000 annually. The top 1% (earning \$1.5 million on average) would receive an average tax break of \$6,000, while the bottom 20% (earning less than \$27,200) would get an average break of just \$335. Nearly 65% of the tax breaks would go to those earning over \$90,000 (the top 40%), with only 18% benefiting those earning less than \$53,000 (the bottom 40%)."

"By 2031, the bill would cost the state nearly \$1.4 billion annually, which is more than 10% of expected general fund tax revenues. The distribution of tax breaks would remain regressive: \$591 million, or 43%, would go to the top 20% of earners (those making over \$147,000 per year). The top 1% would receive an average tax break of \$12,800, while the bottom 20% would get an average of \$469. Two-thirds (67%) of the tax breaks would go to those earning over \$90,000, with only 15% going to those earning less than \$53,000."

"The key takeaways from these projections are that the majority of the tax breaks would favor higher-income earners, raising concerns about equity and the effectiveness of the bill in providing relief to those who need it most. Additionally, the substantial revenue loss poses challenges for state budget planning, necessitating the identification of alternative revenue sources or spending adjustments to maintain essential public services. More targeted ways to provide tax relief to lower-income residents, who would benefit most, should be considered."

"Related versions of the bill, such as HB 2404, SD 1, introduced a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) factor, increased standard deduction amounts, and raised income tax brackets with an estimated cost of \$140 million per year. HB 2404, HD 1 increased income thresholds for full itemized deductions, lifts the cap on state and local tax deductions, implements a one-time increase in personal income tax brackets, and expands the child and dependent care tax credit."

"In conclusion, we must carefully evaluate whether the proposed changes align with the goal of equitable tax relief and consider the broader economic implications, including consumer spending and investment. Balancing fiscal responsibility with the equitable distribution of tax benefits is essential for informed decision-making."

"(Based on analysis provided by the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy: <https://itep.org/itep-tax-model/>)"

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2404, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INCOME TAX," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes, with Representatives Hussey-Burdick, Kapela, and Perruso voting aye with reservations.

#### **Conf. Com. Rep. No. 172-24 and S.B. No. 2443, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 2443, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am in strong opposition. And full disclosure, everyone knows this is my favorite bill to speak out in opposition to. Because we should all be wary of the slippery slope of having artificial intelligence cameras, networks, essentially primitive robocops, and where it will take us 20 years from now. The quote from a prescient movie I once saw was dramatic. Dead or alive, you're coming with me. You have 20 seconds to comply. I can't do a robot voice. Anyway, I fear the day when poorly regulated computerized OCP privatized police are the way we fulfill a prime directive to serve the public trust, protect the innocent, and uphold the law."

"From a purely legal standpoint, the U.S. Constitution Sixth Amendment guarantees an accused right to face an accuser, specifically to expose biases. Yet you cannot face an entity that has no face. Nor can you expose its bias if you're not a computer scientist with full code access."

"Given the rapid advances in artificial intelligence, laws that allow hackable computers to cite people for violations violate our fundamental constitutionally guaranteed rights. AI paired with robo cameras will set a singularly dangerous singularity precedent, a veritable Pandora's computer server box, which we can never unplug. I love computers and high technology, yet I must vote no for my children, future grandchildren, and all humanity. Thank you."

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



"In bipartisan opposition. I request that the words of the representative from Kīhei be inserted into the Journal as my own," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2443, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY," passed Final Reading by a vote of 46 ayes to 5 noes, with Representatives Alcos, Amato, Garcia, Kapela, and Matsumoto voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 174-24 and S.B. No. 3242, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3242, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 175-24 and S.B. No. 2240, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 2240, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"In opposition. Mr. Speaker, SB 2240 requires the Office of Elections to file an application with the Electronic Registration Information Center, also known as ERIC, so that Hawai'i can be admitted as a member of this organization. First off, Mr. Speaker, let's be clear, by joining ERIC, our state Office of Elections will be handing over the sacred data of Hawai'i voters to a third party, non-government corporation for the sake of convenience.

"According to Scott Nago, ERIC will help clean our voter rolls. But isn't that his job? He says that this will comb through data and remove duplications. But isn't that why we pay him and everyone who works at that office a salary? My point is simply this, why do we, the people of Hawai'i, have to pay a mainland non-government company to do the job of the Office of Elections? Let's not forget also that in recent months, many states have pulled out of ERIC due to serious concerns over its security.

"Also, Mr. Speaker, we can't forget that the entire Election Commission voted unanimously against supporting this bill and joining ERIC. Every single member on that commission said no to joining ERIC, both Democrat and Republican appointees said no to joining ERIC unanimously. During the Finance Committee hearing, Director Nago said, with a grin on his face, quote, well, they just advise me, they don't tell me what to do. Wow. This is why the people of Hawai'i are so sick of government bureaucrats. No vote."

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

"Mr. Speaker, in support. My constituents are very much in support of ERIC. And I have studied the elections integrity best practices throughout the state. Through your arrangement, I was able to attend National Conference of State Legislatures election committee meetings, meeting with people from states who are run by Republican administrations and states run by Democratic administrations. And each one of them, no matter whether they were Republican or Democrat, said that ERIC is a good idea. It has been maligned by misinformation.

"In bringing the state into the system that ERIC offers, we are improving the integrity of our voter rolls. We will be able to make sure that people are not registered in more than one state. Our Office of Elections is very cognizant of its responsibility to make sure that the voter rolls of the state are accurate. And the Legislature has in some ways made this even more difficult by making sure that they just can't take people off the voter rolls because they didn't vote.

"So, I think we need every kind of tool in our toolbox to help ensure the integrity of our voter rolls. ERIC does offer this opportunity because it just makes sure that people are not registered in more than one state. It also requires us to send out a letter to everyone who has a driver's license in the state who is not registered to vote, and encourage them to register to vote. So, in fact, by joining ERIC and meeting the requirements of this organization, we may in fact increase the number of people registered to vote, which would be a very good thing.

"And I think in terms of Mr. Nago and his relationship with his advisory council, I think we should leave that to Mr. Nago and to the advisory council. Mr. Nago, he's hired as a professional. They can hire and fire, but they do advise. And he has to be discerning about which advice to accept and which to look to best practices in the state. In this case, with joining the national voter registration database, I think it is a best practice from everything I've learned. And I would encourage members to support this bill because it allows us to join this national voter registration database and improve the integrity of our voter rolls. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support. I would just like to have the words of the Judiciary chair inserted into the Journal as if they were my own. And I want to add that many of the states that have left ERIC are now scrambling to replace it. And that includes forking up hundreds and thousands of their own taxpayer dollars to replace it when they could have just stayed with the program and not have any of this headache," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In opposition. 96825 is the highest per capita education in the state, Mr. Speaker. I don't brag that because it's Hawai'i Kai, but it is Hawai'i Kai, and nobody knows about ERIC. To say that we know about ERIC is foolhardy.

"The point is, Mr. Speaker, what we have is a problem with our voter rolls because we don't clean them. And as my colleague said, that's the job of Mr. Nago. His job is not to go contrary to his board. I mean, it's like the President of the University of Hawai'i telling the Board of Regents, hey, up yours, forget about it, we don't want to pay attention to you.

"I don't know if Mr. Nago is looking for another job or whatever, but his taking this position to jeopardize our constituents who have to give Social Security and for their personal birthdates to these people on a national level who we don't know. I don't care who backed out of it. The point is, you got to pay \$100,000 to get into this thing, and then even more to keep your membership. So, what do we get out of it? Zero.

"If you leave the state, maybe we can make sure you don't register in another state. That's not our problem. The problem is when people die, we don't have that on record with Mr. Nago. So, Mr. Speaker, this is a waste of money. And the fact is, we don't need this. In particular, my district will not allow any of these Social Security and birth dates to be done on a whim just because we've got an ERIC and an option to do that. Let's do our job here and not pay for it to be done by the mainland, which jeopardizes the security of our residents. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2240, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 42 ayes to 9 noes, with Representatives Aiu, Alcos, Garcia, Gates, Kila, Kong, Matsumoto, Pierick, and Ward voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 177-24 and S.B. No. 2085, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 2085, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support. On September 6, 2023, a month after the Maui wildfires, it is the leadership of this House that convened six interim working groups to address the many issues that were raised. You tapped myself and the Water & Land chair to co-chair the Wildfire Prevention Working Group. With 15 other members in 60 days, we worked diligently to prepare and provide recommendations to the Legislature to acknowledge what has happened. Mr. Speaker, in this session alone, we've responded to many of the concerns that have raised by implementing law. Now, we will increase fines for fire starting activities on red flag days. And we've also appropriated over \$1 billion to address some of these wildfire concerns.

"But, Mr. Speaker, the most minuscule amount of \$175,000 will probably have the most profound impact, and that is by the creation of a state fire marshal. The representative from Kaimukī had shared with the Finance Committee that in his earlier years in the Legislature, that he was there for the removal on the funding of this position. And now in his departure, we are finally reinstating this position.

"Mr. Speaker, the state fire marshal will head all the fire county chiefs in working to make sure that the state and county is doing diligent work and measures to prevent another catastrophe based on negligence. Mr. Speaker, I am excited to see this office be implemented, but I have to also share with my colleagues that it is up to us to continue to support the state fire marshal as they build out their program and department in the next several years.

"Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the chance that you have allowed us to work through these measures and find recommendations to address the issues and causes that we faced over the interim. And as we move forward into the years ahead in the Legislature, it is this legislative body that have worked together to reinstate the fire marshal.

"And a great provision that was added to the bill is that the State Fire Council will be the body to appoint this position for a period of five years. So, as we move into the interim and to the next session ahead of us, let us continue to support our new state fire marshal and the effort and work that they will do. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2085, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 179-24 and S.B. No. 2782, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2782, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATED TO ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 180-24 and S.B. No. 2787, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 2787, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Lamosao rose in support of the measure and asked that her written remarks be inserted in the Journal, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Lamosao's written remarks are as follows:

"This legislation aims to create an Immigrant Services and Access unit within the Office of Community Services. Its goal is to enhance economic self-sufficiency, inclusion, and community integration for immigrants across our state. With over 250,000 foreign-born individuals residing here, significant portions hail from the Philippines (46%), followed by Japan (8%), China (8%), Korea (7%), Micronesia (5%), Vietnam (4%), and Mexico (2%). Fifty-seven percent of Hawai'i's immigrants are naturalized US citizens, many of whom have children born in the U.S. Establishing this unit will bolster OCS's ability to expand and enhance services for immigrants facing barriers to accessing government resources and experiencing exclusion from full community participation."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2787, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO IMMIGRATION," passed Final Reading by a vote of 48 ayes to 3 noes, with Representatives Garcia, Pierick, and Ward voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 184-24 and S.B. No. 582, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 582, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In strong support. This bill will help allocate resources for expenses related to housing, food, and other assistance for individuals affected by the Maui wildfire disaster. As a representative from Maui, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the members of this body for their unprecedented support during this time of need. Your swift actions in response to the devastating wildfires has been crucial in taking care of our residents displaced from their homes. Thank you for standing with us and for your unwavering dedication as we navigate through these challenges together. Thank you."

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

"Thank you. And this is a huge bill and I *mahalo* everybody for the diligent work and support for Lahaina and the wildfire. I actually have a WR on this one. There's one particular section, it's Section 2, the first sentence. It is stating that this legislature finds that the devastating wildfires brought on by the winds from Hurricane Dora. As far as I've been following, there has been no report that has pinpointed the actual origin.

"So, I'm noticing all this legislation having to do with the fire and all this funding is starting with that sentence. And it's taking me aback that we as a legislature is taking it upon ourselves to figure out that this is the origin. It definitely exacerbated the fire, but as far as I'm concerned, it is not the origin and cause. So, that's my one and only sticking point within all these pages of this bill and another future one that I'll be speaking to. But other than that, I want to move it forward, obviously with the funding, because it's going to help the needs of my community. But I just wanted to state that for the record. *Mahalo*."

Representative Kahaloa rose in support of the measure and asked that the remarks of Representative Miyake be entered into the Journal as her own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"Mr. Speaker, in support and a minuscule comment. We have to wait until December to get the ATF, the alcohol, tobacco, and firearms, to tell us what the origin was. Mr. Speaker, I hope the hundreds of lawsuits and others in anticipation of this actually find out, not in equivocation, but in actual fact, what was the origin of this fire? And hopefully the feds can do this, because right now it's still up in the air. And people are asking me, and I say, well, we are still doing the investigation. So, hopefully we are going to finally get to the source of it, hopefully by Christmas. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 582, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO STATE BUDGET," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes, with Representative Cochran voting aye with reservations.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 185-24 and S.B. No. 3091, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3091, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR FOOD SERVICES," passed Final Reading by a vote of 50 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Pierick voting no.

**Conf. Com. Rep. No. 187-24 and H.B. No. 2340, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1:**

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2340, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CLAIMS AGAINST THE STATE, ITS OFFICERS, OR ITS EMPLOYEES," passed Final Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

At 3:46 p.m., the Chair noted that the following bills passed Final Reading:

H.B. No. 2430, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1  
H.B. No. 2742, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1  
H.B. No. 2380, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1  
S.B. No. 3116, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1

S.B. No. 2284, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 1170, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3202, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 1035, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 1830, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2619, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 1953, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2074, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2257, SD 3, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2305, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2070, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3087, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3279, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2837, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 1932, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 1763, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2790, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2404, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2443, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3242, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2240, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2085, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2782, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2787, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 582, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3091, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2340, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1

At 3:46 p.m., the Chair declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The House of Representatives reconvened at 4:09 p.m.

#### FINAL READING

Representative Nakamura moved to agree to the amendments made by the Senate to the following House Bills, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried: (Representatives Aiu, Ganaden, Gates, and Holt were excused.)

H.B. No. 1922, HD 2, (SD 1)  
 H.B. No. 2394, HD 1, (SD 1)  
 H.B. No. 2501, HD 1, (SD 2)

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

##### H.B. No. 1922, HD 2, SD 1:

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, H.B. No. 1922, HD 2, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WILDLIFE," passed Final Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Holt being excused.

##### H.B. No. 2394, HD 1, SD 1:

Representative Nakamura moved that H.B. No. 2394, HD 1, SD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"I was briefed that this was a gut-and-replace bill. In other words, the original contents and theme of the bill isn't the same as what it is presently. And I believe a bill needs to process through the various House Committees and at least one Senate Committee. So, I don't think this bill has done that in its original form to what we have today. So, I'll be voting no."

At 4:10 p.m., Representative Nakamura requested a recess and the Chair declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The House of Representatives reconvened at 4:11 p.m.

Representative Nakamura rose, stating:

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to respond to the previous speaker, we did check with the attorney general and we have gotten clearance that the subject matter is consistent with the theme of the bill and it can go forward."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and H.B. No. 2394, HD 1, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO

INSURANCE," passed Final Reading by a vote of 46 ayes to 4 noes, with Representatives Garcia, Matsumoto, Pierick, and Ward voting no, and with Representative Holt being excused.

##### H.B. No. 2501, HD 1, SD 2:

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, H.B. No. 2501, HD 1, SD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII REPORTING REQUIREMENTS," passed Final Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Holt being excused.

At 4:12 p.m., the Chair noted that the following bills passed Final Reading:

H.B. No. 1922, HD 2, SD 1  
 H.B. No. 2394, HD 1, SD 1  
 H.B. No. 2501, HD 1, SD 2

#### FINAL READING

At this time, the Chair stated:

"Members, please note that this measure is deferred one legislative day."

##### H.B. No. 1896, HD 2, SD 1:

By unanimous consent, action was deferred one legislative day.

#### FINAL READING

Representative Nakamura moved to agree to the amendments made by the Senate to the following House Bills, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried: (Representative Holt was excused.)

H.B. No. 2218, HD 1, (SD 2)  
 H.B. No. 2227, HD 2, (SD 1)

##### H.B. No. 2218, HD 1, SD 2:

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, H.B. No. 2218, HD 1, SD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT," passed Final Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Holt being excused.

##### H.B. No. 2227, HD 2, SD 1:

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, H.B. No. 2227, HD 2, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CHILD CARE," passed Final Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Holt being excused.

At 4:13 p.m., the Chair noted that the following bills passed Final Reading:

H.B. No. 2218, HD 1, SD 2  
 H.B. No. 2227, HD 2, SD 1

#### END OF CALENDAR

At this time, the Chair stated:

"Members, we have an end of calendar item. This is Conference Committee Report 99-24, House Bill 2361 from page 29."

At 4:14 p.m., Representative Nakamura requested a recess and the Chair declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The House of Representatives reconvened at 4:15 p.m.

##### Conf. Com. Rep. No. 99-24 and H.B. No. 2361, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1:

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2361, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1 pass Final Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Nakamura moved to recommit Conf. Com. Rep. No. 99-24 and the attached proposed conference draft to the Committee on Conference, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and Conf. Com. Rep. No. 99-24 and H.B. No. 2361, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY," were recommitted to the Committee on Conference, with Representative Holt being excused.

### SUSPENSION OF RULES

At this time, the Chair stated:

"Members, could you please turn to your digital action sheets. We have two motions for two bills. The first is to suspend the rules and the second is to reconsider."

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the rules were suspended for the purpose of reconsidering action previously taken in disagreeing to amendments made by the Senate to certain House Bills. (Representative Holt was excused.)

### RECONSIDERATION OF ACTION TAKEN

Representative Nakamura moved that the House reconsider its action previously taken in disagreeing to the amendments made by the Senate, and give notice of intent to agree to such amendments for the following House Bills, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried: (Representative Holt was excused.)

H.B. No. 1861, HD 2, (SD 2)

H.B. No. 2159, HD 2, (SD 2)

At this time, the Chair stated:

"Members, please note that these two measures will appear on Friday's Order of the Day for the motion to agree and final reading."

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Garcia: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just an announcement tomorrow, Thursday, May 2, the famous Idaho Potato truck that is 72ft in length will be visiting the Hawai'i State Capitol on Beretania Street from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., if you want to stop by."

Representative Matayoshi: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would not be having to waste our time this session if we had people signed up for the blood drive tomorrow. We need five more to meet the minimum. We need 15 more people to sign up to get to the level we were at last year. Still have slots open, please sign up online. Thank you."

Representative Kila: "Mr. Speaker, I apologize. If my colleagues would allow me to wish my father, who's watching at home, a happy birthday as a May Day baby. Thank you."

### ADJOURNMENT

At 4:19 p.m., on motion by Representative Morikawa, seconded by Representative Garcia and carried, the House of Representatives adjourned until 11:00 a.m. Friday, May 3, 2024. (Representative Holt was excused.)

### HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

House Communication dated April 30, 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 Speaker has made the following changes to the conferees on the following measure:

H.B. No. 2159, Discharged all conferees.  
HD 2, SD 2

House Communication dated May 1, 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 reconsidered its action taken in disagreeing to the amendments made by the

Senate on April 11, 2024, and gives its notice of intent to agree to the following House Bills:

H.B. No. 1861, HD 2, SD 2

H.B. No. 2159, HD 2, SD 2

House Communication dated May 1, 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 bills on Final Reading:

H.B. No. 982, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1

H.B. No. 1148, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1

H.B. No. 1533, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 1577, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1

H.B. No. 1633, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 1640, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 1686, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 1760, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 1763, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1

H.B. No. 1800, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 1801, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 1827, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 1830, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 1832, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1

H.B. No. 1836, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1

H.B. No. 1902, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1

H.B. No. 1911, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1

H.B. No. 1916, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 1925, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 1932, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 1944, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 1953, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1

H.B. No. 2020, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1

H.B. No. 2042, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 2058, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 2070, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1

H.B. No. 2074, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 2090, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1

H.B. No. 2107, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 2144, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1

H.B. No. 2192, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 2193, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1

H.B. No. 2224, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 2248, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 2278, HD 2, SD 3, CD 1

H.B. No. 2298, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1

H.B. No. 2315, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1

H.B. No. 2339, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1

H.B. No. 2340, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1

H.B. No. 2354, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1

H.B. No. 2359, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 2365, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 2369, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 2376, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 2377, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 2380, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 2390, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 2399, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 2404, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 2430, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 2435, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1

H.B. No. 2453, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1

H.B. No. 2457, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 2458, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1

H.B. No. 2467, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 2471, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1

H.B. No. 2475, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 2478, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 2480, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1

H.B. No. 2481, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 2482, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1

H.B. No. 2484, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1

H.B. No. 2499, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1

H.B. No. 2546, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2553, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2581, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2619, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2641, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2685, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2715, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2742, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2743, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2790, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 H.B. No. 2801, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 116, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 572, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 582, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 795, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 1035, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 1099, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 1170, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 1258, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2066, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2070, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2079, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2085, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2119, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2132, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2133, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2182, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2193, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2197, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2216, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2217, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2240, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2257, SD 3, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2284, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2287, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2289, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2305, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2333, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2337, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2342, SD 2, HD 3, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2347, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2350, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2401, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2413, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2439, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2443, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2461, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2475, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2476, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2497, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2504, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2512, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2516, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2526, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2529, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2532, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2536, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2537, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2557, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2575, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2591, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2600, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2601, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2657, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2659, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2687, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2693, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2715, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2718, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2721, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2725, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2726, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2731, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1

S.B. No. 2753, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2782, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2787, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2819, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2834, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2837, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2841, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2845, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2861, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2919, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2927, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2937, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2943, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2960, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2974, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2983, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 2991, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3011, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3033, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3034, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3037, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3070, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3083, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3087, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3091, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3092, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3094, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3109, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3116, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3123, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3139, SD 2, HD 3, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3153, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3154, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3157, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3191, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3192, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3202, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3207, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3220, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3236, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3242, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3279, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3290, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3305, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3312, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3364, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1  
 S.B. No. 3365, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1

House Communication dated May 1, 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 agreed to the amendments made by the Senate and passed the following House Bills on Final Reading:

H.B. No. 1922, HD 2, SD 1  
 H.B. No. 2218, HD 1, SD 2  
 H.B. No. 2227, HD 2, SD 1  
 H.B. No. 2394, HD 1, SD 1  
 H.B. No. 2501, HD 1, SD 2