

THE
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
STATE OF HAWAII
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023
JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE
FIRST DAY

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

In accordance with the provisions of Article III, Section 10 of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i, the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2023, convened at 10:09 a.m.

The Honorable Richard H.K. Onishi, being the Representative who was elected from the Second Representative District of the State of Hawai'i, called the House to order, following the *Oli* delivered by Dr. Kaiwipunikauikawēkiu Lipe.

At this time, the Temporary Chair stated:

"The House of Representatives of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i is now called to order.

"*Aloha*, I am Richard Onishi, Representative from the Second House District on Hawai'i Island. I am honored to preside over this Opening Day ceremony. *E komo mai*.

"At this time, I call upon Major Jared Sproat of the Hawai'i Air National Guard to lead us in the singing of the National Anthem and Hawai'i Pono'i. Thereafter, Kawaipomaika'i Kahaloa, daughter of Representative Kirstin Kahaloa, will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Will the members and audience please rise."

The members of the House, guests, and audience rose for the singing of the national anthem followed by Hawai'i Pono'i, which was led by Major Jared Sproat of the Hawai'i Air National Guard. Thereafter the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Miss Kawaipomaika'i Kahaloa.

The invocation was then delivered by Dr. Noe Noe Wong-Wilson.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

The following resolution (H.R. No. 1) was read by the Temporary Clerk and the following action taken:

H.R. No. 1, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION ELECTING THE TEMPORARY CHAIR OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE," resolving that the Honorable Richard H.K. Onishi, Representative from the Second District, be and is hereby declared the duly elected Temporary Chair of the House of Representatives of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, was jointly offered by Representatives Nakamura and Matsumoto.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Matsumoto and carried, H.R. No. 1 was adopted, with Representative Nakashima being excused.

At this time, the Temporary Chair stated:

"Members of the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Second State Legislature, thank you. Let us commence with the Order of the Day."

The Temporary Chair appointed Mr. Brian L. Takeshita as Temporary Clerk of the House of Representatives.

The Temporary Chair then called upon Representative Tarnas for the report of the Committee on Credentials.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Credentials, presented a report (Spec. Com. Rep. No. 1) as follows:

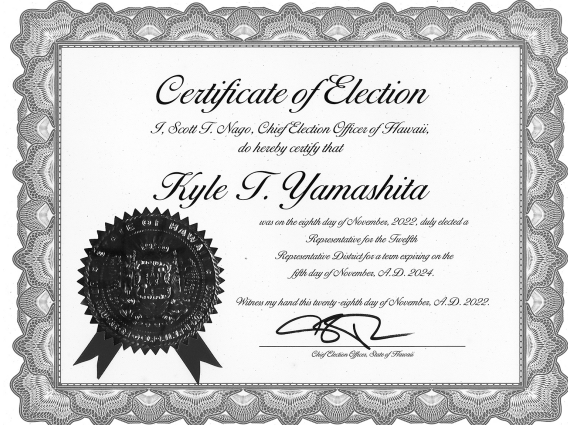
"Pursuant to the authority vested by Article III, Section 12, of the Hawaii State Constitution, which identifies each House of the Legislature as sole judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of its own members, your Committee on Credentials begs leave to report that it has thoroughly considered the matter of the seating of the members elect of the House of Representatives of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, and finds that, based on the certificates of election issued by the Office of Elections (attached), the members elect are duly qualified to sit as members of the House of Representatives as follows:

First District:	Mark M. Nakashima
Second District:	Richard H.K. Onishi
Third District:	Chris Todd
Fourth District:	Greggor Ilagan
Fifth District:	Jeanne Kapela
Sixth District:	Kirstin Kahaloa
Seventh District:	Nicole E. Lowen
Eighth District:	David A. Tarnas
Ninth District:	Justin H. Woodson
Tenth District:	Troy N. Hashimoto
Eleventh District:	Terez Amato
Twelfth District:	Kyle T. Yamashita
Thirteenth District:	Mahina Poepoe
Fourteenth District:	Elle Cochran
Fifteenth District:	Nadine K. Nakamura
Sixteenth District:	James Kunane Tokioka
Seventeenth District:	Dee Morikawa
Eighteenth District:	Gene Ward
Nineteenth District:	Mark J. Hashem
Twentieth District:	Bertrand Kobayashi
Twenty-First District:	Jackson D. Sayama
Twenty-Second District:	Andrew Takuya Garrett
Twenty-Third District:	Scott Y. Nishimoto
Twenty-Fourth District:	Adrian K. Tam
Twenty-Fifth District:	Scott K. Saiki
Twenty-Sixth District:	Della Au Belatti
Twenty-Seventh District:	Jenna Takenouchi
Twenty-Eighth District:	Daniel Holt
Twenty-Ninth District:	John M. Mizuno
Thirtieth District:	Sonny Ganaden
Thirty-First District:	Linda Ichiyama
Thirty-Second District:	Micah P.K. Aiu
Thirty-Third District:	Sam Satoru Kong

- Thirty-Fourth District: Gregg Takayama
- Thirty-Fifth District: Cory M. Chun
- Thirty-Sixth District: Rachele F. Lamosao
- Thirty-Seventh District: Ryan I. Yamane
- Thirty-Eighth District: Lauren Matsumoto
- Thirty-Ninth District: Elijah Pierick
- Fortieth District: Rose Martinez
- Forty-First District: David Alcos III
- Forty-Second District: Diamond Garcia
- Forty-Third District: Kanani Souza
- Forty-Fourth District: Darius K. Kila
- Forty-Fifth District: Cedric Asuega Gates
- Forty-Sixth District: Amy A. Perruso
- Forty-Seventh District: Sean Quinlan
- Forty-Eighth District: Lisa Kitagawa
- Forty-Ninth District: Scot Z. Matayoshi
- Fiftieth District: Natalia Hussey-Burdick
- Fifty-First District: Lisa Marten"

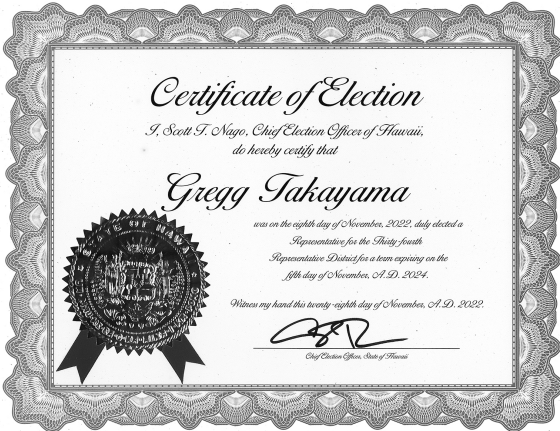
The report was submitted by Representatives Tamas, Nakamura, and Matsumoto, with the following Certificates of Election attached:

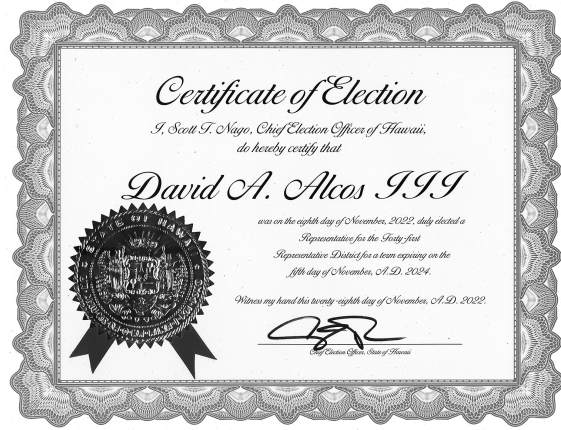














On motion by Representative Tarnas, seconded by Representative Matsumoto and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted, with Representative Nakashima being excused.

The Temporary Chair directed the Temporary Clerk to call the Roll, which being done disclosed that the following members were present: Representatives Micah P.K. Aiu, David Alcos III, Terez Amato, Della Au Belatti, Cory M. Chun, Elle Cochran, Sonny Ganaden, Diamond Garcia, Andrew Takuya Garrett, Cedric Asuega Gates, Mark J. Hashem, Troy N. Hashimoto, Daniel Holt, Natalia Hussey-Burdick, Linda Ichiyama, Greggor Ilagan, Kirstin Kahaloe, Jeanne Kapela, Darius K. Kila, Lisa Kitagawa, Bertrand Kobayashi, Sam Satoru Kong, Rachele F. Lamosao, Nicole E. Lowen, Lisa Marten, Rose Martinez, Scot Z. Matayoshi, Lauren Matsumoto, John M. Mizuno, Dee Morikawa, Nadine K. Nakamura, Scott Y. Nishimoto, Richard H.K. Onishi, Amy A. Perruso, Elijah Pierick, Mahina Poepoe, Sean Quinlan, Scott K. Saiki, Jackson D. Sayama, Kanani Souza, Gregg Takayama, Jenna Takenouchi, Adrian K. Tam, David A. Tarnas, Chris Todd, Gene Ward, Justin H. Woodson, and Kyle T. Yamashita, a total of forty-eight, with Representative Mark M. Nakashima being excused.

At 10:28 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 Mākaha Sons.

The House of Representatives reconvened at 10:53 a.m.

The Temporary Chair appointed the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the Honorable Mark E. Recktenwald, Chief Justice of the Hawai'i State Supreme Court, to the rostrum, and requested that he administer the Oath of Office to the members of the House.

Chief Justice Recktenwald stated:

"Good morning, *aloha* everyone. It's an honor to be here and I thank the members of the House and Speaker Saiki for extending the invitation to me. And on behalf of the Judiciary, I'd like to extend our deep *aloha* and sympathy to the family of Ron Menor."

OATH OF OFFICE

The Honorable Mark E. Recktenwald, Chief Justice of the Hawai'i State Supreme Court, called upon the members of the House of Representatives who had been elected to serve in the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i to rise, and the Oath of Office was administered in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i to the following members of the House:

SECOND DISTRICT:
 Richard H.K. Onishi

THIRD DISTRICT:
 Chris Todd

FOURTH DISTRICT:
 Greggor Ilagan

FIFTH DISTRICT:

Jeanne Kapela

SIXTH DISTRICT:

Kirstin Kahaloa

SEVENTH DISTRICT:

Nicole E. Lowen

EIGHTH DISTRICT:

David A. Tarnas

NINTH DISTRICT:

Justin H. Woodson

TENTH DISTRICT:

Troy N. Hashimoto

ELEVENTH DISTRICT:

Terez Amato

TWELFTH DISTRICT:

Kyle T. Yamashita

THIRTEENTH DISTRICT:

Mahina Poepoe

FOURTEENTH DISTRICT:

Elle Cochran

FIFTEENTH DISTRICT:

Nadine K. Nakamura

SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT:

Dee Morikawa

EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT:

Gene Ward

NINETEENTH DISTRICT:

Mark J. Hashem

TWENTIETH DISTRICT:

Bertrand Kobayashi

TWENTY-FIRST DISTRICT:

Jackson D. Sayama

TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT:

Andrew Takuya Garrett

TWENTY-THIRD DISTRICT:

Scott Y. Nishimoto

TWENTY-FOURTH DISTRICT:

Adrian K. Tam

TWENTY-FIFTH DISTRICT:

Scott K. Saiki

TWENTY-SIXTH DISTRICT:

Della Au Belatti

TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT:

Jenna Takenouchi

TWENTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT:

Daniel Holt

TWENTY-NINTH DISTRICT:

John M. Mizuno

THIRTIETH DISTRICT:

Sonny Ganaden

THIRTY-FIRST DISTRICT:

Linda Ichiyama

THIRTY-SECOND DISTRICT:

Micah P.K. Aiu

THIRTY-THIRD DISTRICT:

Sam Satoru Kong

THIRTY-FOURTH DISTRICT:

Gregg Takayama

THIRTY-FIFTH DISTRICT:

Cory M. Chun

THIRTY-SIXTH DISTRICT:

Rachele F. Lamosao

THIRTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT:

Lauren Matsumoto

THIRTY-NINTH DISTRICT:

Elijah Pierick

FORTIETH DISTRICT:

Rose Martinez

FORTY-FIRST DISTRICT:

David Alcos III

FORTY-SECOND DISTRICT:

Diamond Garcia

FORTY-THIRD DISTRICT:

Kanani Souza

FORTY-FOURTH DISTRICT:

Darius K. Kila

FORTY-FIFTH DISTRICT:

Cedric Asuega Gates

FORTY-SIXTH DISTRICT:

Amy A. Perruso

FORTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT:

Sean Quinlan

FORTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT:

Lisa Kitagawa

FORTY-NINTH DISTRICT:

Scot Z. Matayoshi

FIFTIETH DISTRICT:

Natalia Hussey-Burdick

FIFTY-FIRST DISTRICT:

Lisa Marten

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions (H.R. Nos. 2 and 3) were read by the Temporary Clerk and the following action taken:

H.R. No. 2, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION ELECTING THE SPEAKER AND VICE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE," resolving that the Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Representative from the Twenty-Fifth District, and the Honorable Greggor Ilagan, Representative from the Fourth District, be elected as Speaker and Vice Speaker, respectively, of the House of Representatives of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, was jointly offered by Representatives Nakamura and Matsumoto.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Matsumoto and carried, H.R. No. 2 was adopted, with Representative Nakashima being excused.

The Temporary Chair appointed Representatives Nadine K. Nakamura, Dee Morikawa, Lauren Matsumoto, and Diamond Garcia to escort the newly elected Speaker Scott K. Saiki to the rostrum.

The Temporary Chair then presented to the members of the House and audience the Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Second Legislature, and presented him with the gavel.

Speaker Saiki then stated:

"Thank you Representative Onishi. Thank you, members, for your vote of support and confidence. And more importantly, thank you for not taking 15 votes on the speaker resolution."

The Chair appointed Representatives Nadine K. Nakamura and Lauren Matsumoto to escort Vice Speaker Greggor Ilagan to the rostrum.

The Chair then presented to the members of the House and audience the Honorable Greggor Ilagan, Vice Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Second Legislature.

H.R. No. 3, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION ELECTING THE OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE," resolving that Brian L. Takeshita, Rod Tanonaka, Rupert Juarez, and Tamah-Lani S.K. Noh be elected as Chief Clerk, Sergeant-at-Arms, Assistant Chief Clerk, and Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, respectively, of the House of Representatives of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, was jointly offered by Representatives Nakamura and Matsumoto.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Matsumoto and carried, H.R. No. 3 was adopted, with Representative Nakashima being excused.

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

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

The following resolution (H.R. No. 4) was read by the Clerk and the following action taken:

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 THIRTY-SECOND 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 Thirty-second Legislature, as listed below, was jointly offered by Representatives Nakamura and Matsumoto.

Majority Leader	Nadine K. Nakamura
Majority Floor Leader	Dee Morikawa
Majority Whips	Scot Z. Matayoshi Amy A. Perruso Gregg Takayama Chris Todd
Minority Leader	Lauren Matsumoto
Minority Floor Leader	Diamond Garcia
Assistant Minority Leader	David Alcos III
Assistant Minority Floor Leader	Elijah Pierick
Minority Whip	Kanani Souza
Minority Policy Leader	Gene Ward

Agriculture & Food Systems:

Cedric Asuega Gates Chair

Kirstin Kahaloa Vice Chair

Elle Cochran
Nicole E. Lowen
Amy A. Perruso
Justin H. Woodson
Gene Ward

Consumer Protection & Commerce:

Mark M. Nakashima Chair
Jackson D. Sayama Vice Chair

Terez Amato
Della Au Belatti
Cedric Asuega Gates
Mark J. Hashem
Natalia Hussey-Burdick
Nicole E. Lowen
Richard H.K. Onishi
Adrian K. Tam
Elijah Pierick

Corrections, Military, & Veterans:

Mark J. Hashem Chair
Cory M. Chun Vice Chair

Sonny Ganaden
Linda Ichiyama
Dee Morikawa
Mahina Poepoe
Gregg Takayama
Kanani Souza

Culture, Arts, & International Affairs:

Adrian K. Tam Chair
Rose Martinez Vice Chair

Andrew Takuya Garrett
Jeanne Kapela
Scot Z. Matayoshi
Jackson D. Sayama
David Alcos III

Economic Development:

Daniel Holt Chair
Rachele F. Lamosao Vice Chair

Natalia Hussey-Burdick
Sam Satoru Kong
Nadine K. Nakamura
Sean Quinlan
Elijah Pierick

Education:

Justin H. Woodson Chair
Lisa Marten Vice Chair

Jeanne Kapela
Rose Martinez
Scot Z. Matayoshi
Amy A. Perruso
Sean Quinlan
Chris Todd
Diamond Garcia

Energy & Environmental Protection:

Nicole E. Lowen Chair
Elle Cochran Vice Chair

Cedric Asuega Gates
Kirstin Kahaloa
Amy A. Perruso

Justin H. Woodson
Gene Ward

Finance:

Kyle T. Yamashita Chair
Lisa Kitagawa Vice Chair

Micah P.K. Aiu
Cory M. Chun
Elle Cochran
Andrew Takuya Garrett
Kirstin Kahaloa
Darius K. Kila
Bertrand Kobayashi
Rachele F. Lamosao
Dee Morikawa
Scott Y. Nishimoto
Mahina Poepoe
Jenna Takenouchi
David Alcos III
Gene Ward

Health & Homelessness:

Della Au Belatti Chair
Jenna Takenouchi Vice Chair

Terez Amato
Greggor Ilagan
Bertrand Kobayashi
John M. Mizuno
Scott Y. Nishimoto
Diamond Garcia

Higher Education & Technology:

Amy A. Perruso Chair
Jeanne Kapela Vice Chair

Lisa Martin
Rose Martinez
Scot Z. Matayoshi
Sean Quinlan
Chris Todd
Justin H. Woodson
Diamond Garcia

Housing:

Troy N. Hashimoto Chair
Micah P.K. Aiu Vice Chair

Darius K. Kila
Lisa Kitagawa
Lisa Marten
Richard H.K. Onishi
Chris Todd
Lauren Matsumoto

Human Services:

John M. Mizuno Chair
Terez Amato Vice Chair

Della Au Belatti
Greggor Ilagan
Bertrand Kobayashi
Scott Y. Nishimoto
Jenna Takenouchi
Diamond Garcia

Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

David A. Tarnas Chair
Gregg Takayama Vice Chair

Sonny Ganaden
Troy N. Hashimoto
Daniel Holt
Linda Ichiyama
Greggor Ilagan
Sam Satoru Kong
John M. Mizuno
Kanani Souza

Labor & Government Operations:

Scot Z. Matayoshi Chair
Andrew Takuya Garrett Vice Chair

Jeanne Kapela
Rose Martinez
Jackson D. Sayama
Adrian K. Tam
David Alcos III

Legislative Management:

Nadine K. Nakamura Chair
Dee Morikawa Vice Chair

Greggor Ilagan
Lisa Kitagawa
Lauren Matsumoto

Tourism:

Sean Quinlan Chair
Natalia Hussey-Burdick Vice Chair

Daniel Holt
Sam Satoru Kong
Rachele F. Lamosao
Nadine K. Nakamura
Elijah Pierick

Transportation:

Chris Todd Chair
Darius K. Kila Vice Chair

Micah P.K. Aiu
Troy N. Hashimoto
Lisa Kitagawa
Lisa Marten
Richard H.K. Onishi
Lauren Matsumoto

Water & Land:

Linda Ichiyama Chair
Mahina Poepoe Vice Chair

Cory M. Chun
Sonny Ganaden
Mark J. Hashem
Dee Morikawa
Gregg Takayama
Kanani Souza

H.R. No. 4 further states that:

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any member of a Standing Committee is called to active duty in the military and is deployed and unavailable to participate in committee activities, then for that period of unavailability, the member shall not be considered a member of that Standing Committee."

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Matsumoto and carried, H.R. No. 4 was adopted, with Representative Nakashima being excused.

The following concurrent resolutions (H.C.R. Nos. 1 and 2) were read by the Clerk and the following action taken:

H.C.R. No. 1, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RELATING TO RECESS DAYS FOR THE REGULAR SESSION OF 2023," resolving that the dates of the mandatory recess for the Regular Session of 2023 are hereby determined to be the 23rd, 24th, 27th, and 28th days of February and 1st day of March, on which dates the Regular Session of 2023 shall be recessed; and that the dates of the recesses other than the dates of the mandatory recess for the Regular Session of 2023 are hereby determined to be the 24th and 26th days of January, the 6th and 8th days of March, the 10th, 12th, and 26th days of April, and 1st and 3rd days of May, on which dates the Regular Session of 2023 shall be recessed, was jointly offered by Representatives Saiki and Ilagan.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Matsumoto and carried, H.C.R. No. 1 was adopted, with Representative Nakashima being excused.

H.C.R. No. 2, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO ADDRESS THE LEGISLATURE ASSEMBLED IN JOINT SESSION," resolving that the two Houses of the Legislature assemble in Joint Session in the Chambers of the House of Representatives at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, January 23, 2023, for the purpose of receiving such address or greetings from the Governor of Hawaii as he should be pleased to make, was jointly offered by Representatives Saiki and Ilagan.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Matsumoto and carried, H.C.R. No. 2 was adopted, with Representative Nakashima being excused.

At 11:04 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 the Mākaha Sons.

The House of Representatives reconvened at 11:23 a.m.

At this time, the Speaker delivered his address, stating:

"First of all, can we give a big hand to the Mākaha Sons for the entertainment this morning. The Chair has some remarks this morning, but before beginning, the House of Representatives would like to extend its deepest condolences to the family of Ron Menor, who was a former member of this House.

"So, normally I try to keep my speech within seven minutes, but today I am going to spend a lot of time introducing and acknowledging people. So, I apologize because I am going to go over time.

"First of all, thank you to the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra for the pre-program music. Thank you to Miss Kawaipomaika'i Kahaloa, daughter of Representative Kahaloa, for the Pledge of Allegiance. Thank you to Major Jared Sroat of the Hawai'i Air National Guard for the national anthem and Hawai'i Pono'i.

"Please join me in thanks and acknowledgement to the community leaders who are cultural practitioners for setting the ground for us in chant and prayer at the start of today's proceedings, Dr. Punihei Lipe who provided the *oli*, and Dr. Noe Noe Wong-Wilson for the invocation.

"Please welcome my lovely and beautiful wife, Patsy Saiki. And my parents, Richard and Sue, who are watching online this morning.

"We also have guests from the Hokkaido Prefectural Assembly and the Fukuoka Prefectural Assembly in the gallery.

"And I'd also like to introduce some of the public officials who are here with us this morning. Governor Josh Green and Mrs. Jaime Green. Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke and Second Gentleman Michael Luke. Incidentally, thank you to the Lieutenant Governor for providing the members with a cactus plant, although mine is plastic, I'm not sure why.

"From the Hawai'i Supreme Court, Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald and Associate Justices Paula Nakayama, Sabrina McKenna, Michael Wilson,

and Todd W. Eddins. From the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Chair Carmen 'Hulu' Lindsey.

"From our congressional delegation, United States Senator Mazie Hirono, Congressman Ed Case and Mrs. Audrey Nakamura, Congressman Jill Tokuda.

"We also have former governors with us this morning. Governor George Ariyoshi and Mrs. Jean Ariyoshi, Governor John Waihee III and Mrs. Lynn Waihee, Governor Linda Lingle, Governor Neil Abercrombie. We also have former Congressman Colleen Hanabusa. Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi and Kaua'i Mayor Derek Kawakami.

"And we have council chairs here with us. From Kaua'i, Chair Mel Rapozo, from Maui, Chair Tasha Kama, from the Big Island, Chair Heather Kimball, and from Honolulu, Chair Tommy Waters.

"And finally, we also have members of the Consular Corps with us this morning, could the members please stand.

"*Aloha. Aloha kākou. Aloha* to all of us. Welcome and thank you for attending our first open Opening Day in three years.

"So, a couple of weeks ago, Chris West, who is the president of ILWU Local 142, said something to me that is spot on today. He said, it's cool to have Hawai'i back. I know we all agree with Chris. So, let's give everyone here a round of applause for making it through the pandemic. We celebrate this moment, and are happy to see so many familiar faces and many new faces.

"Today, we are joined by 16 new House members. This is our largest freshman class in 28 years. And I would like to introduce twelve of them, and Representative Lauren Matsumoto will introduce the remaining four. So, members, could you please stand when I call on you.

"First, Representative Kirstin Kahaloa from District 6. Kirstin is a Native Hawaiian woman, mother, paddler, nonprofit manager, and someone who originally left Hawai'i for 14 years and almost didn't return, but did so to make her community and state a better place to live.

"From District 11, Representative Terez Amato. So, Terez is known as Tamato in her community. She grew up on Maui, she's an advocate who eagerly overcomes obstacles and challenges, and views this role as an opportunity of a lifetime.

"From District 13, Representative Mahina Poepoe. Mahina was born and raised on Moloka'i, she is a Native Hawaiian woman who is passionate about *aloha 'aina*, and seeks to bring this intention to government.

"From District 14, Representative Elle Cochran. Elle is the purple hair lady who is a surfer, she previously lived off the grid, she is a floral arranger, she is passionate about regenerative agriculture, and she will work her hardest to ensure that the voice of her community is heard in the State House.

"From District 22, Representative Andrew Garrett. Andrew was born and raised in Kanagawa, Japan, he's a former cabinet member, he is married to my law school classmate, Patti, and he wants to ensure that his two daughters and all families here have opportunities to thrive in Hawai'i.

"From District 27, Representative Jenna Takenouchi. Jenna is a problem solver who thrives in absorbing information, has a background in library and information sciences, and is a trivia expert.

"District 32, Representative Micah Aiu. Micah is an attorney and volleyball coach who makes history as the first mother/son team serving concurrently in the House and Senate, and who wants to make Hawai'i a better place to live.

"From District 35, Representative Cory Chun. Cory began his public service as a member of the Waipahu Neighborhood Board, and his entire family, himself, his wife, and his two children all have names that begin with the letter C.

"From District 36, Representative Rachele Lamosao. Rachele is a mother, lifelong Waipahu resident, a proud Marauder, she is the youngest female Waipahu representative elected thus far, and wants to create a better future for her son, Waipahu, and Hawai'i.

"From District 40, Representative Rose Martinez. Rose is the dean of the freshman class, she has a never quit and a can do attitude, whose lifelong passion and purpose is to serve her community and make a positive difference for the state.

"From District 44, Representative Darius Kila. The son of Stephen Kila, Jr. and Heide Kila, grandson of Grandma Leslie, and a proud, diehard Taylor Swift fan, Kapolei High and collegiate football player, and the tallest member of the Legislature.

"From District 50, Representative Natalia Hussey-Burdick. Natalia is a former restaurant server who fosters stray kittens, who fell in love with the legislative process, and is not afraid to take on our toughest challenges and brings so much enthusiasm to the House.

"Those are our freshmen. But I'd like to spend a couple of minutes to introduce our sophomore members because they were elected two years ago during the pandemic shutdown and they have never had an open Opening Day yet, where they could be introduced to everyone. So, I wanted to just do that very quickly.

"From District 4, Representative and Vice Speaker Greggor Ilagan. From District 5, Representative Jeanne Kapela. From District 21, Representative Jackson Sayama. From District 24, Representative Adrian Tam. From District 30, Representative Sonny Ganaden. And from District 51, Representative Lisa Marten. Could you please give a hand to all of our freshmen and sophomore members.

"So, as you know, the past three years impacted everyone in our community. Stay-at-home parents instantly became homeroom teachers; students could no longer have daily interactions with other students; employees faced fiscal uncertainty; employers faced business uncertainty; individuals and communities already at a disadvantage when times are good carried even more hardships; families lost loved ones, including the recent loss of community members and leaders; and our healthcare professionals and first responders worked tirelessly through it all.

"As we return, we know that the lessons and inspirations of meeting difficult challenges will always be with us. Every crisis, if met together with resilience and resolve, brings new lessons and a chance to improve. In the face of adversity, this House rejected business as usual and arose in action and inquiry in unconventional ways. We asked the community to work with us in ways that were outside the box to better understand conditions and aspirations, and to produce results.

"There are a few groups here today whose work continues to be felt and I want to acknowledge them very briefly. The first is the chairs who ran our House committees during the pandemic shutdown. And in doing so, each took on specific initiatives to manage the problems we were facing. Could our House chairs please stand to be recognized.

"The second group is the House Select Committee on COVID-19 Economic and Financial Preparedness that the House formed in March 2020. This committee included leaders from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, and it protected public health and our economy by developing reopening protocols, creating mass vaccination centers, and providing timely data to the public.

"Several members from our COVID-19 committee are with us today, Peter Ho, Dr. Mark Mugiishi, Elliot Mills, Na'alehu Anthony, Pamela Tumpap, Tina Yamaki, Sheryl Matsuoka, Sherry Menor-McNamara, Dr. Carl Bonham, and Su Shin. Could you please stand to be recognized.

"The third group is the House's Mauna Kea Working Group that met for a year and a half to propose a new governance structure for Mauna Kea. The proposal is now law and is being implemented. Simply put, this group is showing us how we can resolve conflict in our state. Several working group members are here today, Dr. Noe Wong-Wilson, Rich Matsuda, Brialyon Onodera, Shane Palacat-Nelsen, Jocelyn Leialoha Doane, Dr. Lui Hokoana, Joshua Lanakila Mangaul, Kaiu Kimura, Mahina Paishon Duarte, and Sterling Wong. Please stand to be recognized.

"So, sometimes through adversity we are reminded that we should be better. Without public trust, we cannot lead. All of us need to rise to the highest expectations, and standards of conduct help set the way. Last year, the House asked Judge Dan Foley to chair the Commission to Improve

Standards of Conduct and to make recommendations how standards can be improved.

"This House takes reset and reform seriously and will take up the recommendations in earnest this session. Judge Foley is here with us today along with another member, former U.S. Attorney Flo Nakakuni. Could you please stand to be recognized.

"COVID challenged us, but we learned and adapted throughout. The pandemic taught us that if we don't meet challenges directly and timely, they will only grow larger, more difficult, and more divisive. It's time to take those lessons and incorporate them into our work.

"Our first step was our decision to continue the hybrid legislative environment allowing in-person and remote testimony from the public. But we are not done.

"One hundred and fifty years ago, in 1873, a 33-year-old Catholic priest from Belgium arrived in our islands, volunteering to serve a spare and forgotten settlement at Kalaupapa. There was not much there except for great need and the sick, caring for the very sick.

"Father Damien and the sisters built shelters, established a reliable water supply, nursed the sick, and welcomed patients as human beings into the community as best as they could become. He labored until his death in 1889, demonstrating courage, resolve, and resilience.

"Today we have far more resources, infrastructure, and authority than Father Damien. But will we have his courage, resolve, and resilience?

"While we undoubtedly deal with many issues, as every other legislature in the U.S. will do this year, we have an opportunity and the resources to focus on unresolved issues that often seem insurmountable. Here are a few examples.

"First, financial relief for Hawai'i residents. We need to continue to build on the progress of prior legislatures to target relief for middle- and lower-income families. One potential reform is to adjust the earned income tax credit, which provides comprehensive relief for 108,000 Hawai'i households.

"Second, renewable energy. The Legislature set the year 2045 as the deadline for our 100% renewable energy mandate. A \$200 million investment for low interest, pay-as-you-go loans for low- and moderate-income families would allow up to 7,600 households to install solar battery systems, resulting in lower utility bills and preventing the emission of 767,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases over the lifetime of their systems.

"Third, Hawaiian home lands. Last year, the Legislature made a concerted decision to reduce the waitlist. We will work with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to ensure there is a strategic and common-sense plan to leverage and maximize the \$600 million infusion.

"Fourth, mental health. The gaps in our mental health system can be seen as we walk and drive through our communities. The pandemic has exacerbated the demand for mental health services. We will work with our mental health partners, the Judiciary, and the Department of Health to identify, treat, and support these members of our community.

"Fifth, housing. We will add another \$300 million to finance affordable housing projects, to meet the housing demand for lower-income groups.

"Sixth, state parks and trails. Visitors should pay fees to maintain our state parks, trails, and other venues. We should create a statewide visitor reservation and payment system; make major investments to repair or restore our state parks, ocean resources, and forests; and harness the enthusiasm and physical strength of community organizations to maintain our parks and trails.

"And finally, Red Hill. When it comes to the current state of our environment, no issue presents more of an existential challenge than the purity and well-being of our water. The House will reauthorize a special committee for Red Hill and the aquifer, for accountability as well as to formulate a state and local coordinated policy as we step into the stewardship of this most precious resource that feeds this entire island, our people, businesses, and future.

"In all of these areas, we open this session pledging resolve and fresh perspectives. And let me mention one other thing. I'm going to steal this from the Sesame Street playbook. The Sesame Street word of the day is 'cooperation.' Cooperation, as you know, is the process of working together toward the same ends. In order for Hawai'i to be successful, we must all endeavor to cooperate with each other. And we should routinely challenge ourselves to serve as Father Damien did, and would ask us to do so with courage, resilience, and resolve.

"So, speaking of cooperation, as you know, there have been some media reports speculating on the relationship between the Legislature and the Governor. So, let me be clear. The House will work with Governor Green and his team in good faith and in a positive manner so that we can solve problems and bring results to Hawai'i residents. Governor Green, could you please stand to be recognized. And I guess the Lieutenant Governor can also stand to be recognized.

"The year 2023 is a challenge and opportunity for all of us. Freshmen with enthusiasm and energy, sophomore members with the benefit of fresh perspectives on existing issues, and veterans with institutional and experiential knowledge.

"Let's resolve to face and deal with problems together, with and for the community. Let's be resilient in the face of adverse conditions. Let's have the courage to make this time and labor count, for all. And maybe we should routinely ask of ourselves, what would Father Damien do?

"Thank you, members, and let's have a productive session."

The Chair then recognized Representative Matsumoto, the Minority Leader, to deliver remarks on behalf of the Minority Caucus:

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader Nakamura, friends, family, and public who are here to celebrate with us today, good morning and *aloha*.

"I remember standing in this room for the first time 10 years ago, humbled by what it meant to be a State House Representative. I remember the excitement and the anticipation, and let's be honest, a little bit of nerves. Let me tell you, that doesn't go away. But each and every one of us being sworn in today has worked so hard to get here. You each have a vision and a passion to serve your community.

"So, on my first opening day, I remember my brother coming up to me. He gave me a lei, he looked at me and he said, get over yourself. Younger brothers, I tell you. And while it pains me to admit it, he was right. None of us have gotten to this point alone.

"I'd like you to just take the time to think of all of those who have helped you to get here today. Your family, your friends, your mentors, and your communities. And as we go through session, I ask you to never forget why you are here and who you are doing it for.

"Each of us standing here today has been honored to represent thousands of people in our communities. Hawai'i deserves leadership that will work together to put the common interests of people ahead of our own. And sometimes that will mean voicing opposition. But that's vital for a healthy democracy, and it actually produces better legislation. And though we may have differences, I commit to work collaboratively and fairly, giving honest feedback with respect, and I am humbly asking for your willingness to do the same. Mr. Speaker, thank you for your leadership and commitment to the people of Hawai'i. We look forward to working with you.

"Now, I'd like to take some time to acknowledge the members of the Minority Caucus. As a polyglot speaking Malay, Indonesian, Vietnamese, and English, we have Representative Gene Ward. Representative Gene Ward is an expert in international affairs, as well as local issues. He is our longest serving member, a Vietnam veteran, Peace Corps director, has a Ph.D., and an endless list of accolades from his time serving the people of Hawai'i. Representative Ward, your dedication to serve the people of Hawai'i and your relentless persistence to seek their best interests does not go unnoticed.

"His not-so-secret talent of singing and playing *'ukulele*, we have Representative Diamond Garcia. Diamond has brought much joy to his district on the leeward side of O'ahu. I'd also like to add that he just beat me

out for the record, for the youngest Republican ever elected in the State of Hawai'i by just two months. But this is a title that I gladly pass on. Representative Garcia, your passion and youthful zeal to uphold the values of the people of Hawai'i are a force to be reckoned with.

"As a Division I rower at USC, we have Representative Kanani Souza. Representative Souza went on to be an attorney licensed in both Hawai'i and Washington, D.C. She is also a proud graduate of Kamehameha Schools. Representative Souza, your strength and unwavering conviction gives me confidence that this legislature will be held to the highest standard.

"As a sixth generation from Ewa Beach, we have Representative David Alcos. Representative Alcos is a successful business owner and leading contractor in Hawai'i's construction industry. He is a proud husband, father, and papa, and really sticks to his values of family first. Representative Alcos, your incredible ability to stand firm in your conviction while still having a soft heart is a skill that few have mastered.

"And last but not least, as an athlete, referee, chaplain, professor, author, and officer in the Air Force Reserves, Representative Elijah Pierick, he has accomplished so much at such a young age. Representative Pierick, your desire to seek change and growth in every area while still pursuing humility is admirable.

"And I'm proud to stand among each and every one of you today. Although our caucus is few in numbers, we are strong in our passion, conviction, and motivation. And let me tell you, we have a lot to bring to the table.

"What brings us all together today, but the one thing we all absolutely have in common is we all call Hawai'i home. Everyone in Hawai'i will be affected by the decisions that we make in this chamber. The House Republican Caucus is committed to take a stand for Hawai'i this legislative session so that the people of Hawai'i aren't simply surviving but thriving.

"Our Republican legislation will focus on combating the high cost of living, assisting local families towards home ownership, supporting the rights of people to make decisions for themselves and for their families, implementing government reform, and keeping our communities safe by being tough on crime as well as focused on rehabilitation.

"I'd like to just take a quick moment to highlight a few of the policies that we're going to introduce. As we know, the majority of people in Hawai'i are living paycheck to paycheck. For years, the cost of living has been a top issue. And for decades, the Republican Caucus has introduced legislation to eliminate tax on food and medical services. This is not a revolutionary idea. The majority of states are already doing this. Even further, we propose to eliminate the state income tax. For the average household, this will provide an additional \$15,000 back in their pockets. That is life changing.

"Home ownership is unattainable for the majority of our state. It is a pipe dream. The people of Hawai'i need assurance that we as a legislative body are taking every possible action so that families are not left with the tough decision to leave Hawai'i. Creating paths towards home ownership is a top priority. One of the biggest obstacles to buying a home is a down payment. So, we propose a down payment assistance program to make that pipe dream a reality.

"And the people in our state want their voices to be heard and are more than capable of making choices that are best for them and for their families. We want to turn the volume up on their voices to be heard through legislation like implementing local school boards. Every single state has implemented local school boards except for Hawai'i. By doing this, communities will have a greater say in the direction of our public education, and local voices need to have a seat at the table.

"And our legislative body has lost the trust of the people. In order to earn that trust back, government reform is imperative. We propose several safeguards to ensure that elected officials are held to the highest standards, as well as a 12-year term limit for state elected officials. We need transparency in government now more than ever.

"And finally, the phrase 'crime is on the rise' doesn't even begin to capture the severity of the issue. Last week, we all heard the story on the news of the man who broke into a 77-year-old woman's home, pushed her down the stairs and violently beat her. That man is a convicted murderer who was let

out of jail. And this is an issue that hits close to home because that woman is my neighbor.

"Crime is happening in our backyards. For the last decade, our policies have opened the doors to an increase in crime, and our communities are looking to us to make laws that protect them this legislative session. And that's why we will introduce legislation to be tough on crime, as well as focused on rehabilitation.

"In the last decade that I've been here, I learned it's critical to think not only of our own goals and priorities, but we must recognize that first, great accomplishments don't happen alone. And second, in order to do the best work for our state, we have to genuinely listen and work together.

"It is with so much gratitude that I stand here today. Equal to the amount of gratitude that I feel is the weight of responsibility heavy on my shoulders, our shoulders, to ensure that Hawai'i stays home for generations to come. People of Hawai'i, we are listening. We want to hear what you have to say. Please join us this legislative session to have your voices be heard to make the best possible future for the generations to come. And to all of my colleagues in the room, let's enjoy the celebrations of today. But tomorrow, let's get over ourselves and work together for the people of Hawai'i. *Mahalo.*"

The Chair then recognized Representative Nakamura, the Majority Leader, to deliver remarks on behalf of the Majority Caucus:

"*Aloha* and good morning, everyone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members, for the opportunity to serve as majority leader of our Democratic Party Caucus. I would like to first recognize Representative Della Au Belatti for her five years of service as majority leader. Della, please stand. We thank you for your leadership, for your boundless energy, and the sacrifices you made to guide the majority caucus. And *mahalo*, Representative Belatti, for personally helping me and my staff prepare for this new challenge.

"Mr. Speaker, we all know how much our families and friends help us get elected and support us so that we can do our work. I'd like to recognize my mother, Mabel Maeda, 95 years old. And I'd like to thank my family and my friends in the gallery for their support over the years. And a special shout out to Ben Viernes and my staff, past and present, who continue to support me.

"While there has been a dark cloud hanging over the Legislature, Mr. Speaker, please take note. The voters of Hawai'i, from Hilo to Hanalei, reelected 31 incumbent Democrats in the House. Hawai'i residents gave their vote of confidence because members responded to their concerns, passed meaningful and impactful legislation, engaged with their communities, problem solved, helped their constituents navigate the state bureaucracy, and most of all conducted themselves ethically. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to serve alongside incumbents and the 14 new Democrats you just introduced.

"We heard loud and clear from our constituents that we need more affordable housing, we need more mental health services, and we need to take care of our natural resources.

"Mr. Speaker, your House Majority believes that our families in Hawai'i cannot grow and thrive without building more affordable housing. Although we allocated close to \$1 billion for housing last session, we can't take our foot off the pedal. The State Legislature's past investment will yield over 7,000 affordable housing units over the next several years. By putting an additional \$300 million into the Rental Housing Revolving Fund, we can build another 800 units of affordable housing and keep the development and construction pipeline flowing. I would like to thank Housing Chair Troy Hashimoto for his work on this bill.

"The House Majority believes we must listen to the voices that are not always heard in these halls. The growing need for child and adult mental health services requires a multi-pronged approach, including bills to improve and expedite assisted community treatment for those experiencing severe mental health crises and improve youth crisis response services through a pilot mobile outreach program. We recognize you, Speaker Saiki, and Representative Lisa Marten for working with our community partners and the administration to craft these bills.

"The House Majority deeply values the natural beauty and resources of the State of Hawai'i and believe it's our responsibility to steward our lands and waters. We propose funding targeted to divisions within DLNR who *mālama* our natural resources, and in doing so help to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

"Funds are needed to purchase heavy equipment to clear debris to prevent flooding, develop fire resistant landscapes, develop an urban forestry program, reforest acres of land with koa and other native tree species, control and maintain invasive species that threaten watershed functions. And there are many other ways that we can add to this list. But we also would like to leverage critical federal grants. We thank Energy and Environmental Protection Chair Nicole Lowen for working on this bill.

"Mr. Speaker, your House Majority serves with *aloha*, a willingness to collaborate, a pledge to resolve differences respectfully. We commit to work hard, to serve with integrity, and most of all, work together for all of Hawai'i's residents. *Mahalo piha.*"

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

The following resolution (H.R. No. 5) was read by the Clerk and the following action taken:

H.R. No. 5, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION COMMUNICATING THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE HAS ASSEMBLED AND IS READY TO TRANSACT BUSINESS," resolving that this body has assembled and is ready to transact business with the following officers:

Scott K. Saiki, Speaker
 Greggor Ilagan, Vice Speaker
 Brian L. Takeshita, Chief Clerk
 Rod Tanonaka, Sergeant-at-Arms
 Rupert Juarez, Assistant Chief Clerk
 Tamah-Lani S.K. Noh, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms.

And further resolving that a duly certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Josh Green, Governor of the State of Hawaii, and to the Senate of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, in Regular Session assembled, was jointly offered by Representatives Nakamura and Matsumoto.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Matsumoto and carried, H.R. No. 5 was adopted, with Representative Nakashima being excused.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:08 p.m., on motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Matsumoto and carried, the House of Representatives adjourned until noon tomorrow, Thursday, January 19, 2023. (Representative Nakashima was excused.)

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 2022 DEC 28 A 9:36
STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
SPEAKER'S OFFICE

RECEIVED

December 28, 2023

MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Scott Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
From: Representative James Kunane Tokioka
Re: Resignation from House District 16

It is with a heavy heart that I write this to you to inform you that January 2, 2023 will be my last day as the State Representative of the newly designated House District 16.

Governor Green and his team offered me the Deputy Director of Airports in the State of Hawaii and I accepted the offer.

I want to thank you, all the members of the House, and Senate that I have had the honor and privilege of working with for the past 16 years. I've learned so much from my time as a State Representative and I look forward to working with you and the entire legislature in my new role as Deputy Director of State Airports.

A Hui Hou.

Representative James Kunane Tokioka
State Capitol, Room 305 • Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-6270 • Fax: (808) 586-6271
Email: reptokioka@capitol.hawaii.gov

RECEIVED

2023 JAN -4 P 3:34

SPEAKER'S OFFICE

January 2, 2023

Speaker of the House Scott K. Saiki
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 431
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Speaker,

I regretfully submit my letter of resignation for the position of State House of Representatives for District 37 to be effective January 3.

It has been an honor to represent District 37 in the Hawaii State House since 2004. My community has provided me with many valuable learning opportunities and experiences. With Governor Josh Green's appointment, I will accept the position as Deputy Director for the Department of Human Resources Development.

I truly enjoy working directly with constituents, schools, colleagues and the various other community entities involved with policy making. This opportunity provided by Governor Green will allow me to continue my commitment to help our State and hopefully improve the lives of local families. Working with you in the House has been a privilege and I look forward to continuing our friendship as I work on behalf of the Administration.

Leadership is extremely vital to any organization and I am glad that you are there guiding the House through some tough times. If there is anything I can do to support you or the House, please do not hesitate to contact me. It really saddens me to leave such a great institution, however, I hope that we will continue our friendship.

I truly wish you all the best. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [redacted] or cellular # [redacted]

Mahalo,

Ryan Waijap
State Representative, District 37