

**THE  
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2007  
JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE**

**FIRST DAY**

**Wednesday, January 17, 2007**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, convened at 10:00 o'clock a.m.

The Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine, being the Representative who was elected from the First Representative District of the State of Hawaii, called the House to order at 10:00 o'clock a.m.

The members of the House, guests, and audience rose for the presentation of our Nation's and our State's Colors by the Farrington High School Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps. The singing of the National Anthem and *Hawaii Pono'i* was led by Ms. Sherry Shaoling, thereafter the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Miss Shannon Mau, a student at Hawaii Baptist Academy, assisted by Master Kerry Mizota, a student at Hongwanji Mission School, and Master James Mizota, a student at Iolani School.

The Temporary Chair appointed the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort Most Reverend Clarence "Larry" Silva of the Catholic Diocese to the rostrum.

Most Reverend Silva delivered the invocation.

**INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION**

The following resolution (H.R. No. 1) was read by the Temporary Clerk and was disposed of as follows:

H.R. No. 1, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION ELECTING THE TEMPORARY CHAIR OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE," declaring the Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine, Representative from the first District, as the duly elected Temporary Chairman of the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Legislature, was jointly offered by Representatives Herkes and Marumoto.

On motion by Representative Herkes, seconded by Representative Marumoto and carried, H.R. No. 1 was adopted.

Representative Takamine then stated:

"Members of the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth State Legislature, I am honored to serve as your Temporary Chair this morning. Thank you. Let us commence with the order of the day."

The Temporary Chair appointed Patricia Mau-Shimizu as Temporary Clerk of the House of Representatives.

The Temporary Chair then appointed Representatives Waters, B. Oshiro, and Marumoto to the Committee on Credentials.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

Representative Waters for the Committee on Credentials, presented a report (Spec. Com. Rep. No. 1) stating that it has thoroughly considered the matter of the seating of the members-elect of the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, and finds that the members-elect are duly qualified to sit as members of the House of Representatives, as follows:

**FIRST DISTRICT:**  
Dwight Y. Takamine

**SECOND DISTRICT:**  
Jerry L. Chang

**THIRD DISTRICT:**  
Clift Tsuji

**FOURTH DISTRICT:**  
Faye P. Hanohano

**FIFTH DISTRICT:**  
Robert N. Herkes

**SIXTH DISTRICT:**  
Josh Green, M.D.

**SEVENTH DISTRICT:**  
Cindy Evans

**EIGHTH DISTRICT:**  
Joseph M. Souki

**NINTH DISTRICT:**  
Bob Nakasone

**TENTH DISTRICT:**  
Angus L. K. McKelvey

**ELEVENTH DISTRICT:**  
Joe Bertram, III

**TWELFTH DISTRICT:**  
Kyle T. Yamashita

**THIRTEENTH DISTRICT:**  
Mele Carroll

**FOURTEENTH DISTRICT:**  
Hermina M. Morita

**FIFTEENTH DISTRICT:**  
James Kunane Tokioka

**SIXTEENTH DISTRICT:**  
Roland D. Sagum, III

**SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT:**  
Gene Ward, Ph.D.

**EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT:**

Lyla B. Berg, Ph.D.

**NINETEENTH DISTRICT:**

Barbara C. Marumoto

**TWENTIETH DISTRICT:**

Calvin K. Y. Say

**TWENTY-FIRST DISTRICT:**

Scott Y. Nishimoto

**TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT:**

Scott K. Saiki

**TWENTY-THIRD DISTRICT:**

Tom Brower

**TWENTY-FOURTH DISTRICT:**

Kirk Caldwell

**TWENTY-FIFTH DISTRICT:**

Della Au Belatti

**TWENTY-SIXTH DISTRICT:**

Sylvia Luke

**TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT:**

Corinne W. L. Ching

**TWENTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT:**

Karl Rhoads

**TWENTY-NINTH DISTRICT:**

Joey Manahan

**THIRTIETH DISTRICT:**

John Mizuno

**THIRTY-FIRST DISTRICT:**

Glenn Wakai

**THIRTY-SECOND DISTRICT:**

Lynn Finnegan

**THIRTY-THIRD DISTRICT:**

Blake K. Oshiro

**THIRTY-FOURTH DISTRICT:**

K. Mark Takai

**THIRTY-FIFTH DISTRICT:**

Alex M. Sonson

**THIRTY-SIXTH DISTRICT:**

Roy M. Takumi

**THIRTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT:**

Ryan I. Yamane

**THIRTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT:**

Marilyn B. Lee

**THIRTY-NINTH DISTRICT:**

Marcus R. Oshiro

**FORTIETH DISTRICT:**

Sharon E. Har

**FORTY-FIRST DISTRICT:**

Jon Riki Karamatsu

**FORTY-SECOND DISTRICT:**

Rida T. R. Cabanilla

**FORTY-THIRD DISTRICT:**

Kymberly Marcos Pine

**FORTY-FOURTH DISTRICT:**

Karen Leinani Awana

**FORTY-FIFTH DISTRICT:**

Maile S. L. Shimabukuro

**FORTY-SIXTH DISTRICT:**

Michael Y. Magaoay

**FORTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT:**

Colleen Rose Meyer

**FORTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT:**

Ken Ito

**FORTY-NINTH DISTRICT:**

Pono Chong

**FIFTIETH DISTRICT:**

Cynthia Thielen

**FIFTY-FIRST DISTRICT:**

Tommy Waters

On motion by Representative Waters, seconded by Representative B. Oshiro and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted.

The Temporary Chair directed the Temporary Clerk to call the Roll, which being done disclosed that the following members were present: Representatives Karen Leinani Awana, Della Au Belatti, Lyla B. Berg, Ph.D., Joe Bertram, III, Tom Brower, Rida T.R. Cabanilla, Kirk Caldwell, Mele Carroll, Jerry L. Chang, Corinne W.L. Ching, Pono Chong, Cindy Evans, Lynn Finnegan, Josh Green, M.D., Faye P. Hanohano, Sharon E. Har, Robert N. Herkes, Ken Ito, Jon Riki Karamatsu, Marilyn B. Lee, Sylvia Luke, Michael Y. Magaoay, Joey Manahan, Barbara C. Marumoto, Angus L.K. McKelvey, Colleen Rose Meyer, John Mizuno, Hermina M. Morita, Bob Nakasone, Scott Y. Nishimoto, Blake K. Oshiro, Marcus R. Oshiro, Kymberly Pine, Karl Rhoads, Roland D. Sagum, III, Scott K. Saiki, Calvin K.Y. Say, Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Alex M. Sonson, Joseph M. Souki, K. Mark Takai, Dwight Y. Takamine, Roy M. Takumi, Cynthia Thielen, James Kunane Tokioka, Clift Tsuji, Glenn Wakai, Gene Ward, Ph.D., Tommy Waters, Ryan I. Yamane, and Kyle T. Yamashita, a total of fifty-one.

At 10:20 o'clock 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 the following:

"Believe":  
Ms. Malama Puahi,  
Ms. Rayna K. Chong, and  
Ms. Abby Vasconcellos

Halau Na Maka O Pu'uwai Aloha  
Miss Kelsey Jones  
Miss Kiana Jones  
Miss Breanne Maeda  
Miss Alyssa Nakamura, and  
Miss Haylie Yrojo.

The House of Representatives reconvened at 10:39 o'clock a.m.

The Temporary Chair then appointed the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the Honorable Ronald T.Y. Moon, Chief Justice of the State of Hawaii, to the rostrum and requested that he administer the oath of office to the Members of the House.

Chief Justice Moon gave the following remarks:

"Good morning and aloha, ladies and gentlemen. First of all, allow me to thank Speaker Say for the privilege and the honor of administering the oath of office to the Members of the House. On behalf of the Judiciary, I would like to commend all of you for your commitment to serving the people of this great State.

"And speaking of commitment, it reminds me of my first year in law school in the State of Iowa, which certainly was a foreign country at that time. And at our orientation program, I recall our Dean giving his orientation speech to the first-year law students, and he spoke about the concept of commitment and he urged us first-year law students to be totally committed to the law and to the profession. And being in the state which is part of the, as you know, the 'Farm Belt' of the United States, he appropriately made his point by discussing a discussion between a pig and a chicken.

"The chicken said, 'I am totally committed to giving eggs in the morning.' And the pig responded, 'That's not total commitment, that's participation. Giving ham is total commitment.' So, I thank you for your total commitment."

#### OATH OF OFFICE

The Honorable Ronald T.Y. Moon, Chief Justice of the State of Hawaii, called upon the members of the House of Representatives who had been elected to serve in the Twenty-Fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii to rise, and the oath office was administered in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, to the following members of the House:

**FIRST DISTRICT:**  
Dwight Y. Takamine

**SECOND DISTRICT:**  
Jerry L. Chang

**THIRD DISTRICT:**  
Clift Tsuji

**FOURTH DISTRICT:**  
Faye P. Hanohano

**FIFTH DISTRICT:**  
Robert N. Herkes

**SIXTH DISTRICT:**  
Josh Green, M.D.

**SEVENTH DISTRICT:**  
Cindy Evans

**EIGHTH DISTRICT:**  
Joseph M. Souki

**NINTH DISTRICT:**  
Bob Nakasone

**TENTH DISTRICT:**  
Angus L. K. McKelvey

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**TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT:**  
Corinne W. L. Ching

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**FORTY-FIFTH DISTRICT:**

Maile S. L. Shimabukuro

**FORTY-SIXTH DISTRICT:**

Michael Y. Magaoay

**FORTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT:**

Colleen Rose Meyer

**FORTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT:**

Ken Ito

**FORTY-NINTH DISTRICT:**

Pono Chong

**FIFTIETH DISTRICT:**

Cynthia Thielen

**FIFTY-FIRST DISTRICT:**

Tommy Waters

**INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION**

The following resolution (H.R. No. 2) was read by the Temporary Clerk and was disposed of as follows:

H.R. No. 2, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION ELECTING THE SPEAKER AND VICE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE," electing the Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say, Representative from the Twentieth District and Jon Riki Karamatsu, Representative from the Forty-First District, as Speaker and Vice Speaker, respectively, of the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii was jointly offered by Representatives Caldwell and Finnegan.

Representative Caldwell moved that H.R. No. 2 be adopted, seconded by Representative Finnegan.

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

"Mr. Chair, I rise to speak in opposition to this motion. Mr. Chair, I have some written comments that I'd like to insert into the Journal, and I'd also like to summarize my comments.

"Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, first, I want to apologize to all of the family members and other guests who are here today. It's not ordinary to speak in this context on Opening Day because, after all, this is a ceremonial day for all of us. But the fact of the matter is that we do take important votes on Opening Day, one of which is the vote for the Speaker, and this is the only opportunity that the Members of House have to voice their opinions on this matter.

"Mr. Chair, for the last two years, I have been quiet in hope that things in the House would get better, but they did not, and that is why I am voting "no" on this Resolution, with all due respect to my colleagues in the House.

"As you know, I spelled out some of my reasons for voting "no" in an opinion piece that was published in the *Hawaii Tribune Herald* and *Honolulu Star Bulletin*. I received about two dozen responses to that piece. The common reaction was that I should have been more specific, so I'll try to be more specific this morning, again with all due respect to my colleagues and to all of the guests who are here today.

"As a Democratic majority, our responsibility is to enact good legislation to benefit all Hawaii residents, not just a connected few. Eight years ago, the House elected a new Speaker. I was proud to be a part of that movement. I had a lot of hope that the Democrats, with new, young elected Representatives, and through sound leadership, would restore public confidence in government and would make good policy decisions in an honest and informed way. I had a lot of hope that we would recognize changes occurring within our State and work to address them.

"I was a part of that leadership team for six years. We did some good, far-ranging things. By working with the Senate, we passed landmark legislation to enact a bottle recycling bill, reform the school budgeting process, fight the ice epidemic and make prescription drugs affordable. But even while we implemented these programs, I discovered too often that certain individuals were taking us back to the politics of the past.

"The priority for some was to protect narrow interest based on personal relationships with those who would benefit from the legislation. For example, we were asked to approve a \$100 million subsidiary for a private raceway park, even if it compromised ethical standards. We were asked to pass legislation to allow the developer to build a subdivision on agricultural land even if it meant circumventing our House Rules and a State court ruling.

"As part of the Majority, we should not have to spend time fighting such bad policies. I believe that we should be asked to do better. We should be asked to restore public confidence in government. We should be asked to carry out our constitutional duty to act as a separate and co-equal branch of State government and to identify policy priorities, develop solutions and enact them even over the Governor's objections and regardless of the Governor's political affiliation. And that is why I believe that we require new leadership.

"New leadership will ask us to enact and enforce ethical standards to prevent self-dealing. New leadership will ask us to approve real renewable energy legislation to protect the environment. New leadership will ask us to approve tax relief for hard working families. New leadership will ask us to raise our standards in terms of how we make decisions, enforce ethical rules and resolve our State's challenges.

"This is what we can do if we are not distracted by bad legislation and narrow interest. I have not given up on this Session. There is great potential for the new Members of the House. If we work with the Senate, we will pass good legislation and we will move our State

forward. I hope that the House is up to the challenge. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair."

Representative Saiki's written remarks are as follows:

"State House Needs Real Reform  
Representatives Scott K. Saiki and Sylvia J. Luke

One key indicator of how the Legislature will conduct business is the way it selects its leaders and committee chairpersons. The Senate has gone in the right direction with its focus on openness, moving away from petty politics and the status quo. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of the House of Representatives.

As was recently reported, key community leaders, such as U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye, recognized that House Democrats are factionalized and attempted to fix it. On the day after the general election, Democratic Party Chair Mike McCartney convened a meeting with Representatives Calvin Say, Kirk Caldwell, Marcus Oshiro and ourselves. Senator Inouye specifically requested veteran Finance Committee Chair, Dwight Takamine to attend.

At the meeting, Senator Inouye expressed his hope that the factions would resolve their differences and work together for the good of the State. He then asked Rep. Takamine to serve as a mediator and to bring the sides together to work out a compromise.

Immediately after Senator Inouye and McCartney left the meeting, Rep. Say told the group that he intended to serve as speaker for the next eight years and would do whatever it took to retain that position. The following week, as he gathered votes, he did not respond to Rep. Takamine's requests to meet.

Rep. Say eventually garnered the 26 votes he needed to continue as speaker. But in doing so, he and the House leadership team denied that Senator Inouye had requested a compromise, and then ousted Rep. Takamine and other House members who had not supported them. In doing so, the House lost an opportunity to provide real leadership and to bring about change in the way the House conducts business.

However, moving forward, we must all recognize that we were elected to serve the general public, and that it is not too late to bring about real reform. By working with the Senate leadership, the House can implement a progressive agenda that will improve the Legislature and residents' quality of life. Here are a few things that we can do.

1. **Increase ethical standards.** The House needs to prevent self-dealing from occurring. Self-dealing results in bad legislation and policy decisions. We must set higher standards and learn to enforce them - even against our colleagues.
2. **Approve immediate tax relief for working people.** Programs such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) can provide over \$20 million in annual tax relief for thousands of working families in Hawaii. The federal government and 20 other states have already adopted the EITC. Hawaii should provide this and other tax relief to our residents.
3. **Pass an aggressive renewable energy agenda.** In recent years, the House has watered down bold proposals to reduce our reliance on oil. We can no longer afford to do this. We must set a comprehensive plan to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and its impact on other facets of our economy. We cannot continue to prolong action if we are to become more self-sufficient.

This is just an example of what is possible. For six years, we served as part of Rep. Say's leadership team, but resigned in 2004 when we realized that Rep. Say was not willing to change.

"It is time to put aside the old way of doing things. We believe that our generation and those that follow deserve a sharp and progressive Legislature that will work for the public interest. We hope the House is up to the task.

Representatives Saiki (D-McCully, Moiliili) and Luke (D-Pauoa, Nuuanu) previously served as Majority Leader and Vice Speaker, respectively, of the House of Representatives"

DANIEL K. INOUE  
UNITED STATES SENATOR  
HAWAII

November 28, 2006

Dear Dwight,

I learned recently what happened in the House leadership organization. I fear that my request of you – to facilitate between the two sides – may have cost you your Chairmanship of the House Finance Committee.

Dwight, I am truly sorry. Had I had any inkling of the harmful position I asked you to assume, I would never have done it. My request to you was based on the high regard I hold you and that you are held in to both chambers and in many leadership circles from business, non-profits to labor. It was also based on the need to at least try to get beyond the factions and focus on strengthening the institution in light of our Democratic victories at the polls. Too much energy had been focused on fighting and stymieing each other across the caucus table, all the while giving the Governor upstairs a free ride.

I fear my friend that I may have made things worse – with more, not less blood, on the floor. If there is anything I can do for you, please do not hesitate to contact me. I owe you one.

Aloha  
  
DANIEL K. INOUE  
United States Senator

The Honorable Dwight Takamine  
Representative  
Hawaii State House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

cc: The Honorable Calvin Say  
The Honorable Sylvia Luke

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

"Mr. Chair, I also rise in opposition to this Resolution and have a few remarks. First, I also apologize to our guests as this is typically a day of ceremony and celebration. However, I cannot in good conscience let this moment pass without recording my dissent.

"It has been whispered about me that I should learn to act like a freshman. That I should know my place. Mr. Chair, my place is on this floor and I refuse to be intimidated from using my voice and exercising my right to vote.

"Mr. Chair, my hope upon being elected was that the leadership of this House would be based on the principles of compromise, fairness and respect. Surely, these same principles should also operate in the policy-making arena to arrive at the very best laws for the entire

community. Instead, I am disturbed that we operate within a culture where the politics of retribution and punishment are the norm and protecting our elected positions is more important than the public good.

"Despite my deep concerns about the organization of this House, Mr. Chair, I am optimistic that the people's work will get done and that our Members will strive to pass a progressive package that addresses the concerns of families. We need to do this because despite the recent prosperity of our State, the price of paradise is now exacting too much on our working families and the middle class.

"We must pass the earned income tax credit that provides targeted relief to our families who are struggling the most. We must also preserve Hawaii's environment for future generations and not give in to the temptation to squander our natural resources.

"Mr. Chair, I speak out today and vote "no" to this Resolution because I believe there is still hope. There are problems that Hawaii is facing that are bigger than us all, and this is no time to sacrifice progress so that a few can cling to power and maintain the status quo. I believe this House can still do great things if it chooses to put community before self-interest and people before politics. Thank you."

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

"Good morning, Mr. Chair. I rise in support of the motion. Mr. Chair, I would say no apology need be given for these statements made on the floor today for this is the people's House, Mr. Chair, and we represent all the people.

"We encourage debate on the important issues and this is one of those debates, and I am proud to be the Majority Leader and stand before this Body and to be part of this discussion in the openness, in open sunshine, in front of our friends, families, honored guests, and others. I think it says everything about what we're about as Americans, as citizens of Hawaii, and about our rough and tumble business of American democracy. This is the people's House. This is the kind of discussion we have.

"This discussion's been ongoing since the reorganization challenge. We've been open in every Caucus to people airing their views and talking about various leadership styles. We have voted and reorganized the House and I am proud to say that out of 18 Chairs, we have 8 chairs who have four or less years of experience. This is not a top down. This is not 'old boy.' This is not a shutting out of discussion. This is opening the House to full discussion and allowing those who may not have much experience in this legislative body to bring fresh and new ideas and perspectives.

"Many of these Chairs come from our Neighbor Islands, and those Neighbor Islands need to be represented. So I am proud to say that this organization structure that has been put in place by Speaker Calvin Say, and with help from many others in our Caucus is about openness, is about giving people a voice, is about moving forward.

"And I welcome the ongoing discussion that we may have as we go forward this Session on many of the important issues of the day. Whether it be on energy, we do owe the people of this State better energy proposals, and we are going to continue to work hard on that. On ethics, we will continue to look at better ways to bring discipline to this House where need be. On involving the public, we are open for business every day of the week in our offices and in our Committee hearings. This is an open House. This is a House, I think, we can all be proud of being members of, and I don't think we owe an apology to anyone here for the debate that we are having right now. But I do request all Members to please vote "yes" on this Resolution. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I greatly appreciate the words of the Majority Leader, but I must speak in opposition to this Resolution. And I do appreciate the words of the Majority Leader. And I do believe that we can do great things. Together we can make good legislation and solve more problems. And together we can overcome obstacles and some of the challenges that are faced today and beyond, and to work together to do good for the State of Hawaii. And I do appreciate his words that he, too, will remain open and continue great discussion and debate on this Floor and throughout.

"However, Mr. Chair, as I said before, I rise in opposition to this Resolution. Mr. Chair, we are all reformist by nature and that's why we run for office, to bring changes that will benefit the public and make government responsive to its people.

"However, over the years, our residents have lost faith in government to do the right thing. And at the core of that cynicism is a view that the Legislature is filled with entrenched cronies who benefit from self-dealing and from self-interests. Even last year, when I spoke to the *Advertiser's* editorial community board members, the biggest issues that they perceive was the self-dealing that was going on at the Legislature and they asked me to look at various ethic laws, Sunshine laws to help the public understand and, perhaps, lead to transparency in the Legislature. Out of all issues, that was their biggest concern and that was their biggest issue that was brought up at the Community Board.

"Because of this cynicism fewer and fewer residents vote as they become more skeptical about our government. So, instead of making reforms, what do we do? We ignore these concerns, and rather clench tighter and tighter to the status quo. We must stop the self-dealing and make reforms to earn the public's trust and make sound policy. We owe it to our constituents to do better. We owe it to ourselves to do better. We owe it to the future to do better.

"Many of us became legislators with hopes and dreams to do great things, solve real problems. Some of us have tried to make changes from within. However, if we cannot trust the process, how can we trust the product? I have lost my faith and trust in the Speaker nominee. The lack of vision, the lack of leadership, and the need to hold on to power and the old ways of doing things have been more than just disappointing. It simply breaks my heart. Because we need to provide hope, because we need to provide courage, I am voting in opposition to this motion. Thank you."

Representative Caldwell rose, stating:

"Yes. Mr. Chair, I don't know if there's going to be any further comments, but when it comes time for a vote on this motion, on this Resolution, which I'm encouraging everyone to vote "yes" on, I would like it to be a roll call vote. To continue that open sunshine, we can see and show to all the people of our State where we stand on this Resolution. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. So, roll call vote.

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

"Thank you. I rise in strong support of this Resolution. I want to comment on some of the previous speakers' comments. This process does work. It's incredible. I have been here. This is my third term, my fifth year, and without a doubt, it is a process.

"There are 51 people in this Chamber. It takes a majority to pass legislation. When it came to determining what our leadership team would look like, it was by vote. There was a process. It works. I think the people of Hawaii should be very proud of what comes out of this House, and it is all about process.

"When you start with almost 17, 18 hundred bills in the House and come out with 260 at the end, it's about debate, it's about going around and working on the issues and coming to agreement. So, this does work and I strongly support this Resolution. Thank you."

Representative Waters rose to speak in support of the measure stating:

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker, in support. Under Calvin Say's leadership, Hawaii has realized a thriving economy, a robust construction industry, and a low crime rate. We supported innovative technology. We supported our University with over \$50 million in new money last year, and over \$100 million for repair and maintenance of our schools. Mr. Speaker, sunny days and bright skies. The future looks bright. And as Believe says, 'Ain't no mountain high enough.' Thank you."

The request for a roll call vote was put to vote by the Chair and upon a show of hands, the roll call was approved.

Roll call having been approved, the motion that H.R. No. 2 be adopted, was put to vote by the Chair and carried on the following show of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 48: Representatives Awana, Berg, Bertram, Brower, Cabanilla, Caldwell, Carroll, Chang, Ching, Chong, Evans, Finnegan, Green, Hanohano, Har, Herkes, Ito, Karamatsu, Lee, Magaoay, Manahan, Marumoto, McKelvey, Meyer, Mizuno, Morita, Nakasone, Nishimoto, B. Oshiro, M. Oshiro, Pine, Rhoads, Sagum, Say, Shimabukuro, Sonson, Souki, Takai, Takamine, Takumi, Thielen, Tokioka, Tsuji, Wakai, Ward, Waters, Yamane and Yamashita.

Noes, 3: Representatives Belatti, Luke and Saiki.

The Temporary Chair appointed Representatives Caldwell, B. Oshiro, Finnegan and Meyer to escort the newly elected Speaker to the rostrum.

The Temporary Chair then stated:

"Members of the House of Representatives, I present the Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Legislature," and presented the Speaker with the gavel.

The Speaker then addressed the body, stating:

"Members of the House. Thank you for your vote of confidence and support. I pledge to you that I will execute my duties and responsibilities with fairness consistent with the Hawaii State Constitution and the State statutes.

"I would like to share with the Members of this House, family and friends, people of the State of Hawaii. This is your House. This is your democratic House, and this is how we operate in full and public discussion over these past eight years. I applaud those who voted against me because for me, it is constructive criticism in improving one's behavior and responsibilities for this major institution."

The Chair then appointed Representatives Caldwell and Finnegan to escort the Honorable Jon Riki Karamatsu to the rostrum.

The Chair presented the Vice Speaker, stating:

"Members of the House of Representatives, ladies and gentlemen, I present the Honorable Jon Riki Karamatsu, Vice Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Legislature."

**INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

The following resolutions (H.R. Nos. 3 and 4) were read by the Clerk and were disposed of as follows:

H.R. No. 3, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION ELECTING THE OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE," resolving that the following persons be elected as officers of the House: Patricia Mau-Shimizu, Chief Clerk; Kevin R. Kuroda, Sergeant-at-Arms; C.J. Leong, Assistant Clerk; and Leonard Paresa, Jr., Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms; was jointly offered by Representatives Caldwell and Finnegan.

On motion by Representative Caldwell, seconded by Representative Finnegan and carried, H.R. No. 3 was adopted.

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

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 TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE," 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 Twenty-Fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, as listed below, was jointly offered by Representatives Caldwell and Finnegan:

- Majority Leader: Kirk Caldwell
- Majority Floor Leader: Blake K. Oshiro
- Majority Whips:
  - Mele Carroll
  - Jerry L. Chang
  - Pono Chong
  - Robert N. Herkes
  - Ken Ito
  - Marilyn B. Lee
  - Michael Y. Magaoay
  - Bob Nakasone
  - Alex M. Sonson
  - Joseph M. Souki
  - Tommy Waters
  - Ryan I. Yamane
  - Kyle T. Yamashita
- Assistant Majority Floor Leaders:
  - Della Au Belatti
  - Joe Bertram, III
  - Tom Brower
  - Josh Green, M.D.
  - Faye P. Hanohano
  - Sharon E. Har
  - Sylvia Luke
  - Joey Manahan
  - Angus L.K. McKelvey
  - John Mizuno
  - Karl Rhoads
  - Roland D. Sagum, III
  - Scott K. Saiki
  - K. Mark Takai
  - Dwight Y. Takamine
  - James Kunane Tokioka
- Minority Leader: Lynn Finnegan
- Minority Floor Leader: Colleen Rose Meyer
- Minority Whips:
  - Karen Leinani Awana
  - Corinne W.L. Ching

Gene Ward, Ph.D.  
 Assistant Minority Leader: Kymberly Marcos Pine  
 Assistant Minority Floor Leader: Cynthia Thielen

Joseph M. Souki  
 Clift Tsuji  
 Ryan I. Yamane  
 Kyle T. Yamashita  
 Barbara C. Marumoto  
 Kymberly Marcos Pine  
 Cynthia Thielen

### FISCAL MANAGEMENT

#### Finance:

Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
 Marilyn B. Lee, Vice-Chair  
 Della Au Belatti  
 Tom Brower  
 Mele Carroll  
 Pono Chong  
 Faye P. Hanohano  
 Sharon E. Har  
 Michael Y. Magaoay  
 Joey Manahan  
 John Mizuno  
 Bob Nakasone  
 Karl Rhoads  
 Roland D. Sagum, III  
 James Kunane Tokioka  
 Karen Leinani Awana  
 Colleen Rose Meyer  
 Gene Ward, Ph.D.

### LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

#### Legislative Management:

Michael Y. Magaoay, Chair  
 James Kunane Tokioka, Vice-Chair  
 Jon Riki Karamatsu  
 Blake K. Oshiro  
 Lynn Finnegan

### JUSTICE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

#### Consumer Protection and Commerce:

Robert N. Herkes, Chair  
 Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice-Chair  
 Kirk Caldwell  
 Cindy Evans  
 Josh Green, M.D.  
 Ken Ito  
 Sylvia Luke  
 Hermina M. Morita  
 Alex M. Sonson  
 Joseph M. Souki  
 Clift Tsuji  
 Ryan I. Yamane  
 Kyle T. Yamashita  
 Barbara C. Marumoto  
 Cynthia Thielen

#### Judiciary:

Tommy Waters, Chair  
 Blake K. Oshiro, Vice-Chair  
 Kirk Caldwell  
 Cindy Evans  
 Josh Green, M.D.  
 Ken Ito  
 Sylvia Luke  
 Angus L.K. McKelvey  
 Hermina M. Morita  
 Alex M. Sonson

### EDUCATION

#### Education:

Roy Takumi, Chair  
 Lyla B. Berg, Ph.D., Vice-Chair  
 Joe Bertram, III  
 Rida T.R. Cabanilla  
 Jerry L. Chang  
 Scott Y. Nishimoto  
 Scott K. Saiki  
 Maile S.L. Shimabukuro  
 K. Mark Takai  
 Dwight Y. Takamine  
 Glenn Wakai  
 Corinne W.L. Ching  
 Lynn Finnegan

#### Higher Education:

Jerry L. Chang, Chair  
 Joe Bertram, III, Vice-Chair  
 Lyla B. Berg, Ph.D.  
 Rida T.R. Cabanilla  
 Scott Y. Nishimoto  
 Scott K. Saiki  
 Maile S.L. Shimabukuro  
 K. Mark Takai  
 Dwight Y. Takamine  
 Roy Takumi  
 Glenn Wakai  
 Corinne W.L. Ching  
 Lynn Finnegan

### HUMAN SERVICES

#### Health:

Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
 John Mizuno, Vice-Chair  
 Della Au Belatti  
 Joe Bertram, III  
 Rida T.R. Cabanilla  
 Karl Rhoads  
 Maile S.L. Shimabukuro  
 K. Mark Takai  
 James Kunane Tokioka  
 Karen Leinani Awana  
 Gene Ward, Ph.D.

#### Human Services & Housing:

Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
 Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair  
 Della Au Belatti  
 Joe Bertram, III  
 Rida T.R. Cabanilla  
 Josh Green, M.D.  
 John Mizuno  
 K. Mark Takai  
 James Kunane Tokioka  
 Karen Leinani Awana  
 Gene Ward, Ph.D.



International Affairs:

Rida T.R. Cabanilla, Chair  
 James Kunane Tokioka, Vice-Chair  
 Della Au Belatti  
 Joe Bertram, III  
 Josh Green, M.D.  
 John Mizuno  
 Karl Rhoads  
 Maile S.L. Shimabukuro  
 K. Mark Takai  
 Karen Leinani Awana  
 Gene Ward, Ph.D.

**NATURAL RESOURCES AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**Energy and Environmental Protection:

Hermina M. Morita, Chair  
 Mele Carroll, Vice-Chair  
 Pono Chong  
 Ken Ito  
 Michael Y. Magaoay  
 Roland D. Sagum, III  
 Scott K. Saiki  
 Cynthia Thielen

Water, Land, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian Affairs:

Ken Ito, Chair  
 Pono Chong, Vice-Chair  
 Mele Carroll  
 Michael Y. Magaoay  
 Hermina M. Morita  
 Roland D. Sagum, III  
 Scott K. Saiki  
 Cynthia Thielen

**GOVERNMENT RESOURCES AND PUBLIC SAFETY**Labor and Public Employment:

Alex M. Sonson, Chair  
 Bob Nakasone, Vice-Chair  
 Cindy Evans  
 Sharon E. Har  
 Marilyn B. Lee  
 Sylvia Luke  
 Angus L.K. McKelvey  
 Scott Y. Nishimoto  
 Joseph M. Souki  
 Dwight Y. Takamine  
 Roy M. Takumi  
 Colleen Rose Meyer  
 Kymberly Marcos Pine

Transportation:

Joseph M. Souki, Chair  
 Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice-Chair  
 Cindy Evans  
 Sharon E. Har  
 Marilyn B. Lee  
 Sylvia Luke  
 Angus L.K. McKelvey  
 Bob Nakasone  
 Alex M. Sonson  
 Dwight Y. Takamine  
 Roy M. Takumi  
 Colleen Rose Meyer  
 Kymberly Marcos Pine

Public Safety and Military Affairs:

Cindy Evans, Chair  
 Sharon E. Har, Vice-Chair  
 Marilyn B. Lee  
 Sylvia Luke  
 Angus L.K. McKelvey  
 Bob Nakasone  
 Scott Y. Nishimoto  
 Alex M. Sonson  
 Joseph M. Souki  
 Dwight Y. Takamine  
 Roy M. Takumi  
 Lynn Finnegan  
 Kymberly Marcos Pine

**ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES**Agriculture:

Clift Tsuji, Chair  
 Tom Brower, Vice-Chair  
 Lyla B. Berg, Ph.D.  
 Jerry L. Chang  
 Faye P. Hanohano  
 Robert N. Herkes  
 Joey Manahan  
 Glenn Wakai  
 Ryan I. Yamane  
 Kyle T. Yamashita  
 Corinne W.L. Ching  
 Colleen Rose Meyer

Economic Development and Business Concerns:

Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
 Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair  
 Lyla B. Berg, Ph.D.  
 Tom Brower  
 Jerry L. Chang  
 Faye P. Hanohano  
 Robert N. Herkes  
 Joey Manahan  
 Clift Tsuji  
 Ryan I. Yamane  
 Corinne W.L. Ching  
 Barbara C. Marumoto

Tourism and Culture:

Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
 Joey Manahan, Vice-Chair  
 Lyla B. Berg, Ph.D.  
 Tom Brower  
 Jerry L. Chang  
 Faye P. Hanohano  
 Robert N. Herkes  
 Clift Tsuji  
 Glenn Wakai  
 Kyle T. Yamashita  
 Corinne W.L. Ching  
 Barbara C. Marumoto

On motion by Representative Caldwell, seconded by Representative Finnegan and carried, H.R. No. 4 was adopted.

**INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

The following concurrent resolutions (H.C.R. Nos. 1 and 2) were read by the Clerk and was disposed of as follows:

H.C.R. No. 1, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RELATING TO RECESS DAYS FOR THE REGULAR SESSION OF 2007," relating to the mandatory recess for the Regular Session of 2007, determined to be the 22nd, 23rd, 26th, 27th, and 28th days of February 2007; and the dates of the recesses, other than the dates of the mandatory recess, for the Regular Session of 2007, determined to be the 23rd and 25th days of January, the 5th, 7th, and 28th days of March, the 9th, 11th, and 30th days of April, and the 2nd day of May of 2007, pursuant to Article III, Section 10 of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, was jointly offered by Representatives Caldwell and Finnegan.

On motion by Representative Caldwell, seconded by Representative Finnegan and carried, H.C.R. No. 1 was adopted.

H.C.R. No. 2, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO ADDRESS THE LEGISLATURE ASSEMBLED IN JOINT SESSION," on the 22nd of January at 10:00 a.m., was jointly offered by Representatives Say, Karamatsu, Caldwell and Finnegan.

On motion by Representative Caldwell, seconded by Representative Finnegan and carried, H.C.R. No. 2 was adopted.

At 11:12 o'clock 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 DeLima Ohana:

Kelly Boy DeLima  
Kalena DeLima  
Lilo DeLima

The House of Representatives reconvened at 11:44 o'clock a.m.

At this time the Speaker delivered his address, stating:

"Honored guests, Members, ladies and gentlemen. Aloha and welcome. The 24th Hawaii State Legislature convenes today.

"Our nation remains engaged in a war overseas with no end in sight, and our State faces an important turning point in its future.

"I want to talk with you in these next few minutes with as much candor and clarity as possible because I believe the challenge of our times demand it.

"The days ahead will be difficult, but we will be guided forward in the certain knowledge that the talents, creativity, generosity, and resilience of the people of Hawaii are almost unlimited. But for the Members of this House, their patience, however, is not. They expect us to move Hawaii forward without regard to personal politics or special interests.

"Allow me today to share with you where I see our biggest challenges. These challenges are a call for citizenship and each of us must respond on a national, state and community level.

"For all of us, let us begin with our nation.

"There are those who claim that this legislative body should concern itself only with State matters – that the war in Iraq is something for our leaders in Washington to worry about. I am troubled by that thought. It has been estimated that the final costs of this war will be close to \$1 trillion.

"For Hawaii alone, the war will cost more than \$1.2 billion. Just think – with these resources we could have provided health care for more than 400,000 of our people. Just think. We could have paid the salaries of more than 23,000 elementary school teachers. We

could have built 3,800 affordable units. Or we could have hired almost 3,000 public safety officers. Any way you look at it, Hawaii's losses in this war have been substantial.

"However, I would like to point this out, that through it all, our military has stood strong. Their bravery, their dedication to Hawaii and the nation, and their courage in the face of such overwhelming brutality in Iraq is enormous. Our praise and thanks for their sacrifices should be unending.

"As of this month, all of you should know that 181 young men and women with ties to Hawaii have lost their lives. Last year the Legislature honored their memories and families with the Hawaii Medal of Honor and we will continue to award this special recognition as long as this unfortunate war continues.

"For all of us, it is the very least that we can do.

"After serving 30 years in this body, I feel this is a special opportunity to share with you what I have come to see as hard truths we must face together as a people. And I think this day, when so many of us are gathered together in one place – a day when many members of our communities will take time to visit with us – it is a good time to have this frank discussion.

"I believe Hawaii must face the years ahead confident that our people can stand on their own. We depend too much on the outside world for our survival and that's a dangerous thing to do.

"All our food and consumer goods are imported. Our economy runs on tourism and the military. Our transportation system runs on oil and gas that must cross thousands of open miles of ocean space to get here.

"Our electricity system has few backups, because unlike any other state, we don't have a national power-grid to plug into.

"If real trouble comes, our current economic dependency will come to a complete halt. If you think that's an exaggeration, think about what happened in New Orleans, with all the connections to transportation, power, and oil. Look what happened there.

"Former Governor George Ariyoshi was right when he said, 'We must shape our own future, not have it thrust upon us by forces over which we have little or no control.'

"Today, Hawaii remains the most oil dependent State in the nation with over 90 percent of our primary energy coming from oil. And, despite all of the efforts of the Legislature, the Administration and energy stakeholders, we are likely to remain highly dependent on imported oil for many years to come.

"It has been said that Hawaii has more renewable energy resources than any state in the nation. And we do have abundant wind, solar, geothermal, ocean wave, and ocean thermal resources. However, converting those resources into usable electricity and transportation fuels is yet technically or financially not feasible.

"And that's because of our energy geography. Many of our renewable resources are on the Big Island, but most of our State's population is on Oahu.

"Right now, Oahu's only renewable resources are wind, solar and garbage. All of you realize wind is intermittent and even building a wind farm has been difficult because of community opposition. We can expand the amount of solid waste we use for energy, but the total increase will take only a small bite out of our power demand.

"All of you have heard much in the past year about ethanol. At the national level, the ethanol craze seems to be of great benefit to big corporate corn farmers. The production of ethanol from corn may not be saving the country any imported oil.

"For Hawaii, today we do import ethanol into the State. In the future, we could make it here from sugar – and that process is more than six-and-a-half times as efficient as corn-based ethanol.

"We have very generous incentives for investments in ethanol production. And I'm happy to say that in the next two months, we expect at least two Hawaii-based companies will move forward with serious proposals to build an ethanol plant.

"There are even more promising signs.

"Almost half the energy now consumed in Waikiki is used for air-conditioning. Two Hawaii-based companies are moving forward with proven technology that could be used to dramatically cut the costs of cooling buildings in downtown Honolulu and hotels in Waikiki.

"Right now, these hotels and buildings consume four to 12 times more electricity than this new system would require. Makai Ocean Engineering and the Honolulu Sea Water Air Conditioning would use cold seawater pumped from hundreds of feet below the surface to do the job.

"Another promising development is underway by the University of Hawaii and a spin-off company called HR Bio-Petroleum. They have undertaken a pioneering effort to produce renewable fuels. Their goal is to generate fuels for transportation from marine algae and to use carbon dioxide from power plant stacks as the nutrient for its growth.

"This technology will use algae to produce biodiesel, ethanol and animal protein feed. The products will have a much higher market value than if they were made from land-based plants. Only salt water, shorelands, and carbon dioxide are needed.

"I'm happy to report tests of this technology will begin this spring on the Big Island at the Natural Energy Laboratory. This is transforming technology, one that is the basis for a uniquely Hawaiian industry to export to the world.

"Innovation comes from new ideas like this. Innovation changes the way we act and how we think about ourselves. It helps us to diversify our economy, creating better paying jobs for our citizens. It even helps bring affordable homes within reach.

"All of us must redouble our efforts to diversify Hawaii's economy, or we will never be able to break our State's economic addiction to tourism.

"To achieve this goal we must accomplish two things: First, we must expand the base of existing businesses that pay a living wage. And second, we must better train our workforce for the opportunities of tomorrow.

"We must continue to invest in the intellectual capital we have built in the ocean sciences, natural energy research, astronomy, life sciences, technology and agricultural development. And we must continue to invest in the resources that help build the intellectual capital of our children.

"So what we plan to do is to finish what we started – the repair and maintenance of our public schools. We have already made significant progress in cutting the backlog of school repair projects. Last year, we put the cash up front of \$168 million so the next generations would not be saddled with our debt.

"Three years ago we passed the Re-inventing Education Act and while there have been a few bumps along the road to better schools, we need to give this measure a fair chance to succeed. Our commitment to the parents, children and citizens of this State is that we won't stop until we get the job done.

"Last year, we had several significant warnings of how unprepared we have become on the disaster front.

"When the Ka Loko Dam on Kauai burst before dawn on the 14th of January, 1.6 million gallons of water came rushing down on unsuspecting residents. Seven people died, homes and land were ruined.

"Our courts will decide the liability issues, but we have already learned a tragic lesson about the disrepair and neglect of our State's aging agriculture water systems.

"On Tuesday, September 5th, if you recall, a truck hit a freeway overpass on Oahu and turned the city of Honolulu into a massive parking lot. People heading west on H-1 took more than eight hours or more to reach their homes.

"Everyone had a story to tell the next day, but the real story was how unprepared civil and State authorities were to deal with the mess. They couldn't handle a big traffic jam on the H-1; imagine if it had been a Tsunami evacuation.

"And finally, forty days later, on Sunday morning, the biggest earthquake to hit Hawaii in more than thirty years struck off the coast of the Big Island.

"Fortunately, no one was seriously injured, but blackouts hit the islands of Hawaii, Maui and Oahu and damages today are heading in the range of a quarter-of-a-billion dollars.

"More than a thousand homes on the Big Island were damaged – churches, schools and public parks too, and a major hotel remains closed today.

"The farming community was particularly hard hit when our century old irrigation system was heavily damaged.

"On Oahu, 291,000 homes were without electricity for most of the day.

"Communication with the public was seriously compromised. Of the almost 50 radio stations on Oahu, only one had a backup generator.

"An investigation has determined that well over a third of our State's 328 civil defense sirens would not have worked if we had to sound a Tsunami alert. The sirens had no backup power supplies.

"So it is obvious to everyone now this level of response is totally unacceptable. The House will introduce a Disaster Preparedness bill this year to make sure we are better prepared the next time a sudden emergency hits the islands.

"We are also long overdue in fulfilling another commitment. A commitment to ensure that all Hawaii's children have adequate health insurance. At least eight other states are working toward similar programs to meet this health care crisis. We can benefit from their experience in creating a children's health care program while not placing an undue burden on our small businesses in Hawaii.

"I agree with Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle who said, 'This is a human crisis and it demands action now.'

"We will mark an important milestone this year in preserving important agricultural lands. We will consider incentives to keep these lands green forever.

"The final push for agricultural lands comes as our affordable housing crisis has reached its breaking point. The number of our homeless is at a record high. Anger is growing over traffic, inadequate infrastructure and the inability of our citizens to earn a living wage or find a home they can afford.

"I believe we can better deliver affordable rental housing to Hawaii's people with two, two decisive actions: First, we must maintain funding for affordable rental housing. Second, and even more importantly, we must act to create a fast-track permitting process for affordable rental housing.

"This legislative initiative will provide a three-year window to eliminate most of the permitting logjam. This will remove a significant barrier to building affordable rental housing. And we can do this without compromising our local environment, or Hawaii's health and safety codes.

"If the project is built on ceded lands, 20 percent of the rental homes will be set-aside for Native Hawaiians.

"I stand before you today, convinced that if we can find the legislative will, we have a way to meet our challenges. Challenges in affordable housing, energy, education, disaster preparedness, health insurance for our children, and economic diversification. Truly, this is a tall order, but no one said in life that the House would be easy.

"We have thirteen new Members of the House this year. And that's a pretty good size freshman class. These new Members will soon learn that survival in politics is a tricky business.

"All of you, take a stand and don't worry so much about whether you win or lose. The secret is to take care of the basics and think beyond them. Mayor Hannemann knows fixing potholes is important, but he also has the vision to move a big project forward – like the mass transit.

"Don't be afraid to think big like that. Think beyond the immediate.

"Politics may indeed be local, but true achievement in politics comes from vision.

"In 1979, Speaker James Wakatsuki shared these words of advice with me and the Members of the House:

What we need is the courage to stick to our plans, the courage to keep the petty irritations of the day from blocking our efforts and the courage to keep on going hour after hour.

"I believe the citizens of this State and the people of our nation don't care anymore about whether you are a Republican or a Democrat. And they won't remember you if all you do is get a road repaved. They will remember you, and rally behind you, if you can speak to the people's hopes and then get the job done.

"To do that you will need allies within this body – people who want to get something done, too. Briefly, I share with all the Members, seek out the humble. Seek out the thoughtful, and above all, seek out the doers. Don't be afraid to take a risk. Your constituents hope you will.

"If you listen and watch carefully, your *na'au* – or your gut – it will help you find the people here with hope and a willingness to try. This is how people work best together – one on one – not by fighting, but by getting to know each other. Imagine what we could achieve by understanding each other just a little better.

"To all of you, to the people of the State of Hawaii, family and friends, thank you very much and good luck in the new Session. Aloha.

The Chair then recognized Representative Finnegan, the Minority Leader, who rose, stating:

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your address. May I also address the audience as well, Mr. Speaker? Thank you. As we begin the Twenty-Fourth Legislature, we want to be mindful of the issues on two different levels: the overall big picture of creating an environment in which we live while balancing the freedoms and values that we each live by in our daily lives.

"We have a tremendous responsibility. The work we do here at the Capitol shapes the Hawaii we live, work and play in. I'm going to take you back to a personal experience I had recently.

"Two weeks ago I took my children to my niece's 20th birthday party at a beach near Pokai Bay in Waiānae. It was about 4 o'clock that Sunday afternoon and we started to clean up, and my sister yelled, 'Lynn, Lynn, look over there.' My 11-year-old daughter, Piikea, was standing on the bridge and was preparing to jump into the ocean and my mom was holding her by her pony tail. Piikea yelled, 'Grandma, let me go.'

"At that moment, I had a flashback of my own anxiety about 25 years ago of doing the same thing. Piikea stood over the water and was shivering from the ocean breeze. I ran over to her and told my mother it was okay to let her go. I asked if she had thought it through and I was pleased to hear she knew how deep the water was, what was beneath the water, and other facts, like waiting for a wave added more depth.

"She just made some friends with some of the local kids and they were all jumping off the bridge. I gave her some tips on how to land in the water. It seemed like she needed to take this risk and I needed to let her do it. Not only did she jump safely, she and her new friend helped my son give it a try. They needed courage and, more importantly, my support. Being able to teach life lessons to my children in the area where I grew up is exactly why I want to live here in Hawaii. I want my children to be able to live the very unique life that I lived when I was young.

"The Hawaii House Republicans want to give every opportunity for our families to remain in Hawaii. This Session is about creating a sustainable and affordable Hawaii and we strive to accomplish this with innovative thinking that focuses on public education, renewable energy, housing, and tax relief. We all agree that equipping our *keiki* for their future is imperative for a sustainable Hawaii.

"First, your House Republicans are dedicated to public education and educational choice. We want to seize this opportunity in order to find areas of commonalities. Our focus is to concentrate on efforts that empower teachers and principals at the school level, untying their hands and supporting the learning that takes place at the schools.

"Most teachers and principals are not afraid to be held accountable. For example, public Charter School principals and teachers are motivated by an accountability system of annual performance. What this means is that if they don't do a good job, the parents would send their children back to their public Charter School the next year. That is why educational choice is so important in today's evolving and global society.

"Yes, your House Republicans will continue to strongly support public Charter Schools as a means of empowering school communities. Here's an example of what I mean. In the beginning of the school year, the lead teacher from my children's public Charter School was faced with a challenge. She had to attend training on behalf of the public Charter School, but it was held on the mainland during the first two weeks of school. She thought the students would not get a good start if she wasn't there. Instead, she asked the principal and the local school board to approve her class starting two weeks ahead of schedule.

"She learned that renovations from her classroom were not going to be completed. This teacher and the local school board, with the

support of the students, principals, parents and the local school board came up with a plan for the students to learn about construction, cost estimates, budgeting, team work and design and planning. And they started classes two weeks early.

"In essence, this was a mini project-base learning opportunity. The school community was able to make an unconventional decision quickly and responded to the needs of the teacher and her students.

"We want more public Charter Schools to be allowed to exist. We want, at least, one more authority other than the Board of Education to authorize Charter Schools, and we want to assure that when parents choose a Charter School, that those schools receive the same financial support and facility support as other public schools.

"Second, the combination of renewable energy sources and innovative technology will give Hawaii the opportunity to be energy independent. We want to support that goal. Extending the ethanol blended gasoline general excise tax exemption and continuing to support a renewable energy portfolio will help to achieve the goal of energy independence.

"Third, lack of shelter, whether it is homelessness or the need for transitional and affordable housing, remains a challenge that we must overcome. The good news is that there are people in our communities that give their time and creativity to figure out solutions. Through public/private partnerships, we are seeing changes that not only heal, but provide a path to self-sufficiency. We want to invest in more opportunities that provide a better tomorrow today.

"For instance, the experience of O'ne Lau Ena in Kalaeloa, incorporates shelter with programs focused on promoting self-sufficiency in a caring atmosphere.

"Finally, we believe that lowering taxes provides people with the opportunity for empowerment. By keeping more of your earnings, we can prevent families from being swallowed up by our high cost of living and cost of paradise. Let's not forget that we still have people trying to deal with last year's property tax increase, higher rents, and now, the increase in the general excise tax, and the reinstatement of the tax on ethanol blended gasoline.

"Of course, we have a preferred method of tax relief, whether it be the constitutionally mandated tax rebate, preferably a large one, Mr. Speaker, eliminating the tax on food and medicine or increasing the standard deduction. But let's face it, tax relief is tax relief, and we want it to be real and we want it to be now.

"Last Friday I attended our Governor's press conference on innovation. I was excited to learn of what Hawaii's future could look like moving forward. It is a comprehensive package of ideas, including public-private partnerships for innovative education, workforce development, follow through on the promise of economic diversity and an overall goal of a sustainable Hawaii. I am very optimistic about this well-thought out deliverable plan that brings in conscientious and resourceful Republic and Democrat ideas.

"Hawaii Republicans have been successful working on many issues of importance, like renewable energy, three strikes, electronic surveillance, tax relief, gas cap suspension, identity theft protection and Megan's Law. We want to redefine what we consider bi-partisanship. Like in a marriage, conflict can be productive and rewarding. The result of tension can be unity in diversity. We are not only the Party of opposition. So, what's in it for Hawaii?

"These packages of ideas will strategically place Hawaii in the line up to catch the waves of the future while preserving the unique lifestyle and blended cultural past. We can teach our *keiki* life's lessons in our own unique way, like we'd being more successful negotiating prices with the *manapua* man at the end of the day, instead of the beginning. Or you can be resourceful by using the old

brown McDonald's tray to carry your food and also use them for brown boarding. Or you can learn cultural sensitivity by knowing that *bumbai* means later on and is not a town in India. Or the value of family and friends and that everyone is either aunty or uncle.

"With the story of my daughter, Piikea, and me allowing her to jump off the bridge, I gave her the opportunity to courageously conquer fear and strengthen her character. Let us take calculated risks and invest in our future to achieve the preservation of our unique lifestyle and a sustainable and affordable Hawaii.

"Mr. Speaker, it's about empowerment, opportunity and choices that bring about results. Mr. Speaker, we would like to extend a warm *mahalo* to the people of Hawaii for giving us this opportunity and for having confidence in all of us to shape public policy and empower lives. We look forward to working with you and the Majority Caucus, the Senate, the Governor for the benefit of Hawaii's future. *Aloha* and *mahalo* from your House Republicans.

The Chair then recognized Representative Caldwell, the Majority Leader, who rose and responded:

"Thank you, Minority Leader Finnegan for your very thoughtful comments on Piikea and her future in Hawaii and all our *keiki*'s future in our State. And as Majority Leader we look forward to working with you and your side of the aisle and getting the good deeds done for the people of our State.

"Good morning, Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, honored guests, friends, family, and, most importantly, the people of this great State, the people of Hawaii. It's my privilege to address you as a Majority Leader.

"Mr. Speaker, with your permission, I'd like a moment of thoughtful reflection to think about the fact that today is the anniversary of the overthrow of our monarchy. No matter whether we can trace our lineage back to pre-Cook days, or just a couple of generations, or if we just recently arrived on our shores. The *Alii* casts a long shadow on all of us and impact our lives in a positive way every single day, and we need to think and reflect on that, and decide in our own ways how we are going to honor that great legacy that makes Hawaii what Hawaii is to all of that. So, if you will just have a quiet moment of reflection. Thank you."

At this time, the House of Representatives stood for a moment of reflection.

"Mr. Speaker, you just encouraged us to be bold, to take risks, to listen carefully to the needs and hopes of our constituents. The House Majority, 43 Members strong, is ready for that challenge, Mr. Speaker. We will approach solving the people's problems as one body, but from many different angles, that reflect each of our own unique histories. Today, Mr. Speaker, your Caucus includes 11 new freshmen Democrats, and I would like to introduce them to the audience. From my right to left, by row, first row, Representative Bertram from Kihei. Representative. Bertram, will you please stand. Thank you.

"Mr. Speaker, I would like each of the Representatives to please stand so kindly hold your applause until we have introduced everyone. So, Representative Bertram will you please stand again and remain standing. Thank you. Second row, right behind me, you've already been introduced to her, Representative Bellati from Makiki. After that, Representative Mizuno from Kalihi. Representative Sagum from Waimea, Kauai. Representative McKelvey from Lahaina. Representative Manahan from Kalihi Kai. Representative Tokioka from Lihue. Representative Hanohano from the great district of Puna. Representative Rhoads from DOWNTOWN Honolulu. Representative Brower from Waikiki. And in the third

row, last, but not least, Representative Har from Makakilo. Representative Har, please stand up.

"And I would also like to introduce the good freshman Republicans who we are greatly honored to have joining this body. We have Representative Gene Ward from Hawaii Kai. And all the way from Nanakuli, we have Representative Karen Awana. Please remaining standing. As you can see Mr. Speaker and members of the audience, we are as diverse as this State. We reflect all of you up there in the gallery. Thank you.

"Being good Democrats, Mr. Speaker, of course, we will often disagree on the best approach to solving many of the problems that face us today. And we saw a little bit of that this morning and it was a demonstration in our form of democracy. Yet, as Democrats, and as Americans, we embrace the differences of opinion and welcome debate on the strength of our beliefs and ideas. We welcome that, Mr. Speaker. This is the type of debate that our Founders intended when they designed our form of government. Our unique experiment in democracy initiated over 230 years ago.

"We should never fear to debate actively, whether it be within our Caucus, or whether it be with our colleagues across the aisle. Reasoned and driven debate helps make better laws, Mr. Speaker, and we want that reasoned and driven debate.

"Over the last several weeks we have diligently been debating our priorities for this legislative Session. The common message from every district across the State, from Hawi in Kohala on the Big Island, to beautiful Hanalei on Kauai represented by Representative Morita, people are saying that they have to struggle too much to keep up with the cost of living in our State. It is no surprise, Mr. Speaker, that Hawaii is one of the most expensive places to live in the country, and there are many reasons for that. But because we are an island State, the impact is even more devastating.

"Families are split up as members are forced to move away to the mainland. And for some, who can't afford the move, the cost of living drives them to homelessness. Too many, too many of our citizens are losing grasp of the American dream. The shrinking middle class is forced to run faster and faster just to stay in place, or face the prospect of getting poor. They can't keep up with the rising cost of gas and electricity. They can't find affordable housing. They can't afford healthcare. This forces people to choose between financial obligations and family. They should not have to make that choice, Mr. Speaker.

"President Kennedy said in his inaugural address way back in 1961, 'If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, they cannot save the few who are rich.' Mr. Speaker, President Kennedy was saying that our fates are all tied together, everyone in this room, rich and poor. Hawaii's working families are the backbone of our economy, and we must keep the strong if our democracy is to remain healthy. This is absolutely necessary. And it is in everyone's interest.

"In 2007, the House Majority will be focusing our efforts in helping the many to afford the cost of living in Hawaii, and in so doing, will improve the quality of life here for everyone. In the next several days, we'll unveil the details of bills to be included in our Majority Package. But for today, let us be reminded that we are the people's House – your House. That it is the people who have elected us to work on their behalf. This Session, the Majority Caucus, will address the following:

"One, Affordable Housing. We will seek to work with the Administration, with the counties to get people off the streets and the beaches. To help families to find affordable places to rent. And to give our young people the hope of one day owning a home here in Hawaii, something that is becoming an impossible dream for so many of our young people.

"Two, Health Care. We need to ensure that every woman, man, and especially child in our State will be covered by comprehensive health insurance, a lofty goal. Our first step in that direction will be to push our Keiki Care bill that was spear headed by a Dr. Josh Green, the Representative from Kailua-Kona, the new Chair of Health. Where is Dr. Green? Dr. Green, by the way, just very, very recently became a father for the first time to a baby girl named Maia. So, he now will begin to understand how important it is, how important it is to provide health care for our *keiki*.

"Three, Energy. If we are to make energy more affordable for consumers, we need to bring Hawaii's numerous alternative energy resources on-line much more quickly, much more quickly than we have. To do this, we must change the way we integrate our abundant alternative energy resources into our energy pool.

"Four, Education. We remain committed to the Reinvesting in Education Act, Mr. Speaker, also known as Act 51, which gives local schools the flexibility to manage their own priorities and provides funding based on actual needs of students. We just heard the Minority Leader talk about empowering schools at the local level. This is what this Act does. We believe the Department of Education needs the support and the time to implement the major restructuring successfully, and we stand firmly behind Pat Hamamoto. And, also, we will continue to upgrade our school facilities so that our *keiki* have a safe and healthy learning environment.

"Five, and last, Disaster Preparedness. On October 15th, a major earthquake, which our Governor experienced firsthand, right near the epicenter, showed us there is more we can do as a State to protect our citizens from the unstoppable forces of nature and the challenges of human fanaticism. The cost of disasters are both financial and emotional, too, Mr. Speaker.

"These problems won't be solved during this Session alone, and to promise otherwise would not be honest to all of you, the people. We will lay the groundwork now and then come back in successive Sessions to move these solutions forward to completion.

"Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is that we do not want to see more of Hawaii's residents falling through the cracks. We just cannot accept this. We need to help our residents, not with a hand out, but with a hand up. Helping people to help themselves is truly the highest calling. Sir Winston Churchill once said, 'We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.'

"When we adjourn, let us look back and say we gave the people of Hawaii a chance to make a better life. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and in conclusion, your Majority Caucus stands ready as one body to give its all to the people of Hawaii. Thank you, very much."

The Chair then stated:

"Once again, thank you very much Minority Leader Finnegan, and Majority Leader Caldwell for your very eloquent speech on the agenda of both Parties."

## INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION

The following resolution (H.R. No. 5) was read by the Clerk and disposed of as follows:

H.R. No. 5, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION SENDING MESSAGES THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE HAS ASSEMBLED AND IS READY TO TRANSACT BUSINESS," informing the Senate and the Governor that the House of Representatives has assembled and is ready to conduct business with the following officers: Calvin K.Y. Say, Speaker; Jon Riki Karamatsu, Vice Speaker; Patricia Mau-Shimizu, Chief Clerk; Kevin R. Kuroda,

Sergeant-at-Arms; C.J. Leong, Assistant Clerk; and Leonard Paresa, Jr., Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, was jointly offered by Representatives Caldwell and Finnegan.

On motion by Representative Caldwell, seconded by Representative Finnegan and carried, H.R. No. 5 was adopted.

At this time, the Chair appointed the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort Reverend Ryuko Wong, Head Priest of Anko-in at Chozen-ji, to the rostrum.

Reverend Wong then offered the benediction.

The Chair then stated:

"Thank you very much Reverend Wong. A few of you may recall, there is always life after politics. Reverend Wong was the Representative from the Waimanalo area."

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

Representative Karamatsu: "Mr. Speaker, the House would like to recognize our Chief Clerk and wish her a happy birthday today."

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 12:36 o'clock p.m., on motion by Representative B. Oshiro, seconded by Representative Meyer and carried, the House of Representatives adjourned until 12:00 o'clock noon tomorrow, Thursday, January 18, 2007.