

THIRTY-FIRST DAY

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

The House of Representatives of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, convened at 12:06 p.m., with Vice Speaker Mizuno presiding.

The invocation was delivered by Representative Dee Morikawa, after which the Roll was called showing all members present, with Representative Ichiyama participating remotely via videoconference.

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

INTRODUCTIONS

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

Representative Kapela introduced her committee clerk, Joshua Frost; and her Keiki Caucus high school intern, Hema Watson.

Representative Morikawa introduced her husband, Ken Morikawa; and their *hanai* daughter, Naomi Francisco.

ORDER OF THE DAY

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Water & Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1032-22) recommending that S.B. No. 204, SD 1, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

On motion by Representative Belatti, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 204, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AQUATIC RESOURCES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Water & Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1033-22) recommending that S.B. No. 573, SD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

On motion by Representative Belatti, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 573, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WILDLIFE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

SUSPENSION OF RULES

On motion by Representative Morikawa, seconded by Representative Matsumoto and carried, the rules were suspended for the purpose of considering a certain House Bill for Third Reading by consent calendar.

THIRD READING

H.B. No. 1600, HD 1:

Representative Belatti moved that H.B. No. 1600, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to speak in favor of House Bill 1600, House Draft 1, this is the budget for the executive branch. But before we begin, let me first thank the committee and the chairs. The last two years have been really difficult, and I know the chairs struggle, alongside with every member of the House, as we looked at some of the devastating cuts. And we just wanted to thank all the chairs for their patience and working with the Finance Committee and our staff to craft the budget that we have today. I know it's been challenging, and we're just thankful that we are here today to address all the needed programs within the State of Hawaii. So, I just wanted to send my deepest appreciation to all the chairs and the committees for their hard work.

"I also wanted to send a special thanks to the Vice Chair. He has not just taken the role of the vice chair, but he has also done CIP for the State and for the House as well. So, my deepest appreciation to my friend from Makawao for stepping up and filling this really difficult role. One of the first things he said to me was, oh this kind of not easy, eh? So, I know he has a deeper appreciation for what we do as well, but I really appreciate him, and I see the diligence and the hard work that he puts in. So, my deepest appreciation to the Vice Chair.

"And, of course, everything that we do and even in our in our offices, we can't do our work, whether it's House majority or House minority or even the running of session through Clerk's and Sergeant-at-Arms, we can't do our job the way that we can without our staff. So, I would like to introduce my staff. First up, of course, we have Nan Kalupahana, who doesn't sit with his colleagues but sits behind me just to make sure that I don't make mistakes, and watching, make sure that I say everything correctly. But, Nandana Kalupahana, I couldn't do my job if it wasn't for Nan. So, if you can give a big round of applause to Nan.

"And my office manager is here, when I call your names, if you could stand up very quickly. My office manager is Rachele Lamosao. And members, you can hold your applause until I'm done. So, in the front staff we also have Edwin 'Maka' Ayers and Devan 'Kahale' Ibuos. And under the research staff, it's headed by Randall Hiyoto, and you guys just remain standing, and then his right hand is Stacey Tagala. And under the research section we have Jackie Araki, Anita Hsiung, Joy Nakashima, and Cindy Ng. Under the budget section, we have the budget chief who is Riley Fujisaki, he also stepped up in this role really quickly. Missing is Julie Yang, the supervisor. And with him will be Aldric Ulep, Jon Kawamura, and our session staff Casey Nakamura, who is none other than the daughter of Representative Nakamura, Jared Kimura, and Megan Reish. And so, if the members could help me in congratulating and thanking the Finance staff. Thank you very much.

"Mr. Speaker, this budget includes \$8.5 billion in general funds and \$16.6 billion in all means of financing. As I stated earlier, to state that the last two years have been difficult would be an understatement. The State faced a budget deficit nearing \$3 billion just a few years ago. But thanks to the federal relief funds and the Legislature's commitment to build up the rainy day fund, we were able to salvage many of the critical social safety net programs which were planned for a significant reduction."

Representative Tarnas rose to yield his time, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Luke continued, stating:

"Thank you very much, Representative. This year, we're seeing a completely different budget scenario. After the governor submitted his budget to the Legislature, the Council on Revenues upgraded its revenue projections twice. What we have today is an unprecedented opportunity to address many unmet needs within the state with strategic and forward-thinking approach.

"I want to begin by talking about our obligation to our Native Hawaiian population and honoring our Hawaiian culture and heritage. As we announced at the beginning of this session, I'm proud that this legislature is making a significant commitment to address the long-awaited individuals on the DHHL waitlist. Although that is not incorporated within this budget, the money commitment is a part of the overall financial plan.

"In addition to the \$600 million set aside by the Legislature, this budget, thanks to the CIP Chair, also includes \$41.5 million to build an affordable rental project for DHHL beneficiaries. In addition to that, \$30 million for lot development and \$5 million for repair and maintenance. Together, this is the largest single appropriation made in one year. At the same time, we cannot forget the needs of the homestead communities. That is why this budget also includes \$10 million for homestead services.

"The resurgence of Native Hawaiian language has to be supported. *ʻŌlelo Hawaii* is an official language in the State of Hawaii, and we should encourage parents who want their *keiki* to be educated through Hawaiian immersion programs. That education actually starts at the preschool level. That is why this budget includes \$2.8 million, including 14 positions under

the Imi Loa program at the University of Hawaii, Hilo, to begin a teaching pathway for emergent preschool programs.

"Mr. Speaker, it is our responsibility to preserve and protect our natural resources and provide the means to manage our state lands. Kahoolawe Island Reserve has made tremendous strides toward restoration of the land and cultivation of Hawaiian culture on Kahoolawe. This budget provides additional positions and \$500,000 to support their good work.

"At the Legislature, we have the benefit of sharing ideas and expanding on the successes within our state. Building on the good work of the Hanalei community and the Hanalei Representative to re-envision Haena park, this budget provides \$16 million ceiling and \$1.2 million to fund 28 positions at the state parks to address destination management and for upkeep of state parks.

"Also part of our mission is to protect our natural resources in controlling invasive species. Time and time again, we hear new species coming onto our shores and damaging some of our natural areas. I'm proud that the House has continuously demonstrated our commitment to aggressively tackle state's invasive species program problem. That's why this budget includes multiple areas that we're planning to tackle. Let me spell out a few of them. Four hundred twenty-five thousand dollars to fight invasive pest species such as the coffee berry borer beetle, which has been something that, especially the Kona representatives, had fought really strongly for; spittle bug problem; and now, the Japanese beetle. These all impact the state's coffee and ranching industries, and they need our support.

"This budget also provides \$900,000 to address the increasing axis deer population. And it's a huge problem, especially on the neighbor islands. Albizia trees have continued to be a problem, so this provides \$645,000 to clear albizia trees surrounding the State Veterans Cemetery, and I want to thank especially the Hilo representatives who have fought really hard for the clearing of albizia. This also provides \$1.7 million for Rapid 'Ōhia Death Response. This was not included in the governor's budget, but because the House has been really aggressive on this front, I wanted to thank the members for again fighting for 'ōhia death response."

Representative Morikawa rose to yield her time, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Luke continued, stating:

"And because we're constantly trying to tackle problems after the invasive species are here, we will be providing an additional \$1.5 million to fund Hawaii Invasive Species Council so that they can be ready when the next invasive species come ashore.

"Mr. Speaker, what is special about Hawaii is its people. We have a duty to care for the most vulnerable. This budget makes significant investments to individuals in need. But I want to highlight just a few of them. Just in the recent years, and time after time we hear horrific accounts of failures within our state to care for children under the state's jurisdiction. This budget provides \$2.9 million in new money and to establish 48 new positions, along with extensive training for personnel and IT improvements at the Child Welfare Services Program. And thanks to many of the efforts, especially the Waimanalo Representative and the Leeward Representative, for making this a priority. I fear that this may not be enough because it's not really about funding. But I think we have to do better. And the Finance Committee members will continue to work with our subject matter chairs, Health and Human Services Chairs, to do what is necessary in the best interests of the child.

"The Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman ensures that our *kūpuna* are safe and getting the care they deserve. However, relying on volunteers with limited resources deprives the agencies of fulfilling that mandate. This budget provides \$276,000 for five new program specialists to make sure that every island is staffed correctly.

"Criminal justice reform continues to be a priority for the House, and thanks to the CMV Chair and Vice Chair for continuing on this fight. And I think we are proud to say that the Finance Committee, along with the House, did not fund the \$15 million request for the construction of the new OCCC. And thank you for all your efforts in making sure that this was heard loud and clear by the committee members.

"Rather, our focus was on reentry. The recidivism rate among incarcerated women is 50%. Out of 200 incarcerated women, for 100 women to continue to go through our jail system is not a good response. In order to reverse that trend, this budget invests \$5 million for reentry program and support services at the Women's Community Corrections Center's Intake Center. We are hopeful that this will reverse the trend and provide the support services as they come out of prison. And we want to especially thank the Women's Caucus for leading the effort and especially the only member who was on Zoom today, thanks to her efforts and the Women's Caucus, Majority Leader, and all the members of the Women's Caucus for fighting for justice for the incarcerated women population. So, my heart goes out to all of you folks.

"Substantial amounts of federal relief funds were used to stabilize both the Department of Education and the University of Hawaii budgets last year. This budget goes beyond just restoring federal ARPA and ESSER funds with general funds. For DOE, to name a few, this budget provides \$32.5 million to address shortage differentials to retain and recruit teachers for special education, Hawaiian language immersion, and the hard-to-fill locations. This also provides \$1.1 million for classroom supplies, instructional materials, and technology to provide equity of access to students. It also provides over \$1 million for 17 positions to make the pilot Special Education Teacher Mentoring Program permanent. In addition, \$500,000 for commercial enterprises to allow high school students to expand and invest in their commercial enterprises, \$2.4 million for 18 positions to establish a new nursing section for the DOE, \$6.3 million to furnish equipment to equip new classroom and school buildings across the state. These are some of the few things that we're putting into the DOE."

Representative Branco rose to yield his time, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Luke continued, stating:

"Thank you very much. In addition to that, for the University of Hawaii, this budget provides \$4.8 million for the expansion of Community College Promise Program. This will serve an additional 2,164 students. This budget also expands the Promise Program to the four-year colleges, including UH Manoa, UH Hilo, and West Oahu, \$19.3 million will serve an additional 4,882 students. And I think this House will commit that this is to ensure that money is not going to be a barrier to higher education, and I wanted to thank the House members for their support. In addition, this budget made significant investments toward Title IX programs and JABSOM's graduate residency programs for neighbor islands.

"Lastly, one item to note is the \$33 million for broadband expansion, which will be used to match over \$200 million in federal funds for broadband. This is an example of how this budget sets the framework for the future. We have a lot of work to do, but I'm glad to be a part of this body to do that work together. I humbly present this budget for your consideration and support. *Mahalo.*"

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of this budget, it's a good budget, and I agree with just about everything the Chair of Finance has said, except for a couple of things and particularly for two things that are missing. The first thing that I said was conspicuously absent was in my second reading speech which says, we should have our own pharmaceutical industry. Oceanit, spit in a cup, 20 bucks, 10 minutes, we need to promote as much as we can to keep our people safe. Which is related to the second thing that's missing.

"Mr. Speaker, half of the kids that are in public school are low income. If we are in charge, as the managers of the governing body which has an effect on the economy, if half of our citizens are low economic, on the low-income level, we're not doing our job. So, it's a great budget, but if we still have half of our kids, half our families that are low income, all of you know the ALICE study that says 48% are one paycheck away from homelessness, that is totally unacceptable. If we're responsible, we need to do a better job.

"Now to the good part of the budget, \$600 million for the Hawaiian Homes Commission. That is historical. It's inspiring. It offers hope to a community that's been waiting 100 years and has 28,000 people on the waitlist. Mr. Speaker, not because the money is going to go a long way, if you actually look at the numbers when you look at infrastructure and

probably the house running 250, maybe infrastructure running \$100,000. It's going to probably make maybe 1,200 houses or 1,200 people off the waitlist, which is 2,800. Which means if we do this every year for the next two sessions, we're going to be able to take the waitlist down to zero. Not rocket science, but it's leverageable.

"The point is, Mr. Speaker, we've got to do for the Hawaiian community, which we promised long, long, long time ago. And as you know, when you're at the bottom of the socioeconomic ladder, highest incarcerated, highest incidence of diabetes, least in homeownership, educational achievement, this bill means an awful lot. I hope DHHL can deliver it, they can put the houses in the place that they're supposed to be. And Mr. Speaker, that this body not weary in its well doing, that we continue to support what, as the Chair said, this is a historical moment for the Hawaiian community to have so much money so quickly. But still, we've got a long ways to go, Mr. Speaker.

"So, thank you for this, for the Speaker, for the Vice Speaker, and for the Finance Committee for the progress that we've made. And hopefully the progress will make an economic development in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and H.B. No. 1600, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET," passed Third Reading by a vote of 51 ayes.

At 12:35 p.m., the Chair noted that the following bill passed Third Reading:

H.B. No. 1600, HD 1

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Tokioka: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Kauai delegation, I'd like to announce, and I'm sure most of us saw this morning, that the John A. Burns School of Medicine announced that Dr. Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg gifted a \$10 million, six-year commitment that directly assists Kauai's physician shortage. Kauai's medical training track is one of the multi-pronged programs that the funding will go to and be directed at. Through the Kauai medical training track, six medical students from JABSOM will be accepted into this program annually beginning this summer, July 2022. The program will fund tuition fees for all four years and will also fund transportation and lodging. The students will have to have ties from Kauai or any neighbor island.

"This is an incredible, incredible grant. I know the chairs of Health and Education appreciate this grant as well. I also found out that the Kauai health indicators note that Kauai alone has more uninsured people, more strokes, and more hypertension, and more adults with cancer than the rest of the State of Hawaii. I just got this information today, and that's astounding. We also know that education is the equalizer for local students, and this gift is going to make a big, big difference in the community that these kids come from and will hopefully stay and live on Kauai and work on Kauai.

"And speaking to Dr. Jerris Hedges, the dean of the medical school, and I completely agree with him when he explains, to address Kauai's physician shortage we need more medical students from Kauai, and we must expand our medical training on Kauai. So, in closing, once again, on behalf of the Kauai delegation, we just want to thank Dr. Priscilla Chan, Mark Zuckerberg, and his entire team for this generous, generous gift. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to say that publicly."

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:37 p.m., on motion by Representative Morikawa, seconded by Representative Matsumoto and carried, the House of Representatives adjourned until noon tomorrow, Thursday, March 17, 2022.