

**HAWAII STATE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**REGULAR SESSION OF 2025**

***ROUGH DRAFT  
JOURNAL***

**THIRTEENTH DAY  
FEBRUARY 5, 2025**

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK**

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## THIRTEENTH DAY

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

The House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2025, convened at 12:07 p.m., with Vice Speaker Ichiyama presiding.

The Roll was called showing all members present with the exception of Representatives Cochran and Ward, who were excused.

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

## INTRODUCTIONS

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

Representative Perruso introduced her staff: Yvonne Yoro, Dyani Cantu, Mariko Quinn, and Jolie Ryff.

Representative Kapela introduced Camron Hurt from Common Cause Hawai'i.

## ORDER OF THE DAY

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Representative Belatti, for the Committee on Public Safety, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 151) recommending that H.B. No. 1059, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Labor.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1059, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Labor, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Kapela, for the Committee on Culture & Arts, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 152) recommending that H.B. No. 133, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Education.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 133, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Education, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 133, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SURFING," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Education, with Representative Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Kapela, for the Committee on Culture & Arts, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 153) recommending that H.B. No. 450, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Economic Development & Technology.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 450, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Economic Development & Technology, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 450, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Economic Development &

Technology, with Representative Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Marten, for the Committee on Human Services & Homelessness, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 154) recommending that H.B. No. 238, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 238, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EARLY CHILD CARE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representatives Marten and Takayama, for the Committee on Human Services & Homelessness and the Committee on Health, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 155) recommending that H.B. No. 1131, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committees was adopted and H.B. No. 1131, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AN INTENSIVE MOBILE TEAM PILOT PROGRAM FOR HOUSELESS INDIVIDUALS SUFFERING FROM SERIOUS BRAIN DISORDERS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Kahaloa, for the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 156) recommending that H.B. No. 859, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 859, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representatives Tam and Ilagan, for the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Economic Development & Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 157) recommending that H.B. No. 449, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committees was adopted and H.B. No. 449, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Takayama, for the Committee on Health, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 158) recommending that H.B. No. 250, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 250, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Takayama, for the Committee on Health, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 159) recommending that H.B. No. 756, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred jointly to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce and the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 756, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH," passed Second Reading and was referred jointly to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce and the Committee on

ROUGH DRAFT

Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 160) recommending that H.B. No. 108, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 108, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INTOXICATING LIQUOR," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representatives Tam and Ilagan, for the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Economic Development & Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 161) recommending that H.B. No. 448, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 448, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY ENABLEMENT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Lowen, for the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 162) recommending that H.B. No. 735, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Water & Land.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 735, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WASTEWATER," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Water & Land, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Kila, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 163) recommending that H.B. No. 914, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 914, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, 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 H.B. No. 914, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WATER CARRIERS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, with Representative Garcia voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Kila, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 164) recommending that H.B. No. 532, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 532, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VEHICLE TITLES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Kila, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 165) recommending that H.B. No. 468, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 468, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 468, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representative Garcia voting no, and with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Kila, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 166) recommending that H.B. No. 486, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 486, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Ilagan, for the Committee on Economic Development & Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 167) recommending that H.B. No. 639, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 639, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Ilagan, for the Committee on Economic Development & Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 168) recommending that H.B. No. 671, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 671, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise with reservations. This measure will identify all legislative districts in the state in which at least 25% of the population consists of Native Hawaiians. It is for representation and recognition purposes. I am voting with reservations on this bill because I am uncertain as to what the purpose is of creating this designation, unless further down the road there are incentives for doing so for Hawaiians.

"I understand the sentiment of this bill, but at the same time, the terms of the benchmarks for the designation would have to be worked out further. Why 25%? And perhaps are we discussing Hawaiians or Native Hawaiians? How are we accounting for Hawaiians within these districts?

"I am unsure as to what more recognition will do for our people, and I want action. I want action for Hawaiians. I want to help provide resources for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. I want OHA to get its proper pro rata share of ceded lands, and I want action. I don't want more recognition for Hawaiians. So, I'm voting with reservations on this measure. Thank you."

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. 671, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR

AN ACT RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIANS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Amato and Souza voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Ilagan, for the Committee on Economic Development & Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 169) recommending that H.B. No. 1308, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1308, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"I'm voting no. Thank you. This bill, to some extent, would allow for gambling in our state. And our state is thankfully one of two states, I believe, in the nation that doesn't allow gambling, so we should keep it that way. Gambling is a vice. People that go into it, they often waste hard earned dollars that they could be using to pay for gas, to pay for rent, to pay for the groceries for their families. And instead, sometimes the users of these gambling apps and sports wagers, they waste their money on this addiction that then hurts their family. And it can, in the greater picture, hurt their communities and hurt our state.

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

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

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

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

Representative Matsumoto 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 Matsumoto's written remarks are as follows:

"While I understand the fiscal benefits for the state in being able to tax legalized sports betting, I cannot overlook the concerns raised by the Honolulu Police Department in their testimony during the Economic Development & Technology Committee hearing. In order to safeguard our communities, the potential financial and social consequences from legalizing sports betting must be further discussed in this legislative session. For this reason, I vote with reservations."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1308, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SPORTS WAGERING," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Matsumoto and Reyes Oda voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Pierick, and Shimizu voting no, and with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 170) recommending that H.B. No. 772, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 772, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 171) recommending that H.B. No. 370, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 370, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"No vote. So, this bill would further public financing of elections. And that basically means all our constituents, their state income tax dollars, part of it goes to the state budget, part of it goes to basically campaigning for Democrats and Republicans. So that means Republicans are getting taxed to fund Democratic campaigns and vice versa. I don't think our constituents want that. And so, I'll be voting no."

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

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

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

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

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In strong support, brief remarks. Partial public financing is in part funded by taxes that are chosen and selected by individuals who want to put this into this program. So, I think that with voters' confidence and trust at an all-time low, because we know the influence of money on politics, that this is a part of the solution, to have a more comprehensive, partial public financing system to ensure that there is less corporate moneys influencing elections. And so, this is a measure that's very important to ensuring increasing the confidence of our voters in our public elections process. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support and I would like to insert the words of the representative from Makiki into the record as my own. I also want to say that, as a part of our Good Government Caucus, government reform is necessary, and this is a key part of government reform. And in my opinion, this is a conservative and a Republican thing to want government reform of this nature, to include public financing of elections. Thank you," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Matsumoto 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 Matsumoto's written remarks are as follows:

"Last year, I conducted a district-wide survey, in which I asked my constituents whether they supported the idea of using public funds to help fund political campaigns. The community response to this question was significantly negative. Although I understand the bill's intent for helping candidates fund their respective campaigns, I stand with my community and their voiced disapproval. For this reason, I vote with reservations."

Representative Pierick rose to respond, stating:

"In opposition. I just wanted to note that, with the previous comment that public trust in our legislator or in the government processes is at an all-time low. In the past primary, we had a low voter turnout. I think some 70% of our population didn't vote. So, instead of mandating that they get involved via money, we should potentially mandate that they get involved via voting, like Australia. I think that's a better step in the direction of getting everybody involved versus forcing them to get their money involved."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 370, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PARTIAL PUBLIC FINANCING OF ELECTIONS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Matsumoto voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Muraoka, Pierick, and Reyes Oda voting no, and with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 172) recommending that H.B. No. 134, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 134, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 134, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Garcia and Muraoka voting no, and with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 173) recommending that H.B. No. 1188, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Housing.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1188, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Housing, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1188, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TEACHER WORKFORCE HOUSING," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Housing, with Representative Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 174) recommending that H.B. No. 624, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 624, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 175) recommending that H.B. No. 625, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 625, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 176) recommending that H.B. No. 1314, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Health.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1314, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Health, 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 H.B. No. 1314, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Health, with Representative Garcia voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 177) recommending that H.B. No. 616, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 616, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE SAFETY OF EDUCATIONAL WORKERS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 178) recommending that H.B. No. 1496, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1496, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 179) recommending that H.B. No. 88, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 88, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 88, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO STUDENT ATHLETES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Shimizu voting aye with reservations, with Representative Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 180) recommending that H.B. No. 626, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 626, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 181) recommending that H.B. No. 1346, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Labor.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1346, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Labor, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Yamashita, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 182) recommending that H.B. No. 1440, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1440, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in opposition to this measure. This bill is supposed to be a housekeeping measure and makes appropriations to provide for the expenses of the Legislature, the Auditor, the Legislative Reference Bureau, the Ombudsman, and the Ethics Commission.

"As a part of the expenses of the Legislature, and more specifically, as a part of the House expenses, including for the 2025 Legislative Session, in an amount of almost \$16 million, this bill helps to fund the partisan research offices of the House, the majority and the minority. However, not all House members can utilize the partisan research offices of the House. Even though Section 19.8 of the House Administrative and Financial Manual states that, 'research and legal services for the House shall be provided by permanent and session-only employees in the partisan offices of the House, as authorized by the Speaker.'

"Take myself, for instance. As a Republican representative, I should be allowed to utilize the House Minority Research Office. However, I am not allowed to utilize this office unless I participate in the caucus. As a matter of principle, disallowing a House member from utilizing a partisan research office, regardless of the reason, is withholding a taxpayer-funded resource from a duly elected member. This is not only wrong at a foundational level, but it further perpetuates the culture that we should be changing at the Legislature.

"As a matter of practicality, I utilize the Legislative Reference Bureau in lieu of HMIR anyway, but not affording a member the option to use HMIR as a Republican is an injustice to my constituents. Therefore, I cannot support funding that presents an inequity for myself as a Republican member who gladly does not comply with the Minority Caucus directives. Thank you."

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

"In strong support. I just want to thank all the hardworking members of the research offices of both parties and LRB for their hard work here in the building. Thank you."

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

"Thank you. In support with reservations. I also support and thank all of the hardworking members, but I also think it's important that if we hear a member saying that she does not receive access to services that should be duly afforded to all members, we should listen to that concern. Thank you."

Representative Souza rose to respond, stating:

"Second time. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also am very thankful. The Legislative Reference Bureau has been wonderful in their support of my endeavors and in also drafting my bills. So, thank you to LRB. Thank you also to HMIR for the work that you guys do, and to HMSO. So, being thankful is not the issue here. It's the principle of whether or not a partisan member can utilize their partisan research office. 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. 1440, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE LEGISLATURE, THE AUDITOR, THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU, THE OMBUDSMAN, AND THE ETHICS COMMISSION," passed Second Reading and was placed on the calendar for Third Reading, with Representative Belatti voting aye with reservations, with Representative Souza voting no, and with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Tam: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Today is a very special day. It is World Nutella Day. But it is also special because it is our colleague, Rep. Lisa Marten's birthday. So, can you all join me in wishing her a very happy birthday?"

At this time, the Chair stated:

"The Chair would like to remind members of today's triple referral filing deadline. For any bills moving from their first committees to their second committees in a triple referral, you must file the committee reports with the Chief Clerk's Office by 6:00 p.m. this evening. Please allow yourselves and your staff sufficient time to file your reports before this deadline."

## COMMITTEE REASSIGNMENTS

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

### H.B.

### Nos.

### Re-referred to:

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 685         | Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, then to the Committee on Finance  |
| 714,<br>HD1 | Committee on Health, then jointly to the Committee on Education and the Committee on Economic Development & Technology, then to the Committee on Finance |

## ADJOURNMENT

At 12:25 p.m., on motion by Representative Morikawa, seconded by Representative Garcia and carried, the House of Representatives adjourned until noon tomorrow, Thursday, February 6, 2025. (Representatives Cochran and Ward were excused.)