

TWENTY-THIRD DAY

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

The House of Representatives of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, convened at 12:02 p.m., with Vice Speaker Mizuno presiding.

The invocation was delivered by Representative Nicole E. Lowen, after which the Roll was called showing all members present, with Representatives Har and LoPresti participating remotely via videoconference, and with the exception of Representative Ohno, who was excused.

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

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

The following communication from the Senate (Sen. Com. No. 54) was received and announced by the Clerk:

Sen. Com. No. 54, transmitting S.B. No. 402, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO REIMBURSEMENTS FOR EXPENDITURES BY COMMITTEES," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on February 23, 2021.

On motion by Representative Morikawa, seconded by Representative Matsumoto and carried, the following Senate Bill passed First Reading by title and further action was deferred: (Representatives Ichiyama and Ohno were excused.)

S.B. No. 402

ORDER OF THE DAY

SUSPENSION OF RULES

On motion by Representative Morikawa, seconded by Representative Matsumoto and carried, the rules were suspended for the purpose of considering certain House Bills for Third Reading by consent calendar. (Representatives Ichiyama and Ohno were excused.)

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Representative Luke, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 645) recommending that H.B. No. 1041, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Belatti, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1041, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONFORMITY TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Ohno being excused.

Representative Luke, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 646) recommending that H.B. No. 516, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

Representative Belatti moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 516, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to note my reservations and a brief comment that this is well intended, it gives used appliances from those who have state funds and welfare recipients to give them to other people who are in need. The difficulty with this, Mr. Speaker, is the implementation, as indicated in the hearing, how are you going to actually find out what appliances are working and who are you going to pass them to. The second thing is that the nanny state is now bordering into the technological region.

"But my biggest concern is that, well if we can do this, why don't we actually have probably where rich people can give or they must give their appliances to the poor? I just don't see the nexus between one standing as

one who's on welfare having to give your technological vehicle or advanced appliances to other people. As the saying goes, Mr. Speaker, a good job is the best welfare check, and it's not a used computer or a used television set or a radio. Thank you."

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

"Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't going to speak on this bill, but it's third reading and given the previous comments, I respectfully disagree. In support. This is actually a really great bill, and the bill has moved along, the stakeholders from both government and the private sector, the tech sector, weighed in heavily and amendments were made as such. And as a result, it protects the State, it allows for donations to happen, and it creates standards that are realistic for the tech industry. And so I hope as this bill moves forward, it gets consideration. Even it being in the majority package, it's a really good bill and I thank the author for introducing it, and I hope for your support. Thank you."

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

"Mr. Speaker, thank you. Reservations with comments. I certainly applaud the intent of this bill. I think it's a great idea, but the implementation seems to be overbroad and I don't think that the House should pass it out in the state in the form that it is. I think we could have done a better job before we send it over and I hope that the issues that have been brought up before get addressed if it makes it to the end. Thank you."

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

"Mr. Speaker, strong support. May I please have the words adopted from the Representative from Lahaina as my own and permission to enter written comments. I just wanted to thank the three committee chairs for allowing this great idea to come to fruition. As we've seen with this pandemic, the issues that have come with electronic devices for our students in our classrooms and providing more students in our communities with the ability to distance learn and to have the technology available, I think this is that next step towards that direction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Cullen's written remarks are as follows:

"The pandemic has brought to light the disparities faced in our communities with access to technology, most notably in ensuring that all of our *keiki* are equally equipped with the tools they need to succeed while distance learning. This measure would provide greater access and opportunity to many while also reducing electronic waste, positively impacting our environments for future generations to enjoy. So, this is not only an education measure but also a climate measure. Thank you to the chairs once again for showing the leadership in moving this measure along. It has a long way to go in the Senate and one can only hope that the Senate does what is right."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 516, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE ELECTRONICS MANAGEMENT," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representatives LoPresti and Ward voting aye with reservations, and with Representative Ohno being excused.

Representative Luke, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 647) recommending that H.B. No. 817, HD 2 pass Third Reading.

Representative Belatti moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 817, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Mr. Speaker, I stand in support with a brief comment. Anything we can do to support agriculture is appreciated. Particularly, the pandemic has shown us the fragility of our supply chain, and that's the issue. Food security

has risen to the forefront once again. This is a good measure. It stabilizes the industry. We need to do more, but this is a great start. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 817, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Ohno being excused.

Representative Luke, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 648) recommending that H.B. No. 224, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Belatti, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 224, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE STATE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Ohno being excused.

Representative Luke, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 649) recommending that H.B. No. 302, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

Representative Belatti moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 302, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 302, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative McDermott voting aye with reservations, and with Representative Ohno being excused.

Representative Luke, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 650) recommending that H.B. No. 306, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Belatti, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 306, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Ohno being excused.

Representative Luke, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 651) recommending that H.B. No. 311, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Belatti, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 311, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE NURSING FACILITY SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Ohno being excused.

Representative Luke, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 652) recommending that H.B. No. 1282, HD 2 pass Third Reading.

Representative Belatti moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1282, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"With reservations and a brief comment, please. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three reasons for my reservations. First, it grows government, grows centralized government. This transfers the HHSC control of our hospitals into now the Department of Health. I'm not convinced that it's going to be able to do it cheaper, even though we've invested millions and millions and millions of dollars to make HHSC successful. I can't say it was successful, but I can't say the Department of Health is going to make it successful given

what it did even with the COVID and the testing and the contact tracing. Government doesn't show that it runs things very efficiently, so it's hard to believe that they're going to be able to do a better job, and I would just like to see how we follow up with this particularly in terms of the fiscal and the governance ability. And I know it's about Leahi Hospital and getting those on board for the elderly and long-term care, but there's no reason that HHSC cannot do that.

"The other good thing about HHSC that we're taking away is that it was very grassroots, county home rule specific. I think going backwards from that to more centralized government is a step backwards. And hopefully if this bill passes, it's going to work, but I have my doubts. For those reasons, I have serious reservations. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In strong support, brief comments. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairs who've worked on this bill. This is a bill that helps us to begin to restructure government so that government can work better for us. It also will strengthen our behavioral healthcare system statewide. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support. I would like to thank the current Health Chair. This issue has been very controversial in the past, and in trying to get Oahu region to be decoupled from HHSC, because, as you know, Oahu region, unlike the other county hospitals, it's not a complete hospital function, it is pretty much a long-term care facility. And for HHSC to support a long-term care facility which is not generating any revenues ended up hurting some of the potential expansion and support for the neighbor island hospitals. So, because the Oahu region hospitals pretty much just does Medicaid patients that no private hospitals are willing to take, this is something that we need to do, because we have to fund them anyway. And this allows Department of Health the flexibility to use some of the unused beds for homeless, triage, and other things as well.

"The reason why I wanted to speak up today is because this is something that we have tried to do in the past and many times failed, and I wanted to just acknowledge the Health Chair because, for some reason, this year there was no opposition, which was shocking, whereas in the past it has been super controversial. So I don't know what it is about him that we are able to get this done, but I know even you, Vice Speaker, we tried and it was super controversial, and they wanted to threaten the Honokaa Representative to such means. So, I'm just saying that I'm just very impressed, so I just wanted to thank the Health Chair, I can't just say enough how impressed I am. So, thank you very much."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1282, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE TRANSITION OF THE OAHU REGIONAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM FROM THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION INTO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Ward voting aye with reservations, and with Representative Ohno being excused.

Representative Luke, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 653) recommending that H.B. No. 223, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Belatti, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 223, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MASSAGE THERAPISTS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Ohno being excused.

Representative Luke, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 654) recommending that H.B. No. 941, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Belatti, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 941, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE USE OF ELECTRONIC FILING BY THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Ohno being excused.

Representative Luke, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 655) recommending that H.B. No. 943, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Belatti, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 943, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO NONDEPOSITORY TRUSTS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Ohno being excused.

Representative Luke, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 656) recommending that H.B. No. 1004, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Belatti, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1004, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE BOILER AND ELEVATOR SAFETY LAW," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Ohno being excused.

Representative Luke, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 657) recommending that H.B. No. 1192, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Belatti, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1192, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONSUMER PROTECTION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Ohno being excused.

Representative Luke, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 658) recommending that H.B. No. 47, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Belatti, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 47, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONDOMINIUMS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Ohno being excused.

Representative Luke, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 659) recommending that H.B. No. 767, HD 2 pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Belatti, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 767, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Ohno being excused.

Representative Luke, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 660) recommending that H.B. No. 871, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Belatti, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 871, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Ohno being excused.

Representative Luke, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 661) recommending that H.B. No. 627, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Belatti, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 627, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Ohno being excused.

Representative Luke, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 662) recommending that H.B. No. 760, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

Representative Belatti moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 760, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative LoPresti rose to disclose a potential conflict of interest, stating:

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ruling on a potential conflict. My spouse is involved in production of drama, in theatre," and the Chair ruled, "no conflict," and that the ruling would extend through *sine die*.

Representative LoPresti continued to speak in opposition to the measure, stating:

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No vote and comments. This bill is meant to support the performing arts, which I totally applaud and would get behind. The problem as outlined in my understanding by the Attorney General's Office is that basically the law is setting it up so that if the State of Hawaii sponsors a performance of the 9th Symphony of Beethoven, the State of Hawaii now owns the rights to the 9th Symphony of Beethoven. If the State of Hawaii sponsors a performance of Guys and Dolls, the State of Hawaii now somehow owns the rights to that recording of Guys and Dolls. That's completely in conflict with performing arts law and respecting intellectual property rights of the artists. And that's the problem with bill, and therefore I'm a no."

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

"Mr. Speaker, in strong support and comments. *Aloha e nā hoa hanalima ma Kapikala*. The chairman of the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts Pundy Yokouchi once said, 'art is as important as education because art is education.' Therein lies the spirit I believe and the intent of the 1% of the arts fund and why it's so important to Hawaii, especially for our Native Hawaiian arts community. Much of our Native Hawaiian arts, like our language, is displayed through oral and dance performance, which is not currently promoted through the special fund. How can we expect the indigenous arts of these islands to be perpetuated as a cornerstone of art education when they're not prioritized?"

"In the Hawaii SFCA 2019-2023 Strategic Priorities report, of their 12 strategic priorities, only one is dedicated to Native Hawaiians. Under this single objective, three strategies are listed. Strengthen relationships with Native Hawaiians, regularly liaise with representatives of Native Hawaiians, and to encourage, support, acknowledge Native Hawaiian culture.

"They report nothing on the need to perpetuate traditional and customary practices while also supporting the self-determination and advancement of Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners and artists. There's nothing on the need to secure Native Hawaiian culture, arts, and intellectual property against misappropriation and exploitation. The SFCA list of strategies is something that you would find when beginning a relationship, or vastly needing to improve an existing relationship. This should not be the strategic priorities of a state agency that was founded nearly 50 years ago. The inclusion of the performing arts to their 1% of the arts fund would give *hālau hula* and other *oli* and *mele* practitioners the opportunity for their work to be included.

"The arts preserve what fact-based, historical records can't, and they tell us how it felt to exist in a particular time and place. I can't think of anything more fitting for these records of Hawaii than the opportunity to hear and view performances from our leaders in the performing arts, including others from our Pacific Islander communities. I realize that there is only so much funding for the arts, but that funding should include Native Hawaiian arts and performing arts. The arts should be inclusive, the arts should be ever evolving, and the arts should always be perpetuated. *Mahalo*."

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

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

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

"I had previously submitted a green slip for a no vote and I'd like to change that to a WR."

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

"Same request."

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

"Mr. Speaker, in strong support. Just to clarify what the previous speaker said regarding copyright infringement, this version of the bill, this HD is a recommendation from the AG's office taking into account the copyright issues. So, thank you, Mr. Speaker."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 760, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes to 2 noes, with Representatives Ganaden and Perruso voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Kapela and LoPresti voting no, and with Representative Ohno being excused.

Representative Luke, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 663) recommending that H.B. No. 777, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

Representative Belatti moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 777, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Mr. Speaker, no vote please and comments. My main issue with this bill is, in one of the hearings Iolani Palace came and testified they don't need this, they can't use it. It's general obligation bonds. If the palace needs fixing, that's the responsibility of DLNR, not money that should be stripped out of the arts fund to fix the roof. So, when people that the bill is to support come and say we don't need the bill, then I'm comfortable voting no. Thank you."

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

"No vote with a brief comment. There is a small arts organization in my district that would be incredibly impacted by this bill. When we take money away from the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, when we take money away from the arts, the organizations that suffer the most are the small ones in rural communities and on neighbor islands. We need to make sure that we're increasing access to the arts, especially arts in education, and not stripping it away in a time of need. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In strong support. I would just like to note that the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts has had an unencumbered balance of \$9 million for the last multiple years, so I don't think that anybody is going to be losing any programs. I'd also like to commend the introducer as well as the Chairs of the Committees on Culture, Arts and Finance for looking at different ways to fund these very historical, important museums in our state. So, in strong support, thank you."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In strong support. We all know that desperate times calls for creative measures to be taken. This bill is just that. As we know, COVID has been impacting Iolani as well as Bishop Museum, which are both state entities, and this will provide much needed funding to support the repair and maintenance, which the GO bonds are able to be used for, which is the special works of art fund. This bill is passed in hopes that we can prevent some catastrophic failures of infrastructure at both Iolani and Bishop Museum, which are state treasures for Hawaii. So, thank you, Mr. Speaker."

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

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 777, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WORKS OF ART SPECIAL FUND," passed Third Reading by a vote of 46 ayes to 4 noes, with Representatives Ganaden,

Kapela, LoPresti, and Perruso voting no, and with Representative Ohno being excused.

At 12:25 p.m., the Chair noted that the following bills passed Third Reading:

H.B. No. 1041, HD 1
 H.B. No. 516, HD 1
 H.B. No. 817, HD 2
 H.B. No. 224, HD 1
 H.B. No. 302, HD 1
 H.B. No. 306, HD 1
 H.B. No. 311, HD 1
 H.B. No. 1282, HD 2
 H.B. No. 223, HD 1
 H.B. No. 941, HD 1
 H.B. No. 943, HD 1
 H.B. No. 1004, HD 1
 H.B. No. 1192, HD 1
 H.B. No. 47, HD 1
 H.B. No. 767, HD 2
 H.B. No. 871, HD 1
 H.B. No. 627, HD 1
 H.B. No. 760, HD 1
 H.B. No. 777, HD 1

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Matsumoto: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to announce that it's that time of year again for the Women's Legislative Caucus Easter Basket Drive. For those of you who are new members, every year we have an Easter basket drive to donate hygiene items or household items to women and children in need. This year we are donating to four different organizations, the Domestic Violence Action Center, the Institute for Human Services, Parents and Children Together, and the Salvation Army. And this is going to be on March 31st. We'll also be selecting an Easter bunny and an Easter chick that you can be taking pictures with. Instead of doing it down in the entryway, we're going to be doing it up in the rotunda by the Father Damien statue so it can be out in open air and socially distanced to take photos. So, it's a really great thing that we do for the community and I think this year it's more important than ever. So, thank you."

Representative Har: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I may address you and the body for one minute, I would appreciate it.

"Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I wanted to address an incident that occurred on Monday, February the 22nd. As I'm sure you've all heard by now, I was arrested for suspicion of driving under the influence. I wanted this opportunity to explain to you what exactly happened that evening and to apologize to this body.

"It's important for all of you to know, I have been sick, I've been ill for several weeks now, I've been battling a respiratory illness and have been on prescription medication. I did work late that night, I've been working late on several projects in my private sector job, and after working late that night I made the decision to have a beer with dinner. While I didn't realize it at that time, it's obvious that that decision, coupled with my medication and my long work hours, was something that I'll regret for the rest of my life.

"Mr. Speaker, as a freshman I was always taught by our predecessors, our elder statesmen, that regardless of differences, political, personal, professional, or philosophical, above all, the institution comes first. The House of Representatives is an institution which we all have the privilege of serving. Mr. Speaker, I want to deeply apologize to you, the members of this body, for any embarrassment and shame I caused to you, my colleagues, and the institution.

"Thank you to the members who have reached out to me with your thoughts, your prayers, and your kind words of support. I remain fully committed to regaining your trust and confidence as a member of the House of Representatives, the Legislature, and your colleague. Thank you for this opportunity to speak."

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The following measures were referred to committee by the Speaker:

H.R.**Nos. Referred to:**

- 36 Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
 37 Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness, then to
 the Committee on Finance
 38 Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Finance

H.C.R.**Nos. Referred to:**

- 45 Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
 46 Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness, then to
 the Committee on Finance
 47 Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Finance

S.B.**No. Referred to:**

- 402 Committee on Government Reform, then to the Committee on
 Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance

COMMITTEE REASSIGNMENTS

The following measure was re-referred to committee by the Speaker:

H.B.**No. Re-referred to:**

- 902, Jointly to the Committee on Housing and the Committee on Water
 HD1 & Land, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:29 p.m., on motion by Representative Morikawa, seconded by Representative Matsumoto and carried, the House of Representatives adjourned until noon Thursday, March 4, 2021. (Representative Ohno was excused.)