

**HAWAII STATE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**REGULAR SESSION OF 2025**

***ROUGH DRAFT  
JOURNAL***

**FIRST DAY  
JANUARY 15, 2025**

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK**

BT

*All Mini and Rough Draft Journals are provided as an informational service only and are not intended to replace the permanent bound version of the House Journal which is the official certified record. The daily Mini Journals and Rough Draft Journals are subject to correction and approval, and should not be relied upon, quoted or cited as an official record.*

*The **Mini Journal** is produced for each legislative day and shows all action which took place on the Chamber Floor, including all bills and resolutions introduced, referrals, readings, all motions and votes, and Governor's Messages and other Communications. The Mini Journal does not include verbatim floor remarks or announcements made.*

*The Mini Journal is generally available the next legislative day following each day's session and may be obtained at the House Printshop.*

*The **Rough Draft Journal** includes verbatim floor remarks, written remarks, announcements and introductions made on the Chamber Floor. Copies of the Rough Draft Journal may be obtained at the House Printshop as they become available.*

*The **Mini Journal** and **Rough Draft Journal** may also be obtained at the House of Representatives section of the legislative website. [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov)*

*The **bound version of the House Journal** is the official certified record of the proceedings of the House of Representatives. Once certified, the official permanent record is published and bound after the close of the Regular or Special Session of the Legislature.*

THE  
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2025  
JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE

FIRST DAY

**Wednesday, January 15, 2025**

In accordance with the provisions of Article III, Section 10 of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i, the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2025, convened at 10:09 a.m.

The Honorable Matthias Kusch, being the Representative who was elected from the First Representative District of the State of Hawai'i, called the House to order, following the *oli* delivered by Puna Kalama Dawson.

At this time, the Temporary Chair stated:

"The House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i is now called to order.

"*Aloha*, I am Matthias Kusch, Representative from the First House District of Hawai'i Island. I am honored to preside over this Opening Day ceremony. *E komo mai*.

"At this time, I call upon Former Kaua'i Mayor Bernard Carvalho to lead us in the singing of the national anthem and Hawai'i Pono'i. Thereafter, Phoenix Lee, son of Representative Mike Lee, will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Will the members and audience please stand."

The members of the House, guests, and audience rose for the singing of the national anthem followed by Hawai'i Pono'i, which was led by Former Kaua'i Mayor Bernard Carvalho. Thereafter, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Master Phoenix Lee.

The invocation was then delivered by Reverend Tad Iwata.

**INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

The following resolution (H.R. No. 1) was read by the Temporary Clerk and the following action taken:

H.R. No. 1, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION ELECTING THE TEMPORARY CHAIR OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE," resolving that the Honorable Matthias Kusch, Representative from the First District, be and is hereby declared the duly elected Temporary Chair of the House of Representatives of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, was jointly offered by Representatives Quinlan and Matsumoto.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Matsumoto and carried, H.R. No. 1 was adopted, with Representative Ward being excused.

At this time, the Temporary Chair stated:

"Members of the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third State Legislature, thank you. Let us commence with the Order of the Day."

The Temporary Chair appointed Mr. Brian L. Takeshita as Temporary Clerk of the House of Representatives.

The Temporary Chair then called upon Representative Tarnas for the report of the Committee on Credentials.

**REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Credentials, presented a report (Spec. Com. Rep. No. 1) as follows:

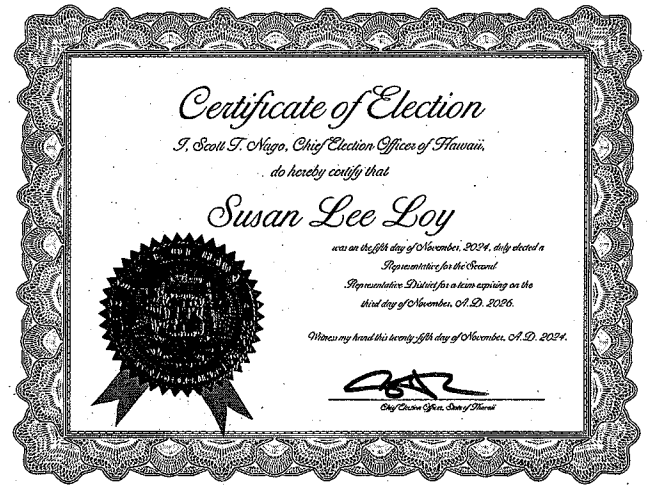
"Pursuant to the authority vested by Article III, Section 12, of the Hawaii State Constitution, which identifies each House of the Legislature as sole judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of its own members, your Committee on Credentials begs leave to report that it has thoroughly considered the matter of the seating of the members elect of the House of Representatives of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, and finds that, based on the certificates of election issued by the Office of Elections (attached), the members elect are duly qualified to sit as members of the House of Representatives as follows:

First District:	Matthias Kusch
Second District:	Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy
Third District:	Chris Todd
Fourth District:	Greggor Ilagan
Fifth District:	Jeanne Kapela
Sixth District:	Kirstin Kahaloa
Seventh District:	Nicole E. Lowen
Eighth District:	David A. Tarnas
Ninth District:	Justin H. Woodson
Tenth District:	Tyson K. Miyake
Eleventh District:	Terez Amato
Twelfth District:	Kyle T. Yamashita
Thirteenth District:	Mahina Poepeo
Fourteenth District:	Elle Cochran
Fifteenth District:	Nadine K. Nakamura
Sixteenth District:	Luke A. Evslin
Seventeenth District:	Dee Morikawa
Eighteenth District:	Gene Ward
Nineteenth District:	Mark J. Hashem
Twentieth District:	Tina Nakada Grandinetti
Twenty-First District:	Jackson D. Sayama
Twenty-Second District:	Andrew Takuya Garrett
Twenty-Third District:	Ikaika Olds
Twenty-Fourth District:	Adrian K. Tam
Twenty-Fifth District:	Kim Coco Iwamoto
Twenty-Sixth District:	Della Au Belatti
Twenty-Seventh District:	Jenna Takenouchi
Twenty-Eighth District:	Daniel Holt
Twenty-Ninth District:	Ikaika Hussey
Thirtieth District:	Shirley Ann Templo
Thirty-First District:	Linda Ichiyama
Thirty-Second District:	Garner M. Shimizu
Thirty-Third District:	Sam Satoru Kong
Thirty-Fourth District:	Gregg Takayama
Thirty-Fifth District:	Cory M. Chun
Thirty-Sixth District:	Rachele F. Lamosao
Thirty-Seventh District:	Trish La Chica
Thirty-Eighth District:	Lauren Matsumoto

ROUGH DRAFT

Thirty-Ninth District:	Elijah Pierick
Fortieth District:	Julie Reyes Oda
Forty-First District:	David Alcos III
Forty-Second District:	Diamond Garcia
Forty-Third District:	Kanani Souza
Forty-Fourth District:	Darius K. Kila
Forty-Fifth District:	Christopher L. Muraoka
Forty-Sixth District:	Amy A. Perruso
Forty-Seventh District:	Sean Quinlan
Forty-Eighth District:	Lisa Kitagawa
Forty-Ninth District:	Scot Z. Matayoshi
Fiftieth District:	Mike Lee
Fifty-First District:	Lisa Marten"

The report was submitted by Representatives Tarnas, Quinlan, and Matsumoto, with the following Certificates of Election attached:



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'AINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'AINA

NOV 27 2024

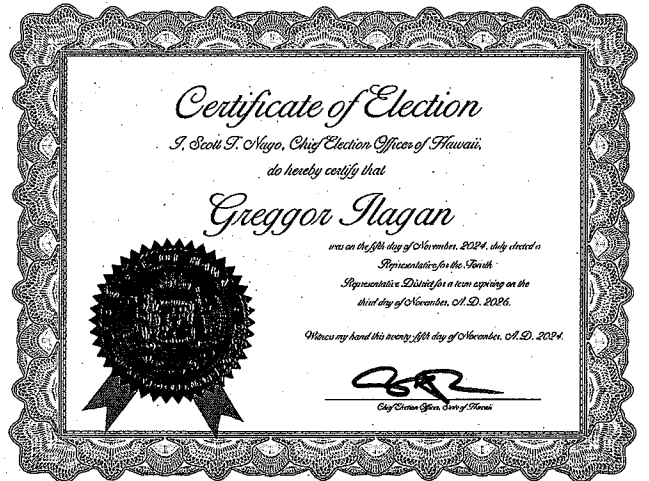
The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Speaker Nakamura:

I am pleased to inform you that, pursuant to section 17-4(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, I have appointed Matthias Kusch to serve as the State Representative from the 1<sup>st</sup> House District until elections are held to fill the seat. Mr. Kusch's appointment fills the vacancy created in the 1<sup>st</sup> House District due to the passing of Representative Mark Nakashima.

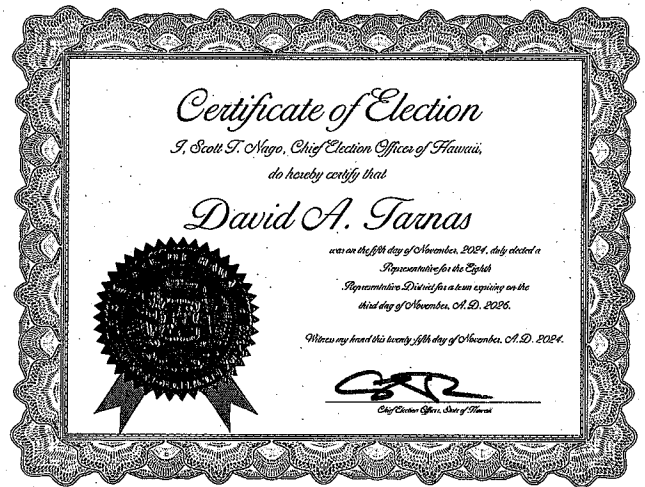
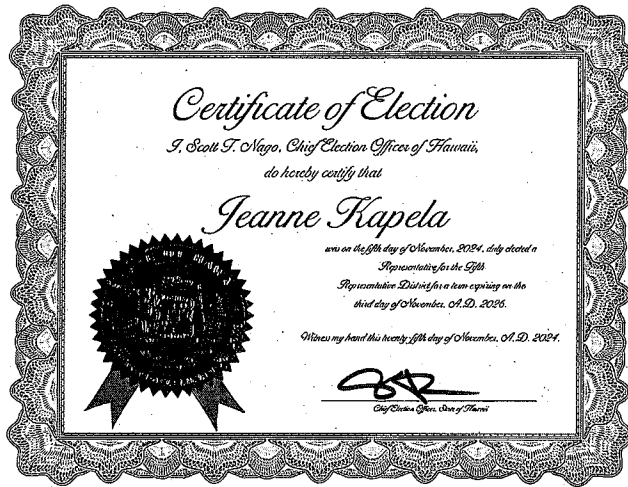
Mahalo,

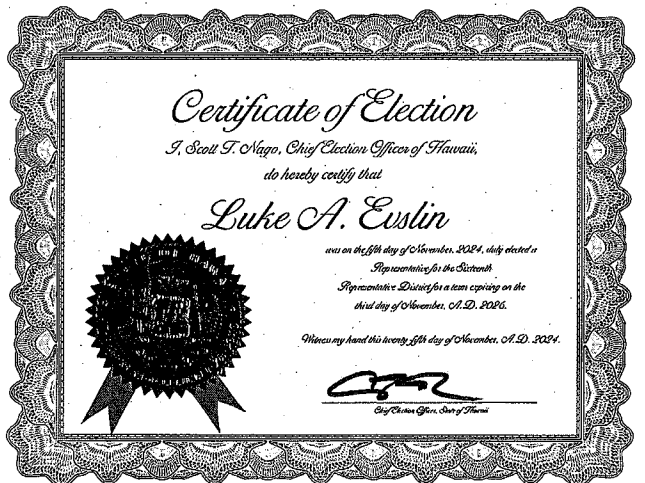
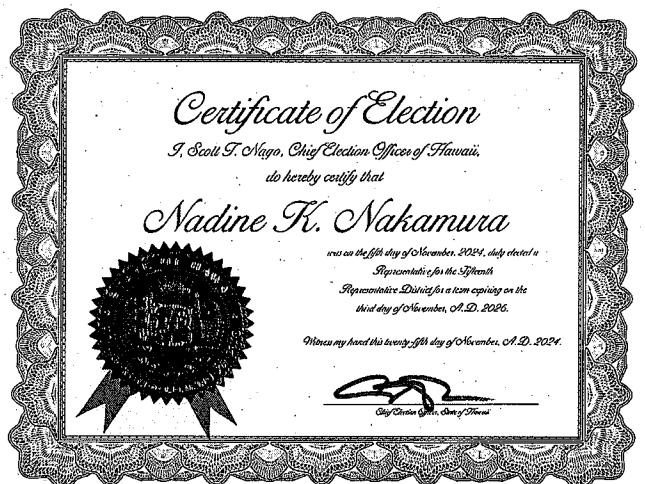
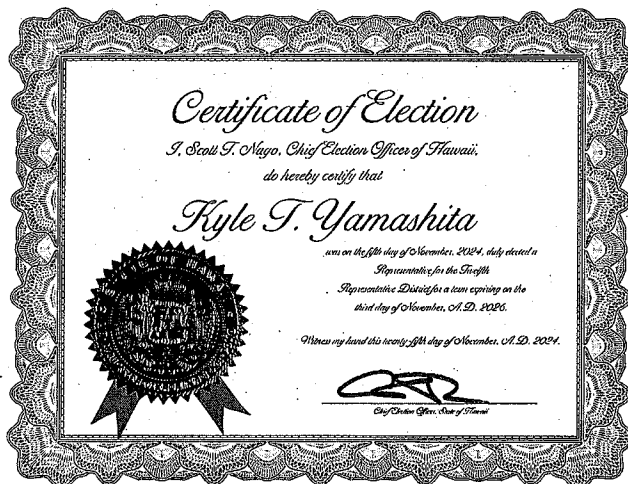
Josh Green, M.D.  
Governor, State of Hawaii

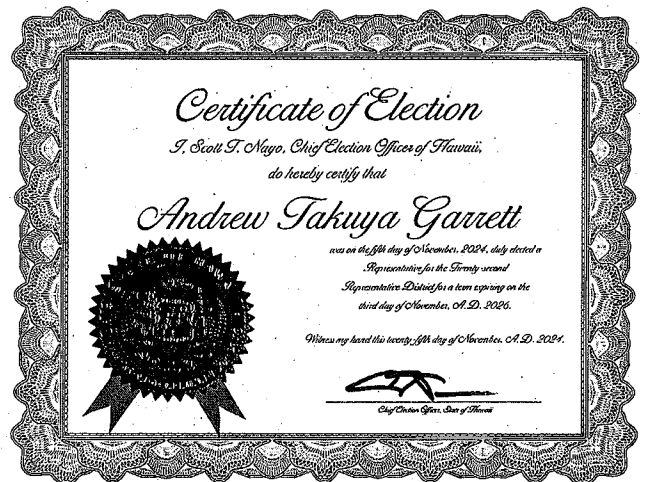


c: The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President, Hawaii State Senate

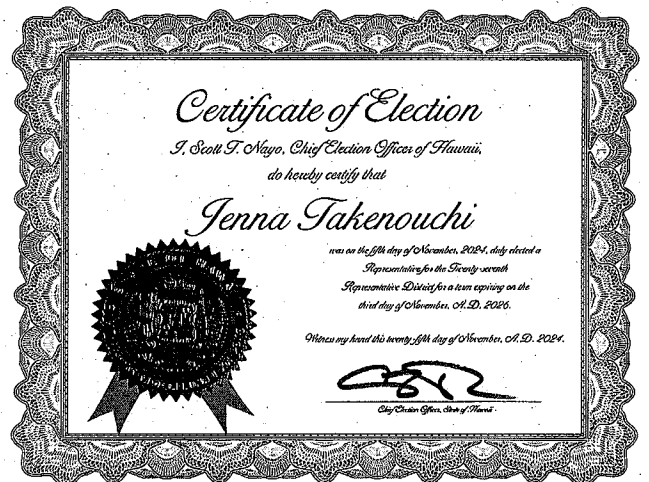
ROUGH DRAFT



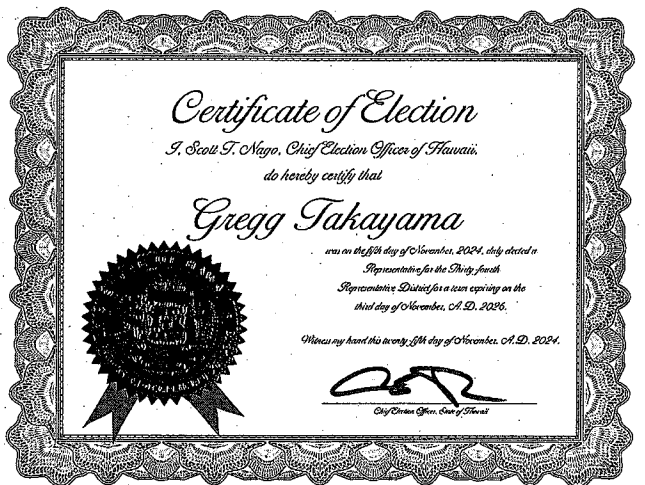
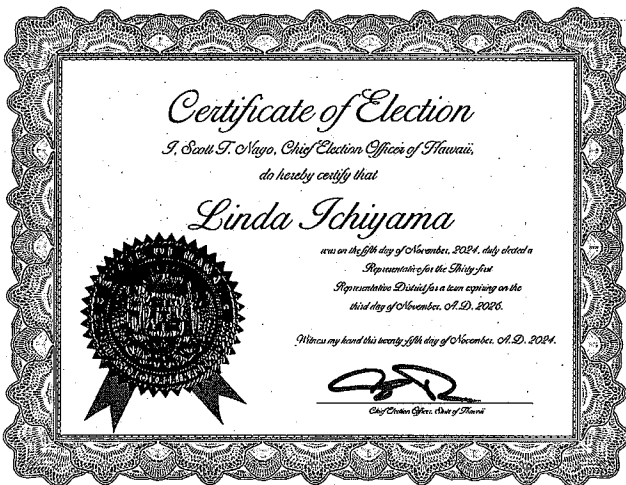
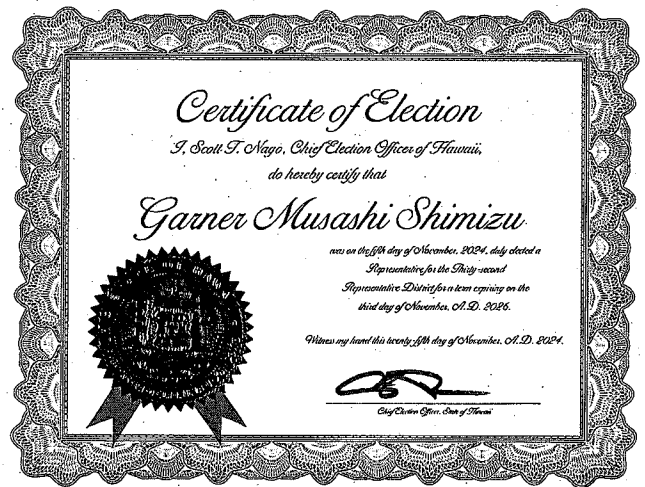


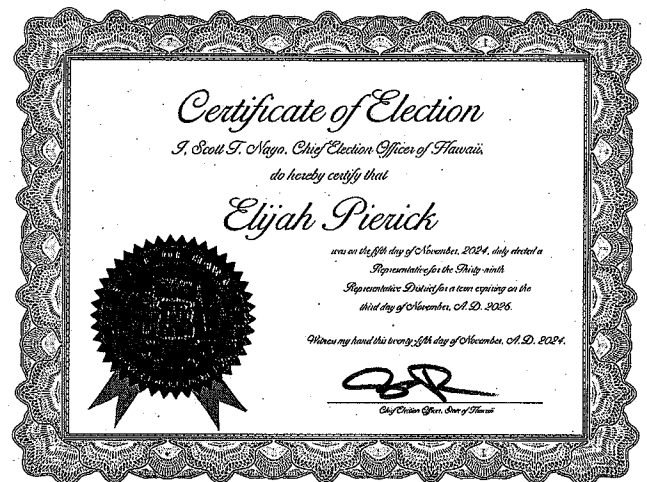
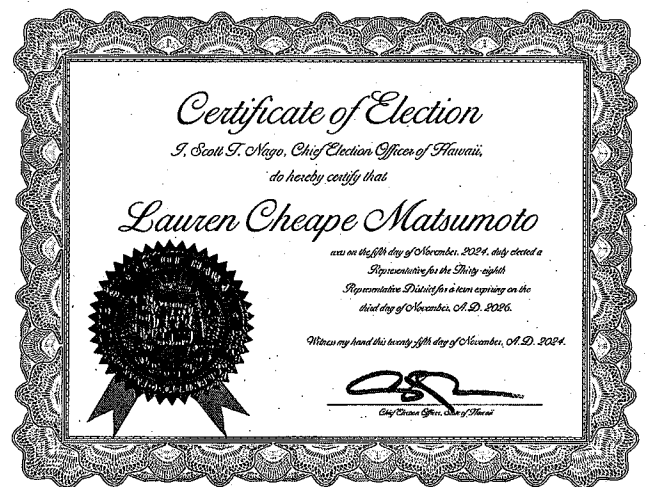
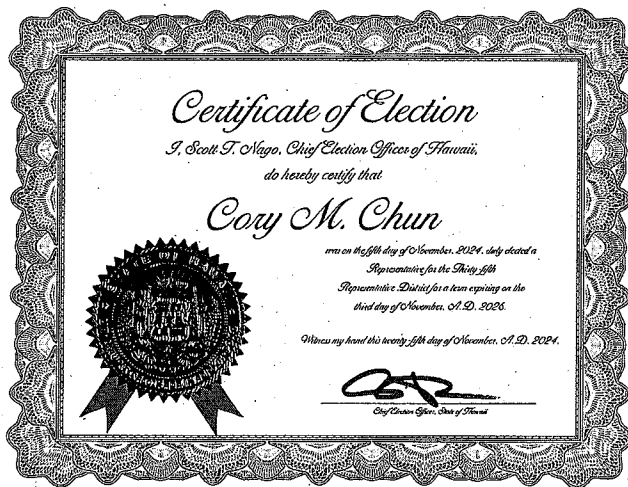


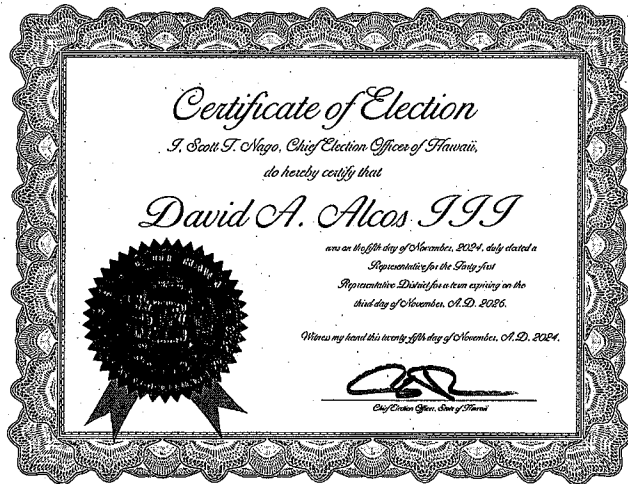














On motion by Representative Tarnas, seconded by Representative Matsumoto and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted, with Representative Ward being excused.

The Temporary Chair directed the Temporary Clerk to call the Roll, which being done disclosed that the following members were present: Representatives David Alcos III, Terez Amato, Della Au Belatti, Cory M. Chun, Elle Cochran, Luke A. Evslin, Diamond Garcia, Andrew Takuya Garrett, Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Mark J. Hashem, Daniel Holt, Ikaika Hussey, Linda Ichiyama, Greggor Ilagan, Kim Coco Iwamoto, Kirstin Kahaloa, Jeanne Kapela, Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Darius K. Kila, Lisa Kitagawa, Sam Satoru Kong, Matthias Kusch, Trish La Chica, Rachele F. Lamosao, Mike Lee, Nicole E. Lowen, Lisa Marten, Scot Z. Matayoshi, Lauren Matsumoto, Tyson K. Miyake, Dee Morikawa, Christopher L. Muraoka, Nadine K. Nakamura, Ikaika Olds, Amy A. Perruso, Elijah Pierick, Mahina Poepoe, Sean Quinlan, Julie Reyes Oda, Jackson D. Sayama, Garner M. Shimizu, Kanani Souza, Gregg Takayama, Jenna Takenouchi, Adrian K. Tam, David A. Tarnas, Shirley Ann Templo, Chris Todd, Justin H. Woodson, and Kyle T. Yamashita, a total of fifty, with Representative Gene Ward being excused.

At 10:24 a.m., the Temporary Chair declared a recess, subject to the call of the Chair.

At this time, the members of the House, their guests, and audience were entertained by Ho'okena.

The House of Representatives reconvened at 10:47 a.m.

The Temporary Chair appointed the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the Honorable Mark E. Recktenwald, Chief Justice of the Hawai'i State

Supreme Court, to the rostrum, and requested that he administer the Oath of Office to the members of the House.

Chief Justice Recktenwald stated:

"Good morning, *aloha* everyone. Thank you for inviting me to be here today."

#### OATH OF OFFICE

The Honorable Mark E. Recktenwald, Chief Justice of the Hawai'i State Supreme Court, called upon the members of the House of Representatives who had been elected to serve in the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i to rise, and the Oath of Office was administered in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i to the following members of the House:

##### FIRST DISTRICT:

Matthias Kusch

##### SECOND DISTRICT:

Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy

##### THIRD DISTRICT:

Chris Todd

##### FOURTH DISTRICT:

Greggor Ilagan

##### FIFTH DISTRICT:

Jeanne Kapela

##### SIXTH DISTRICT:

Kirstin Kahaloa

##### SEVENTH DISTRICT:

Nicole E. Lowen

##### EIGHTH DISTRICT:

David A. Tarnas

##### NINTH DISTRICT:

Justin H. Woodson

##### TENTH DISTRICT:

Tyson K. Miyake

##### ELEVENTH DISTRICT:

Terez Amato

##### TWELFTH DISTRICT:

Kyle T. Yamashita

##### THIRTEENTH DISTRICT:

Mahina Poepoe

##### FOURTEENTH DISTRICT:

Elle Cochran

##### FIFTEENTH DISTRICT:

Nadine K. Nakamura

##### SIXTEENTH DISTRICT:

Luke A. Evslin

##### SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT:

Dee Morikawa

##### NINETEENTH DISTRICT:

Mark J. Hashem

##### TWENTIETH DISTRICT:

Tina Nakada Grandinetti

##### TWENTY-FIRST DISTRICT:

Jackson D. Sayama

##### TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT:

Andrew Takuya Garrett

##### TWENTY-THIRD DISTRICT:

Ikaika Olds

##### TWENTY-FOURTH DISTRICT:

Adrian K. Tam

##### TWENTY-FIFTH DISTRICT:

Kim Coco Iwamoto

##### TWENTY-SIXTH DISTRICT:

Della Au Belatti

##### TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT:

Jenna Takenouchi

##### TWENTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT:

Daniel Holt

##### TWENTY-NINTH DISTRICT:

Ikaika Hussey

##### THIRTIETH DISTRICT:

Shirley Ann Templo

##### THIRTY-FIRST DISTRICT:

Linda Ichiyama

##### THIRTY-SECOND DISTRICT:

Garner M. Shimizu

##### THIRTY-THIRD DISTRICT:

Sam Satoru Kong

##### THIRTY-FOURTH DISTRICT:

Gregg Takayama

##### THIRTY-FIFTH DISTRICT:

Cory M. Chun

##### THIRTY-SIXTH DISTRICT:

Rachele F. Lamosao

##### THIRTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT:

Trish La Chica

##### THIRTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT:

Lauren Matsumoto

##### THIRTY-NINTH DISTRICT:

Elijah Pierick

##### FORTIETH DISTRICT:

Julie Reyes Oda

##### FORTY-FIRST DISTRICT:

David Alcos III

##### FORTY-SECOND DISTRICT:

Diamond Garcia

##### FORTY-THIRD DISTRICT:

Kanani Souza

##### FORTY-FOURTH DISTRICT:

Darius K. Kila

##### FORTY-FIFTH DISTRICT:

Christopher L. Muraoka

##### FORTY-SIXTH DISTRICT:

Amy A. Perruso

##### FORTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT:

Sean Quinlan

##### FORTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT:

Lisa Kitagawa

##### FORTY-NINTH DISTRICT:

Scot Z. Matayoshi

# FIFTIETH DISTRICT:

Mike Lee

# FIFTY-FIRST DISTRICT:

Lisa Marten

## INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions (H.R. Nos. 2 and 3) were read by the Temporary Clerk and the following action taken:

H.R. No. 2, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION ELECTING THE SPEAKER AND VICE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE," resolving that the Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Representative from the Fifteenth District, and the Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Representative from the Thirty-First District, be elected as Speaker and Vice Speaker, respectively, of the House of Representatives of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, was jointly offered by Representatives Quinlan and Matsumoto.

Representative Todd moved that H.R. No. 2 be adopted, seconded by Representative Matsumoto.

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

"Yes, Mr. Interim Chair, thank you so much for recognizing me. I ask that you record my vote as a no. And in lieu of a speech, I ask that you allow my notes and comments to be introduced into the Journal and to the record. Will you accept it? Thank you."

Representative Iwamoto's written remarks are as follows:



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Hale o nā Luna Makaʻōinana  
STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE CAPITOL  
415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

TO: SPEAKER NADINE K. NAKAMURA

FROM: REPRESENTATIVE KIM COCO IWAMOTO

DATE: JANUARY 15, 2025

RE: Why I cannot vote for Speaker Nakamura – at this time.

NUMBER: *HR #2*

Since the victory of my long-fought campaign to unseat the former Speaker of the House, I've been frequently asked what reform-minded citizens should be looking for in his replacement.

My answer has consistently been that the House needs a speaker who leads, not through fear or favor, but through collaboration and inclusion. I have steadfastly advocated for the abandonment of pay-to-play politics and the adoption of rules and procedures that promote transparency, ethics and full representational democracy.

I went into my first meeting with Speaker Nakamura full of hope. Her reputation as a dedicated legislator who was not prone to pettiness or punitive practices preceded her. And her track record as a high-performing Kauai County Council Member, known for complying with sunshine and ethics laws, led me to believe that she would bring these much needed attributes to her new position.

Then came the committee assignments, and Speaker Nakamura's choice to violate existing House Rules, specifically those related to proportionality and the need to limit the power of the vice-speaker. On the assumption that this had to be an oversight, I sent her an email pointing out the violations. I felt invested in her success as the first Madam Speaker and was inspired to think we would be working together to lay the foundation for the high ethical standards I campaigned on.

I offered Speaker an alternative way of calculating the rule of proportionality (see House Rule 11.2(2)), which at worst disadvantaged democrats because we were underrepresented on the Finance Committee by one member; however, this would require her to concede that the Vice-Speaker is not eligible to vote on any standing committee.

The specific House Rule limiting the Vice-Speaker from voting on any standing committee has been part of the House Rules since the very first legislative session of the State of Hawaii. This rule limits how much power is concentrated in one person.

Speaker Nakamura assigned the Vice-Speaker to three standing committees as a voting member.

Page 2

Speaker Nakamura's response was to double down: she did not believe she violated any rules, and she would address my concerns by changing the rules to clarify that she was in compliance.

(My email is being made available to the public; Speaker Nakamura can decide for herself if she will allow the public to read her response. The public can also compare her committee assignments to the existing House Rules.)

My email to Speaker also reminded her that House Rule 19 required her to convene an Advisory Committee on Rules and Procedure before the beginning of the 2025 Legislative Session and House Rule 20 required her to publicly notice the hearing.

Although she did convene this Committee, it met behind closed doors after receiving around 70 proposed rule changes submitted by House members. Speaker failed to publicly notice these meetings and did not make them open to the public.

Article III, Section 12 of the Hawaii Constitution requires: "Every meeting of a committee in either house [...] held for the purpose of making decision on matters referred to the committee shall be open to the public."

I did not campaign for five years on a good-government reform platform to vote for a Speaker who does not comply with House Rules and constitutional requirements protecting transparency and the preservation of our democracy.

For these reasons, I cannot vote for her today. But I hold out hope that Speaker Nakamura will remember how well she did serving the public while protecting democracy during her time on the Kauai County Council. Unlike many of the Hawaii House Speakers before her, she has experience legislating while complying with Hawaii's Sunshine laws and ethics laws.

Let my final words be the first words of the House Rules. The "Preface to House Rules" states:

it is the policy of the House of Representatives to: (1) Provide the general public with a meaningful opportunity to participate in the legislative process. Public participation is a basic tenet of our democratic process. Public participation is vital to maintaining a check on the legislative process and legislative decisions.

Rep. Kim Coco Iwamoto

From: KIM COCO IWAMOTO [ ]

Subject: Committee Assignments v. House Rules

Date: November 28, 2024 at 10:15:02 PM HST

To: repnakamura@capitol.hawaii.gov

Reply-To: "Rep. Kim Coco Iwamoto" <repkiwamoto@capitol.hawaii.gov>

Aloha La Ku'oko'a Speaker Nakamura.

I hope had a relaxing Thanksgiving with your family.

I saw the formal announcement of the Committee Assignments. Thank you for your willingness to place me on CPC; that was the backup offer I requested, since there was "no room at the table" for me on Finance.

As I mentioned before, I want to see you succeed as the first female Speaker. I want you to break through more than just a gender ceiling. You have this amazing opportunity to be the collaborative leader who brings representational democracy to the House and to Hawaii. So please understand that the findings I share below are meant to give you an opportunity to make proactive corrections or get out ahead of any discrepancies before others point them out.

Our back-and-forth conversations over the past week have prompted me to familiarize myself with the existing House Rules. I'm afraid the announced Committee Assignments contain a few rule violations. While your male predecessors may have violated these same House Rules in the past, the unfair double standard we, as gender minorities, have to contend with means we must always do better.

House Rule 11.2(2) requires that "the composition of the committee shall be on a proportional basis with the members of each party." Since three of the nine Republicans to the Finance Committee, it would seem like you should have appointed 14 of our 42 Democrats to the Finance Committee. However, if you look at proportionality in terms of eligibility to serve on a standing committee like Finance, it brings the total count of eligible Democrats down to 40, not 42.

While researching "proportional" in the Rules, I noticed the rule right below it. House Rule 11.2(3) restricts the Speaker and Vice Speaker from serving as voting members of any standing committee, except that the Vice Speaker may serve on the Committee on Legislative Management. The Committee Assignments you just announced has multiple violations of House Rule 11.2(3). Vice Speaker [ ] was appointed as a voting member of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, the House Committee on Water & Land, and the House Committee on Public Safety. [Vice Speaker] has been nothing but gracious and kind to me, so this is not personal; the existing House Rules were written long before [Vice Speaker] was appointed Vice Speaker. As you know, the Speaker and Vice Speaker hold significant power; it makes sense that Rule 11.2(3) was designed to temper the power wielded by these two individual Representatives. The Vice Speaker becomes Speaker whenever the Speaker

ROUGH DRAFT

is unavailable. This Rule seems to be a safeguard against concentrating too much power in the hands of a few Representatives, and it is a rule we definitely want to keep.

Since you and [Vice-Speaker] are not eligible to serve on any of the A-bracket committees, the ratio of eligible Republicans to eligible Democrats that can be appointed to standing committees is actually 9:40, not 9:42. Therefore, by conforming to House Rule 11.2(3), you can keep the Finance Committee to just 16 members and still satisfy the Rule of Proportionality. However, you may need to add a Republican to CPC, as you currently have 8 of 9 Republicans assigned to the A-bracket committees, but all 40 eligible Democrats assigned to A-bracket committees.

Finally, House Rules 19 and 20 mandate that the Speaker establish an Advisory Committee on Rules and Procedure before the beginning of every odd-numbered session year. Since 2025 is an odd year, the Speaker is required to establish this committee and treat it as a standing committee. I know you convened an informal Rules Reform Working Group, which Vice Speaker [ ] is leading, but there must also be an official Advisory Committee on Rules and Procedure, and it cannot be chaired by the Vice Speaker. It must be treated the same as any standing committee, which brings us back to House Rules 11.2(2) and 11.2(3). So, this committee must also be proportional between Democrats and Republicans. If you have two Republicans on the Rules Committee, then you should have nine Democrats. I would love to serve on this Rules Committee. I hope I have demonstrated my understanding of the House Rules and my willingness to go above and beyond to catch up if there are any concerns about my qualifications as an incoming Representative.

I hope you can read my notes with the sincerity with which I offer them, and see that I am trying to be collaborative, productive, and focused on solutions that elevate the standards and performance of our chamber.

In solidarity,

Kim Coco

The motion was put to vote by the Temporary Chair and carried, and H.R. No. 2 was adopted, with Representative Iwamoto voting no, and with Representative Ward being excused.

The Temporary Chair appointed Representatives Sean Quinlan, Dee Morikawa, Lauren Matsumoto, and Diamond Garcia to escort the newly elected Speaker Nadine K. Nakamura to the rostrum.

The Temporary Chair then presented to the members of the House and audience the Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature, and presented her with the gavel.

Speaker Nakamura then stated:

"Members, thank you for your vote of confidence and support."

The Chair appointed Representatives Sean Quinlan and Lauren Matsumoto to escort Vice Speaker Linda Ichiyama to the rostrum.

The Chair then presented to the members of the House and audience the Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Vice Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature.

H.R. No. 3, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION ELECTING THE OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE," resolving that Brian L. Takeshita, Rod Tanonaka, Rupert Juarez, and Jade Villanueva be elected as Chief Clerk, Sergeant-at-Arms, Assistant Chief Clerk, and Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, respectively, of the House of Representatives of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, was jointly offered by Representatives Quinlan and Matsumoto.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Matsumoto and carried, H.R. No. 3 was adopted, with Representative Ward being excused.

Thereafter, the Speaker administered the Oath of Office to the officers named.

## INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

The following resolution (H.R. No. 4) was read by the Clerk and the following action taken:

H.R. No. 4, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING AND RECOGNIZING THE CAUCUS LEADERS AND NAMING THE CHAIRS, VICE CHAIRS, AND MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE," as listed below, was jointly offered by Representatives Quinlan and Matsumoto.

Majority Leader	Sean Quinlan
Majority Caucus Leader	Chris Todd
Majority Floor Leader	Dee Morikawa
Assistant Majority Floor Leader	Trish La Chica
Majority Whips	Lisa Kitagawa Tyson K. Miyake Amy A. Perruso
Minority Leader	Lauren Matsumoto
Minority Caucus Leader	Gene Ward
Minority Floor Leader	Diamond Garcia
Assistant Minority Leader	David Alcos III
Assistant Minority Floor Leader	Julie Reyes Oda
Minority Whip	Elijah Pierick

### Agriculture & Food Systems:

Kirstin Kahaloa	Chair
Matthias Kusch	Vice Chair
Nicole E. Lowen	
Amy A. Perruso	
Sean Quinlan	
Gene Ward	

### Consumer Protection & Commerce:

Scot Z. Matayoshi	Chair
Cory M. Chun	Vice Chair
Linda Ichiyama	
Greggor Ilagan	
Kim Coco Iwamoto	
Sam Satoru Kong	
Nicole E. Lowen	
Lisa Marten	
Adrian K. Tam	
Elijah Pierick	

### Culture & Arts:

Jeanne Kapela	Chair
Sam Satoru Kong	Vice Chair
Andrew Takuya Garrett	
Mike Lee	
Jackson D. Sayama	
Julie Reyes Oda	

### Economic Development & Technology:

Greggor Ilagan	Chair
Ikaika Hussey	Vice Chair
Daniel Holt	
Adrian K. Tam	
Shirley Ann Templo	
Chris Todd	

ROUGH DRAFT



Lauren Matsumoto		Luke A. Evslin	Chair
Education:		Tyson K. Miyake	Vice Chair
Justin H. Woodson	Chair	Elle Cochran	
Trish La Chica	Vice Chair	Tina Nakada Grandinetti	
Terez Amato		Darius K. Kila	
Luke A. Evslin		Lisa Kitagawa	
Andrew Takuya Garrett		Trish La Chica	
Jeanne Kapela		Christopher L. Muraoka	
Darius K. Kila		Elijah Pierick	
Ikaika Olds		Human Services & Homelessness:	
Jackson D. Sayama		Lisa Marten	Chair
Christopher L. Muraoka		Ikaika Olds	Vice Chair
Kanani Souza		Terez Amato	
Energy & Environmental Protection:		Cory M. Chun	
Nicole E. Lowen	Chair	Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy	
Amy A. Perruso	Vice Chair	Gregg Takayama	
Kirstin Kahaloo		Jenna Takenouchi	
Matthias Kusch		David Alcos III	
Sean Quinlan		Diamond Garcia	
Gene Ward		Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:	
Finance:		David A. Tarnas	Chair
Kyle T. Yamashita	Chair	Mahina Poepoe	Vice Chair
Jenna Takenouchi	Vice Chair	Della Au Belatti	
Tina Nakada Grandinetti		Elle Cochran	
Daniel Holt (GIA Manager)		Mark J. Hashem	
Ikaika Hussey		Kirstin Kahaloo	
Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy		Amy A. Perruso	
Lisa Kitagawa (CIP Manager)		Gregg Takayama	
Matthias Kusch		Chris Todd	
Rachele F. Lamosao		Diamond Garcia	
Mike Lee		Garner M. Shimizu	
Tyson K. Miyake		Labor:	
Dee Morikawa		Jackson D. Sayama	Chair
Shirley Ann Templo		Mike Lee	Vice Chair
David Alcos III		Andrew Takuya Garrett	
Julie Reyes Oda		Jeanne Kapela	
Gene Ward		Sam Satoru Kong	
Health:		Julie Reyes Oda	
Gregg Takayama	Chair	Legislative Management:	
Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy	Vice Chair	Daniel Holt	Chair
Terez Amato		Sean Quinlan	Vice Chair
Cory M. Chun		Linda Ichiyama	
Lisa Marten		Dee Morikawa	
Ikaika Olds		Lauren Matsumoto	
Jenna Takenouchi		Public Safety:	
David Alcos III		Della Au Belatti	Chair
Diamond Garcia		Kim Coco Iwamoto	Vice Chair
Higher Education:		Mark J. Hashem	
Andrew Takuya Garrett	Chair	Linda Ichiyama	
Terez Amato	Vice Chair	Rachele F. Lamosao	
Luke A. Evslin		Dee Morikawa	
Jeanne Kapela		Mahina Poepoe	
Darius K. Kila		Justin H. Woodson	
Trish La Chica		Garner M. Shimizu	
Ikaika Olds		Kanani Souza	
Jackson D. Sayama		Tourism:	
Justin H. Woodson		Adrian K. Tam	Chair
Christopher L. Muraoka		Shirley Ann Templo	Vice Chair
Kanani Souza		Daniel Holt	
Housing:			

ROUGH DRAFT

Ikaika Hussey  
Greggor Ilagan  
Chris Todd  
Lauren Matsumoto

Transportation:

Darius K. Kila                      Chair  
Tina Nakada Grandinetti      Vice Chair

Elle Cochran  
Luke A. Evslin  
Lisa Kitagawa  
Trish La Chica  
Tyson K. Miyake  
Christopher L. Muraoka  
Elijah Pierick

Water & Land:

Mark J. Hashem                      Chair  
Rachele F. Lamosao              Vice Chair

Della Au Belatti  
Linda Ichiyama  
Kim Coco Iwamoto  
Dee Morikawa  
Mahina Poepoe  
Justin H. Woodson  
Garner M. Shimizu  
Kanani Souza

H.R. No. 4 further states that:

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any member of a Standing Committee is called to active duty in the military and is deployed and unavailable to participate in committee activities, then for that period of unavailability, the member shall not be considered a member of that Standing Committee."

Representative Todd moved that H.R. No. 4 be adopted, seconded by Representative Matsumoto.

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

"Madam Speaker, thank you. I rise in opposition to this motion. I have identified two violations of existing House Rules. The first House Rule that has been violated is 11.2, subsection 2. 'The membership of each standing committee, including the designation of the chair and vice-chair shall be provided for by resolution, provided, however, that the composition of the committee shall be on a proportional basis with the members of each party.' The Committee on Finance currently has 16 members, 3 of them are Republican, and that is one third of the Republican membership. There are only 13, currently, 13 Democrats on the House Finance Committee. There should be 14, because 14 is exactly one fourth of 42. So, that is the rule of proportionality, there should be an additional Democrat on the Committee of Finance.

"The second rule that has been violated appears twice in our House Rules, and that is Rule 3. And specifically, it has to do with the Vice Speaker. It says, 'the Vice Speaker shall consult with and advise the standing committees and assist them in their work as an ex officio member without vote.' The rules go on to say in it further, actually, rule 11.2, subsection 3 also states, 'the Speaker and Vice Speaker shall be ex officio members of each committee without vote.' So, twice it appears in our existing House Rules that the Vice Speaker shall not be on a standing committee as a voting member, yet the resolution before us has the Vice Speaker in that position. For these reasons, I will be voting in opposition. Thank you so much."

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

"Madam Speaker, in strong support. I would like to note that proportionality is very poorly defined in our House Rules. And over the past few months, under your leadership, we have embarked on a process to update our House Rules to more clearly reflect the realities of our service

today. I would also like to note that while the Speaker and Vice Speaker are appointed as ex officio members of each committee, there is nothing in the rules specifically prohibiting them from serving as members of a standing committee.

"Madam Speaker, today is not about any one person. Today is about coming together to do good for the people of Hawai'i. I know that somewhere up there, my auntie Dawn Wasson is watching us. And if I may quote her, she would always say one very simple thing to me. And it's one word, Madam Speaker, but it means a lot. *Imua*."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in opposition to the resolution. That's a no vote for me. And I oppose this reso simply because the substantive nature of the resolution does not reflect what was memorialized in the signed memorandum dated November 27th, 2024, subject title, House leadership and committee assignments, that was provided to members of this body. The same information contained in this memorandum was also disseminated to the public. Absent a memorandum to the contrary to update the members on the change prior to the resolution coming to the floor sparks concerns for me procedurally.

"As a body, we need to say what we mean and do what we say. And when procedural guidance and rules are construed liberally to offer a wide range of interpretation or silent on the matter, how do we conduct ourselves? Do we continue to accept the status quo, or do we elevate, do what is right, and find it within ourselves to be *pono*?"

"Every day that I am in this building, I reflect on the words, advice, and wisdom of *mana wāhine* who came before me. From my first boss in this building, the late Representative Mele Carroll, who had a love for her constituents and the people of this state, to UH West O'ahu Chancellor Maenette Benham, who relays the same profound message to our graduating classes every term, we are our ancestors' wildest dreams. What we do on this floor, in this House, what we do with the power we are given to serve the people cannot be taken lightly and comes with the ultimate *kuleana*.

"As a leader, as a Hawaiian, as someone who is unwilling to accept business as usual, I think about my grandfather, a servant leader who was a supervisor at DAGS, which he was assigned to oversee many state buildings, including this Capitol. And my grandmother, a full-blooded Hawaiian woman from 'Ualapu'e, Moloka'i, who led by example and embodied her given name, Ha'aha'a, humbleness, humility.

"In the spirit of moving the needle forward this session and helping our people rise, I encourage a warrior mentality as we cause good trouble. Let that be this session, let that be this year. I look forward to working with all of you, and I wish you all a great 2025 Legislative Session. *Mahalo nui*, Madam Speaker."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and H.R. No. 4 was adopted, with Representatives Iwamoto and Souza voting no, and with Representative Ward being excused.

The following concurrent resolutions (H.C.R. Nos. 1 and 2) were read by the Clerk and the following action taken:

H.C.R. No. 1, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RELATING TO RECESS DAYS FOR THE REGULAR SESSION OF 2025," resolving that the dates of the mandatory recess for the Regular Session of 2025 are hereby determined to be 20th, 21st, 24th, 25th, and 26th days of February, on which dates the Regular Session of 2025 shall be recessed; and that the dates of the recesses other than the dates of the mandatory recess for the Regular Session of 2025 are hereby determined to be the 22nd and 24th days of January, the 3rd and 5th days of March, the 7th, 9th, 28th, and 29th days of April, and 1st day of May, on which dates the Regular Session of 2025 shall be recessed, was jointly offered by Representatives Nakamura and Ichiyama.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Matsumoto and carried, H.C.R. No. 1 was adopted, with Representative Ward being excused.

H.C.R. No. 2, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO ADDRESS THE LEGISLATURE ASSEMBLED IN JOINT SESSION," resolving that the two Houses of the Legislature assemble in Joint Session in the Chambers of the House of Representatives at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, for the purpose of receiving such address or greetings from the Governor of Hawaii as he should be pleased to make, was jointly offered by Representatives Nakamura and Ichiyama.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Matsumoto and carried, H.C.R. No. 2 was adopted, with Representative Ward being excused.

At 11:04 a.m., the Chair declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair.

At this time, the members of the House, their guests, and audience were entertained by Ho'okena.

The House of Representatives reconvened at 11:33 a.m.

At this time, the Speaker delivered her address, stating:

*"Aloha kakahiaka.* Welcome to the Opening Day of the Thirty-Third Legislative Session. On behalf of the Hawai'i State House of Representatives, I extend a warm welcome to our special guests. Governor Josh Green and Jamie Green. Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke and Mr. Michael Luke. From the Hawai'i Supreme Court, Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald and Associate Justices Todd Eddins, Lisa Ginoza, and Sabrina McKenna. From the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Chair Kai Kahele and Vice Chair Souza. Mrs. Jean Ariyoshi, Governor John Waihee III and Mrs. Lynn Waihee, Governor Ben Cayetano and Mrs. Vicky Cayetano, Governor Neil Abercrombie, and Governor David Ige.

"City and County of Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi, Hawai'i County Mayor Kimo Alameda, Maui Mayor Richard Bissen, and Kaua'i County Mayor Derek Kawakami. City and County of Honolulu Council Chair Tommy Waters, Maui County Council Chair Alice Lee, Hawai'i County Council Chair Dr. Holeka Goro Inaba, and Kaua'i County Council Vice Chair KipuKai Kualii. Senior leadership from across our armed forces representing the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard. We also have members of the Consular Corps from around the world. And, up in the Gallery, members of the Fukuoka Prefectural Assembly.

"I'm so happy and thankful that my mother, Mabel Maeda, and my two children, Casey and Reis Nakamura, Joan and Peter Karlzen, Lance, Doris, and Jenna Maeda, and my family and friends from Hawai'i and the mainland are here today. I could not be doing this without you. And I have to give a big shout out to my supporters from Kaua'i in the gallery for coming here to celebrate this special day, for making and filling the beautiful baskets on your table, and for lifting me up in so many different ways.

"I would also like to acknowledge and express my gratitude to the staff of the House who work tirelessly to support members, not just during the session, but throughout the year. You are seen and you are truly appreciated. And thanks to all of you who have come to join us today.

"I'm excited to begin this Thirty-Third Legislative Session with new leadership and many new members. I'm pleased to share the honor and responsibility of House leadership with the following members. Please stand when I call your name and remain standing.

"Vice Speaker Linda Ichiyama; Majority Leader Sean Quinlan; Majority Caucus Leader Chris Todd; Majority Floor Leader Dee Morikawa. We have three majority whips, Lisa Kitagawa, Tyson Miyake, and Amy Perruso. We also have Assistant Majority Floor Leader Trish La Chica.

"Minority Leader Lauren Matsumoto; Minority Floor Leader Diamond Garcia; Minority Caucus Leader Gene Ward, who is excused today; Minority Whip Elijah Pierick; Assistant Minority Leader David Alcos; Assistant Minority Floor Leader Julie Reyes Oda. Please join me in recognizing the leadership of the House of Representatives.

"Allow me now to introduce the 11 new members of the House who will join us as legislators for the State of Hawai'i, bringing new energy and fresh perspectives. Please stand when I call your name.

"District 1, Representative Matthias Kusch. Rep. Kusch is a business owner, orchard farmer, and retired Hawai'i Fire Department Battalion Chief. He is deeply committed to his community, actively leading and participating in various volunteer activities.

"District 2, Representative Sue Lee Loy. Having served for eight years as a Hawai'i County Councilmember, Rep. Lee Loy is dedicated to continuing her public service as Hilo's new Representative, focusing on addressing the cost of living and advancing affordable housing for Hawai'i's residents.

"District 20, Representative Tina Grandinetti. Rep. Grandinetti is a former legislative staffer and community organizer who resides in Kapahulu. She holds a doctorate in urban studies and is dedicated to tackling the rising housing costs and improving the quality of life in our state.

"District 23, Representative Ikaika Olds. Representative Olds is a father, a combat veteran, and a social service worker committed to addressing homelessness, crime, education, and affordable housing. He also likes long walks on the beach, heavy metal music, and get this, quantum mechanics.

"District 25, Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto. Rep. Iwamoto is a public interest attorney, community activist, and small business owner who has served on the Board of Education and the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission. She is our first openly transgender legislator in the State of Hawai'i.

"District 29, Representative Ikaika Hussey. Rep. Hussey is a staunch community advocate, a member of the Kalihi Valley Neighborhood Board, and a decarbonization entrepreneur. He brings decades of collaborative leadership from his experience serving in the community.

"District 30, Representative Shirley Ann Templo. Representative Templo is a second-generation Filipino-American born and raised in Kalihi. She is the first female to be elected in District 30 and has served nearly a decade in the City and County of Honolulu and State of Hawai'i.

"District 32, Representative Garner Shimizu. Representative Shimizu is a proud husband, father, and grandfather with a background as a small business owner and retired mechanical engineer. He is an experienced community advocate engaged in neighborhood security watches, community associations, and neighborhood boards.

"District 40, Representative Julie Reyes Oda. Rep. Reyes Oda is a dual licensed secondary teacher at Nānākuli High and Intermediate School, teaching both mathematics and social studies. She served as a data analysis coordinator and is a staunch advocate for the students of the Leeward Coast.

"District 45, Representative Chris Muraoka. Rep. Muraoka is a devoted father, proud grandfather, husband, business owner, youth sports coach, and honored veteran. He is a lifelong Wai'anae Coast resident dedicated to creating a safer and stronger future for his community.

"And District 50, Representative Mike Lee. Rep. Lee is a proud parent of two boys and a member of the Kailua Neighborhood Board and Windward Neighborhood Security Watch. He also serves as a volunteer wrestling coach and youth leadership trainer.

"I now introduce you to the Class of 2025.

"I am incredibly honored and humbled to serve as the Speaker for the Thirty-Third Legislative Session. Today marks a new chapter in our collective journey. We come together with the sacred responsibility to safeguard the well-being of our islands and all who call Hawai'i home.

"As we approached today, I have given thought to my new role as Speaker. I have thought about duty, responsibility, and challenges ahead. And I turn to someone special for advice, my 97-year-old mother, Mabel Maeda. Mom, can you stand again and be recognized?

"I'd like to share a little bit of history about my mother. She was orphaned at the age of six, grew up in Pauoa, attended Kāwānanakoa School from first to ninth grade, then went on to McKinley High School. Her life story and memories growing up are very much influenced by decisions made by the territorial and federal governments. Her guardian, a Tenrikyo minister, was taken away in the middle of the night of December 7, 1941 after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. She did not see him again until he returned four years later after being imprisoned in New Mexico.

"During World War II, there was a workforce shortage in Hawai'i. All able-bodied students were required to work in the pineapple fields once a week throughout her three years of high school, making \$0.47 an hour. The prevailing sentiment at the time was that the economic engine, sugar and pineapple, could not be allowed to sputter. When she graduated from McKinley High School, my mom remembers wearing a white dress, a red carnation lei, and carrying the mandatory gas mask.

"The decisions of government officials 80 years ago made an indelible impact on my mom's life growing up in Hawai'i, just as the decisions we make in this Chamber will also reverberate for generations to come. To be one of 51 persons entrusted to make such decisions is a solemn responsibility and an incredible privilege.

"So, when I asked my mother what advice she'd give me and my fellow legislators, she said that we should try to be humble and respect each other. She said to overlook the faults that we all have and find the good in each other. Find the good in each other is great advice, because, as we know, nothing in the House is accomplished alone. It is a simple truth that to be effective as representatives, we must work together.

"I'm proud that the Majority and Minority Caucuses have come together to articulate our shared values that will guide our actions and shape our policies. We are committed to serve with *aloha*, a willingness to collaborate, with mutual respect in resolving differing views. We will work hard, serve with integrity, and be held accountable for our decisions. And we will serve with compassion, representing voices that are not always heard.

"As a speaker, I strongly believe that we need a shared vision to achieve our goals. I'd like to *mahalo* the Majority Caucus for drafting our 20-year vision that, at its core, casts Hawai'i as a shining example for the rest of the country and the world. Let me share some of the vision with you.

"Our residents and families, including native Hawaiians, are healthy, thriving, and housed. Our students, including all three- and four-year-olds, have access to quality education and career pathways. Our health is excellent, with a focus on prevention and a built environment that encourage healthy lifestyles. Our *āina*, our lands, and *wai*, our waters, are clean, productive, and well-managed. Our economy is diversified, vibrant, and resilient. Higher education is affordable, accessible, and is a key economic driver. Public safety is protected, correctional facilities are upgraded and reformed. We are growing more locally-grown foods and have minimized biosecurity risks. Our communities are disaster resilient and prepared for natural and man-made emergencies.

"The keys to our success will be innovative, risk-taking leadership, political courage, and collaboration at all levels. We therefore look forward to working with Governor Green on his aggressive agenda to build workforce housing and expand the Kauhale Initiative to include supportive housing. We look forward to working with Lieutenant Governor Luke to make sure every three- and four-year-old receives a quality Pre-K education. And we look forward to working with our Senate colleagues, state departments, county mayors and councils, and our federal delegation on passing impactful bills that continue to implement our vision.

"The values and the vision that I've shared serve as a guide and motivation for our actions in this and upcoming sessions. Yes, it will take time to achieve this vision. Let's just keep in mind, it's a 20-year vision. If we work together, if we set aside grudges, if we listen to each other, roll up our sleeves, and if we direct our limited resources wisely, we can achieve this vision. And when we disagree with each other, which might happen now and then, we do so respectfully and with civility.

"The House, and the people who sent us here, deserve nothing less. As elected officials, we must set the example. Of the branches of government, the House of Representatives is intended to be the closest to the people. The tapestry behind me is in warm earth tones because it symbolizes the House's connection to the land and by extension the people of Hawai'i.

"So, in closing, as we open the Thirty-Third Legislative Session, we open a time of possibility. I am grateful that these possibilities will be explored in keeping with the values and the vision we have adopted. So, let's remember to find the good in each other, let's work collaboratively, and let's get some great work done for the people of Hawai'i. *Mahalo piha.*"

The Chair then recognized Representative Matsumoto, the Minority Leader, to deliver remarks on behalf of the Minority Caucus:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Vice Speaker Ichiyama, Majority Leader Quinlan, friends, colleagues, and all the members of the public, good morning and *aloha*.

"Madam Speaker, I wanted to take a moment to thank you for reaching out to all of the members and for having multiple collaborative conversations about how we are going to move forward in this building. Most of all, I appreciate that our leadership teams are taking a look at the culture of this building and reexamining how we conduct the people's work in this chamber. Having a shared set of values that everyone in this chamber agreed on is foundational.

"Congratulations to all the members who are being sworn in, especially the 11 new members that we'll be having. And for all of your family and friends who are joining you today, I know how special it is. I have my own family with me today, I have my mother, Sharon, I have my husband, Scott, my daughter Noelle, and my son, Noah. And I know that it is such a special time to have with your family and friends.

"I'd like to take the time to acknowledge our new Minority Caucus members and the work we've been doing. This year our caucus grew to nine, with three new members. And as Madam Speaker introduced, we have Rep. Chris Muraoka, Rep. Julie Reyes Oda, and Rep. Garner Shimizu. Our caucus has grown with a diversity of backgrounds and experience and will be an added voice to this legislature.

"Over the past two years, the Republican Caucus has worked together. And for the very first time, we hosted a series of town halls across O'ahu called the Listening Tour. We then sent out surveys to our districts and received 5,000 responses back. To then turn those issues into solutions, we created the Republican legislative advisory board to gain insights from experts and draft concrete legislation. These steps allowed our caucus to shape our bill package with all of the information that we got back from outreach. And we did this to hear from our communities and put in legislation that they wanted.

"The top issues that people were most concerned about included the cost of living, housing, education, crime, Hawaiian homes, and government transparency. I'd like to take this time to thank our House Minority Research Office and all of our caucus staff who put in countless hours to make this outreach possible. The 2025 Republican Caucus package was created for the Hawai'i we know and love, our Hawai'i.

"So, first, cost of living. It is our caucus's priority to put money back in the pockets of our residents for everyday expenses like gas, food, housing, and utilities. We made some good steps forward last session, but our communities need relief now. Therefore, we will introduce measures that completely eliminate the income tax, eliminate tax on tips, and eliminate the GET on food and medical services. People are struggling now, and this body needs to take bold steps to help our local families not just survive but thrive.

"Second, housing. We have seen firsthand how the insurance crisis, the rising cost of housing, and red tape have exacerbated the housing crisis for our residents. Our caucus aims to remediate these contributing factors by streamlining the permitting process for building homes, providing tax credits for hurricane insurers, and diversifying and adding our pretax saving for first time homebuyers.

"Third, education. It's time to tune in to the specific needs of our communities' schools. Our proposed legislation creates elected school boards, implements more rigid cell phone rules in the schools, and diversifies our school transportation options.

"Fourth, crime and safety. We have heard the concerns of our constituents based on the data collected from our surveys. Our caucus is responding with measures that allow for enforcement and steeper penalties for those who endanger *kūpuna*, empower residents to protect themselves, and crack down on the reckless use of e-bikes. When fully implemented, these measures will provide a greater sense of security and safety in our communities.

"Fifth, Native Hawaiian advocacy. We want to turn this body's attention to the needs of our Native Hawaiian families. Our caucus proposes bills that will ensure Hawaiian Home Land leases are eligible for federal lending

programs and increase eligibility for many Native Hawaiians still on the wait list. We also need to uphold the state's constitutional obligation to transfer the full 20% of income and proceeds from the Public Land Trust to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

"Sixth, government reform. Our state clearly needs greater accountability and efficiency. Our caucus proposes commonsense solutions like implementing financial transparency on all fiscal bills, which means we have to know how much something costs before we vote on it. Currently, 44 other state legislatures already do this, and it's time Hawai'i does as well. We need to pass term limits. And as we saw very clearly in the past three elections, we need to ensure everyone who wants to vote on Election Day can do so without having to wait six hours in line.

"These issues are important, but they are just the tip of the iceberg of all the legislation that we will be dealing with this session. Working together and hearing every voice is very important and it's a step in the right direction for our state.

"For all the State House Representatives on the floor being sworn in today, my seven-year-old son, Noah, and the rest of my family made you a small gift. In front of you, you will see a coaster like this one. It has your name on it as well as the word 'representative.' As I often say, always remember that representative is not your name, it is not your title, it is your job description. We are here to represent our districts and our state, which is what the state seal signifies on the coaster. Finally, surrounding it are all the key words of our House shared values. *Aloha*, collaborate, respect, *'ohana*, integrity, accountability, compassion, stewardship, and hard work. These are the cornerstones of our House values.

"These values don't mean that we have to agree on everything. In fact, I believe that differences of opinions are important and it's how we create the best legislation for our state. What these values stand for is that every member of this body will treat each other and the public in the highest regards in alignment with our values. It's not always going to be easy. It's a tall order to live up to. And we all know we're going to make mistakes. However, having those values to stand on and having grace with one another will go a long way.

"I look forward to a productive session with all of you. And every time you go to have a sip of water or take a drink of coffee, look down at your coaster and remember your job description, who we represent, and the values that we stand on. *Mahalo*."

The Chair then recognized Representative Quinlan, the Majority Leader, to deliver remarks on behalf of the Majority Caucus:

"Madam Speaker, you have outlined a blueprint of character and service for our state and this chamber. It is only through our collective will of those inside this building, and those without, that we will construct the scaffolding for the journey of the next 20 years. Our needs are many. Our challenge is great. And the public is looking to us for answers.

"I take heed of the words of Thomas More, 'you wouldn't abandon a ship in a storm just because you couldn't control the winds.' Madam Speaker, far more than any other factor, the soaring price of housing is the driving force behind out-migration. There was a time when we exported sugar and pineapple. We are now in the business of exporting something even more precious, the people of Hawai'i. Real progress requires a significant financial outlay, and we applaud Governor Green's resounding commitment to workforce housing in his executive budget. It is only by working hand in hand with the Green Administration that we can surmount these hurdles.

"Madam Speaker, if we are sincere in our desire to nurture the next generation and keep them at home, I can think of few initiatives more important than free universal preschool. Lieutenant Governor Luke's Ready Keiki program is creating a more equitable Hawai'i for all of us, regardless of socioeconomic status. Young minds are full of potential, yearning to find their place in the world. Creating more classrooms not only serves their needs, it allows their parents the opportunity to join the workforce, increase household income, and spur economic development.

"Madam Speaker, the boundless abundance of our natural habitat has long been predicated on a delicate balance of temperature, rainfall, and the flora and fauna which thrive under the right conditions. Today, imported pests

and a changing climate now threaten what little food security we have. To stand idly by and watch our islands be decimated by invasive species, like coconut rhinoceros beetle and little fire ants, would be an abdication of our responsibility to the *'āina*. The Department of Agriculture will be tasked with new authority and resources in this fight in the hopes that we can emerge victorious against these invasive species that endanger Hawai'i's native species, communities, and economy.

"Madam Speaker, on the subject of homelessness, I know that the public is often caught between the extremes of compassion and frustration. There is the logical realization that mental illness and drug addiction are unforgiving masters and there is also the longing desire for a sense of peace and safety in our neighborhoods. I submit to you that addressing our homeless problem is not purely a matter of the heart, but also one of fiscal responsibility. Let's get people off the streets and into *kauhales* where they can get the help they need without a massive deployment of public resources and our tax dollars.

"Madam Speaker, these are but a handful of the issues we will face in our upcoming session. And I can promise you that we will not solve them all this year. What I can promise you is that the House majority will conduct itself honorably, give tireless effort, and hold to an unwavering promise to our children and our children's children that Hawai'i will always be theirs. *Mahalo*."

## INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

The following resolution (H.R. No. 5) was read by the Clerk and the following action taken:

H.R. No. 5, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION COMMUNICATING THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE HAS ASSEMBLED AND IS READY TO TRANSACT BUSINESS," resolving that this body has assembled and is ready to transact business with the following officers:

Nadine K. Nakamura, Speaker  
Linda Ichiyama, Vice Speaker  
Brian L. Takeshita, Chief Clerk  
Rod Tanonaka, Sergeant-at-Arms  
Rupert Juarez, Assistant Chief Clerk  
Jade Villanueva, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms.

And further resolving that a duly certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Josh Green, Governor of the State of Hawaii, and to the Senate of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, in Regular Session assembled, was jointly offered by Representatives Quinlan and Matsumoto.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Matsumoto and carried, H.R. No. 5 was adopted, with Representative Ward being excused.

## ADJOURNMENT

At 12:09 p.m., on motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Matsumoto and carried, the House of Representatives adjourned until noon tomorrow, Thursday, January 16, 2025. (Representative Ward was excused.)