

**HAWAII STATE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

REGULAR SESSION OF 2025

MINI JOURNAL

FLOOR REMARKS TO BE INSERTED

**THIRTY-SIXTH DAY
MARCH 20, 2025**

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

BT

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THIRTY-SIXTH DAY

Thursday, March 20, 2025

The House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2025, convened at 12:13 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 Thirty-Fifth Day was deferred.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGES

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

Gov. Msg. No. 7, dated March 19, 2025, transmitting the Commission on Salaries, Report and Recommendations to the 2025 Legislature pursuant to Section 26-56, HRS.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications from the Senate (Sen. Com. Nos. 396 and 397) were received and announced by the Clerk:

Sen. Com. No. 396, transmitting S.C.R. No. 20, entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION TO COMPREHENSIVELY REEVALUATE ITS POLICIES REGARDING IN-PERSON CONTACT VISITATION AT CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE TO BEST SUPPORT INCARCERATED PERSONS IN STAYING CONNECTED WITH LOVED ONES WHO CAN HELP THEM ON THEIR JOURNEY OF REHABILITATION," which was adopted by the Senate on March 19, 2025.

Sen. Com. No. 397, transmitting S.C.R. No. 21, entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO CORRECTIONAL FACILITY STAFF MEMBERS THROUGHOUT THE STATE CLINICAL COUNSELING SERVICES THAT ARE SEPARATE AND DISTINCT FROM THE EXISTING MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO INMATES," which was adopted by the Senate on March 19, 2025.

INTRODUCTIONS

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

REMARKS DELIVERED:	Rep. Amato
	Rep. Matsumoto
	Rep. Kila
	Rep. Lee
	Rep. Marten
	Rep. Alcos
	Rep. Nakamura
	Rep. Kahaloa
	Rep. La Chica
	Rep. Quinlan
	Rep. Keohokapu-Lee Loy
	Rep. Ilagan
	Rep. Woodson

ORDER OF THE DAY

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS
(FLOOR PRESENTATIONS)

The following resolution (H.R. No. 210) was announced by the Clerk and the following action taken:

H.R. No. 210, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE 2025 HAWAII PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR AND THE 2025 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR FOR SCHOOL

COMPLEX AREAS IN THE LEEWARD DISTRICT, HAWAII DISTRICT, AND MAUI DISTRICT," was offered by Representative Kila.

Representative Kila moved that H.R. No. 210 be adopted, seconded by Representative Woodson.

Representative Sayama honored outstanding teachers who have gone above and beyond to provide high-quality education for their students; recognized Ms. Barros as a dedicated co-learner and collaborator who encourages students to explore their passions and is also deeply committed to her community, advocating for Hawai'i's people, land, and culture; and congratulated and introduced honoree who was seated on the Floor of the House:

Robin Barros, SEEQS, 2025 Hawaii Public Charter School Teacher of the Year.

Representative Kila shared how Ms. Clark feels a deep sense of purpose in her work as an educator; commended her efforts to expose her students to various career and trade pathways; recognized her as a mentor to aspiring teachers; and congratulated and introduced honoree who was seated on the Floor of the House:

Tenelle Clark, Wai'anae Elementary School, 2025 Nānākuli-Wai'anae Complex Teacher of the Year.

Representative Ilagan highlighted Ms. Gouker's commitment to the betterment of our community, advocating for social, environmental, political, and economic justice; recognized her as a grassroots community activist who works to preserve cultural knowledge, practices, and heritage; acknowledged her as a strong mentor for her students; and congratulated and introduced honoree who was seated on the Floor of the House:

Leah Gouker, Pāhoa High School, 2025 Ka'ū-Kea'au-Pāhoa Complex Teacher of the year.

Representative Kahaloa recognized Ms. Martinez for her community engagement, collaboration, and mentorship of youth leaders; shared how she supports multilingual learners and how her advocacy has led to statewide legal protections for immigrant children; and congratulated and introduced honoree who was seated on the Floor of the House:

Karla "Viviana" Martinez, Konawaena High School, 2025 Honoka'a-Kealahke-Kohala-Konawaena Complex Teacher of the Year

Representative Amato acknowledged Ms. O'Neill Prest for using her academic expertise to champion literacy, arts integration, place-based learning, and aquatics; shared how she promotes creativity and inclusivity while enhancing education through community partnerships; and congratulated and introduced honoree who was seated on the Floor of the House:

Jessie O'Neill Prest, Kīhei Elementary School, 2025 Baldwin-Kekaulike-Kūlanihāko'i-Maui Complex Teacher of the Year.

Representative Amato also recognized guests of the honorees who were seated in the gallery.

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and H.R. No. 210 was adopted, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

At 12:39 p.m., the Chair declared a recess to allow the members to meet and congratulate the honorees.

The House of Representatives reconvened at 12:47 p.m.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1381) recommending that S.B. No. 177, SD 1, HD 1 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 S.B. No. 177, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO

AQUACULTURE," was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representatives Matayoshi and Tarnas, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce and the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1382) recommending that S.B. No. 1117, SD 2, HD 1 be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committees be adopted, and that S.B. No. 1117, SD 2, HD 1 be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

REMARKS DELIVERED: Rep. Garcia
Rep. Pierick
Rep. Alcos
Rep. Matsumoto

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committees was adopted and S.B. No. 1117, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION," was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Matsumoto voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, and Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Kila, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1383) recommending that S.B. No. 106, SD 1, 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 S.B. No. 106, SD 1, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

REMARKS DELIVERED: Rep. Garcia
Rep. Souza
Rep. Alcos
Rep. Miyake
Rep. Lamosao
Rep. Matsumoto

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 106, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PEDESTRIANS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representative Souza voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Lamosao, Matsumoto, and Miyake voting no, and with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Kila, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1384) recommending that S.B. No. 1638, SD 2, 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 S.B. No. 1638, SD 2, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

REMARKS DELIVERED: Rep. Pierick
Rep. Souza

**TO BE INSERTED: Rep. Souza
(Submit by Tuesday, March 25)**

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 1638, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AIR CARRIERS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Kila, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1385) recommending that S.B. No. 1195, SD 1, 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 S.B. No. 1195, SD 1, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to

the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

REMARKS DELIVERED: Rep. Amato

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 1195, SD 1, 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 Amato voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Sayama, for the Committee on Labor, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1386) recommending that S.B. No. 747, SD 1, HD 1 be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 747, SD 1, HD 1 be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

REMARKS DELIVERED: Rep. Amato

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 747, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION," was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Amato voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Sayama, for the Committee on Labor, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1387) recommending that S.B. No. 1402, SD 1, HD 1 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 S.B. No. 1402, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VESSELS IN STATE COMMERCIAL HARBORS," was referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Sayama, for the Committee on Labor, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1388) recommending that S.B. No. 447, as amended in HD 1, be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 447, HD 1 be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

REMARKS DELIVERED: Rep. Garcia

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 447, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO A DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PILOT PROGRAM," was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Garcia voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Sayama, for the Committee on Labor, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1389) recommending that S.B. No. 1065, SD 2, 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 S.B. No. 1065, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SKILLS-BASED HIRING," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Sayama, for the Committee on Labor, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1390) recommending that S.B. No. 442, SD 1, 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 S.B. No. 442, SD 1, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

REMARKS DELIVERED: Rep. Pierick
Rep. Reyes Oda

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 442, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO GOVERNMENT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Reyes Oda voting aye with reservations, with Representative Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Sayama, for the Committee on Labor, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1391) recommending that S.B. No. 340, SD 1, 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 S.B. No. 340, SD 1, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

REMARKS DELIVERED: Rep. Amato

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 340, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IN PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representative Amato voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Sayama, for the Committee on Labor, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1392) recommending that S.B. No. 1571, SD 2, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 1571, SD 2, HD 2 be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

REMARKS DELIVERED: Rep. Pierick
Rep. Amato

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 1571, SD 2, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TOURISM," was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Amato and Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Lowen, for the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1393) recommending that S.B. No. 329, 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 S.B. No. 329, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

REMARKS DELIVERED: Rep. Pierick

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 329, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WATER POLLUTION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Lowen, for the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1394) recommending that S.B. No. 1120, SD 1, HD 1 be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 1120, SD 1, HD 1 be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

REMARKS DELIVERED: Rep. Garcia
Rep. Muraoka

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 1120, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL

FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION," was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Garcia and Muraoka voting no, and with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Lowen, for the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1395) recommending that S.B. No. 1232, SD 2, HD 1 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 S.B. No. 1232, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WASTEWATER SYSTEMS," was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representatives Lowen and Hashem, for the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection and the Committee on Water & Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1396) recommending that S.B. No. 1318 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 S.B. No. 1318, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WATER POLLUTION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representatives Lowen and Hashem, for the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection and the Committee on Water & Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1397) recommending that S.B. No. 1602, SD 1, 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 S.B. No. 1602, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE KEAUHOU AQUIFER SYSTEM," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representatives Lowen and Hashem, for the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection and the Committee on Water & Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1398) recommending that S.B. No. 1074, SD 2, 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 Committees be adopted, and that S.B. No. 1074, SD 2, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

REMARKS DELIVERED: Rep. Amato
Rep. Shimizu
Rep. Poepoe
Rep. Perruso

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committees was adopted and S.B. No. 1074, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Perruso and Shimizu voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Amato and Poepoe voting no, and with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Hashem, for the Committee on Water & Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1399) recommending that S.B. No. 1669, SD 2, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 1669, SD 2, HD 2 be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

REMARKS DELIVERED: Rep. Pierick

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 1669, SD 2, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSIT ORIENTED

DEVELOPMENT," was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Hashem, for the Committee on Water & Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1400) recommending that S.B. No. 1083, SD 2, 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 S.B. No. 1083, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PORT INFRASTRUCTURE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Hashem, for the Committee on Water & Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1401) recommending that S.B. No. 321, SD 1, HD 1 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 S.B. No. 321, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION," was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Hashem, for the Committee on Water & Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1402) recommending that S.B. No. 1146, SD 1, HD 1 be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 1146, SD 1, HD 1 be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

REMARKS DELIVERED: Rep. Pierick

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 1146, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE ALA WAI CANAL," was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Hashem, for the Committee on Water & Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1403) recommending that S.B. No. 1511, SD 1, 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 S.B. No. 1511, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HANAIEI BAY," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Hashem, for the Committee on Water & Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1404) recommending that S.B. No. 1002, SD 2, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, 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 S.B. No. 1002, SD 2, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING," was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

Representative Hashem, for the Committee on Water & Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1405) recommending that S.B. No. 946, SD 2, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 946, SD 2, HD 2 be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

REMARKS DELIVERED: Rep. Amato
Rep. Lowen
Rep. Garcia
Rep. Shimizu

Rep. Alcos
Rep. Muraoka

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 946, SD 2, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT," was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Alcos, Amato, Garcia, Muraoka, and Shimizu voting no, and with Representatives Cochran and Ward being excused.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMARKS DELIVERED: Vice Speaker Ichiyama

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:56 p.m., on motion by Representative Morikawa, seconded by Representative Garcia and carried, the House of Representatives adjourned until noon tomorrow, Friday, March 21, 2025. (Representatives Cochran and Ward were excused.)