

EIGHTEENTH DAY

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

The House of Representatives of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2024, convened at 12:02 p.m., with Vice Speaker Ilgan presiding.

The invocation was delivered by Representative Lisa Marten, after which the Roll was called showing all members present with the exception of Representatives Kila and Takayama, who were excused.

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

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

The following communication from the Senate (Sen. Com. No. 8) was received and announced by the Clerk:

Sen. Com. No. 8, transmitting S.B. No. 2072, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on February 12, 2024.

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

S.B. No. 2072, SD 1

INTRODUCTIONS

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

Representative Cochran introduced students participating in the Hawai'i-Okinawa High School Student Exchange Program: Ryuto Nakaza and Mion Miyagi, Urasoe High School; Hozuru Kajiku, Oroku High School; Kanta Ikemura, Miyako High School; Chisei Kadena and Sorana Sanechika, Showa Yakka University; Haruka Uehara, Nago High School; Yua Nakadomori, Kyuyo High School; Kaede Fusato, Futenma High School; Isaki Maehamamori, Naha Kokusai High School; Anri Yamashiro, Shuri High School; Kaho Nagamine, Koyo High School; Honami Tanahara, Chinen High School; Rina Kinjo, Itoman High School; and Reina Kamiya, Okinawa Shogaku High School.

Representative Matayoshi introduced Misayo Yamada, deputy superintendent; Jacques Madsen, teachers' consultant; Ayano Arakaki, Misato Tech English teacher; and from Hawai'i United Okinawa Association: Dave Arakawa, community relations chair; former Representative Dennis Arakaki; and Eric Nitta and Michele Nitta, HOSEP volunteers.

Representative Holt introduced students from Kamehameha Middle School, Kapālama: Kahikonani Aga, Zane Balora, Malia Casamina, Tahaea Casey, Kelsey Corpuz-Shibata, Halia Fano, Makai Gibson, Aria Goo, Jaelah Guerrero, Alexa Hao, Ambry-Cecily Inouye, Liloa Okouchi, Callie Onishi, Rilynn Perez, Keahi Salinas, Sam Sellers, Mia Souki, Anuhea Sueda, Bella Toyomura, Barreto-Ventura, Alicia "Kala'i" Wong; teachers Kumu Ray Parker, Kumu Ryan Parker, and Kumu Ka'imi Valladares; and his staff, Mark Clemente.

Representative Marten introduced her staff: Maki'ilei Ishihara, Samantha Dowd, and Ilima Edwards.

ORDER OF THE DAY

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Representative Marten, for the Committee on Human Services, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 269-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2430, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2430, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO

SUMMER ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Marten, for the Committee on Human Services, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 270-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1670, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1670, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Garcia 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. 1670, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MOBILE CLINICS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Garcia voting no, and with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representatives Marten and Hashem, for the Committee on Human Services and the Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 271-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2227, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committees was adopted and H.B. No. 2227, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CHILD CARE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representatives Marten and Belatti, for the Committee on Human Services and the Committee on Health & Homelessness, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 272-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2325, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committees be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2325, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"In strong support. This pilot program to send homeless individuals who are not from here has been quite successful, and I think we should invest a lot more resources to send those who are non-local back to where they come from. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committees was adopted and H.B. No. 2325, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Belatti, for the Committee on Health & Homelessness, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 273-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1921, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1921, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

Representative Alcos 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. 1921, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MOBILE VACCINATIONS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Alcos voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Garcia and Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Belatti, for the Committee on Health & Homelessness, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 274-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2775, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2775, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH CARE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Labor & Government Operations, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 275-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1588, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Higher Education & Technology.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1588, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE LABOR EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Higher Education & Technology, with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Labor & Government Operations, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 276-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1908, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1908, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to this. Mr. Speaker, a few of us were around during the Lingle Administration, when there was a deep recession. We had to really count on what were basic services because we were running out of money. Since that payroll lag was implemented, every administration heretofore really liked it because, hey, this is \$172 million you don't have to pay out. Now, Mr. Speaker, this bill says, hey, we want to do a payroll—"

At 12:13 p.m., the Chair declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The House of Representatives reconvened at 12:14 p.m.

Representative Ward continued, stating:

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope they find whoever is missing. And I may relate that to what I'm going to say. Because if we take \$172 million out of our budget to do a payroll advance, we're going to be hurting somebody on Maui. And it could be a kid, it could be a missing kid, it could be somebody who lost their family.

"I really think this is a bad policy and bad timing. If you want to do this, do it when there's a robust budget, not when things are tight and we've got an island that's suffering and not surviving. They need probably about \$6 billion. And we want to do a payroll advance. And if you know payroll advances are hard when you make a mistake to really recall that money.

"Everybody's adjusted to this since the Lingle Administration. Nobody probably other than inside baseball knows about it. So, Mr. Speaker, it's a policy to go back to normal. But in terms of timing, it's really, really bad. And we should look bad because it's going to be taking away from Maui. And anybody from Maui who knows about this, I think will be ashamed of us. Thank you."

Representative Garcia 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. 1908, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Garcia and Ward voting no, and with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Labor & Government Operations, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 277-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1644, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1644, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representatives Matayoshi and Woodson, for the Committee on Labor & Government Operations and the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 278-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2400, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committees be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2400, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

"In opposition. My understanding is that this bill would make it to where if a teacher is being accused of a sexual assault and the investigation is undergoing, if they retire, the investigation is dropped. So, for that reason, I would vote no."

Representative Ward 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 Committees was adopted and H.B. No. 2400, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Garcia and Ward voting aye with reservations, with Representative Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representatives Matayoshi and Woodson, for the Committee on Labor & Government Operations and the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 279-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2401, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committees was adopted and H.B. No. 2401, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representatives Matayoshi and Woodson, for the Committee on Labor & Government Operations and the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 280-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2258, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committees be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2258, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

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

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committees was adopted and H.B. No. 2258, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Perruso voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Garcia and Ward voting no, and with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representatives Matayoshi and Woodson, for the Committee on Labor & Government Operations and the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 281-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1827, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committees was adopted and H.B. No. 1827, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 282-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2222, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2222, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 283-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1631, HD 1 be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1631, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOUSING," was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 284-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1656, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1656, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOL BUS SERVICES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 285-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1767, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1767, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOL BUS SERVICES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 286-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1775,

as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1775, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

"In opposition. This bill would basically pay for all the meals for the kids in the Department of Education, no matter their income level. I don't think it's the job of all of the people of Hawai'i to be paying their state income tax towards the meals of the children. Parents should raise the kids and not the government."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In strong support. Students can't learn if they're hungry and starving. I think it's important that we ensure that every single child has access to not only a quality education, but the opportunity to really learn that education. Thank you."

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

"Mr. Speaker, I rise with mixed emotions on this bill. I support it, but I have some reservations. Okay, I know you're going to put me in favor. But hey, guys, let's all recall that we have ALICE families. When the governor stood there and he said 44% of Hawai'i's families are ALICE families, 63% of the Hawaiian community are ALICE families. We're saying, hey, we don't have enough money in our economy to have a roof over our head and feed our kids.

"So, what is surprising about feeding our kids in school? These kids are not getting it. What I'd like to see as this progresses through our system in the Legislature is there'd be some metrics. We should be able to get a GPA or some kind of a measurement that this is helping people to do better in school, because otherwise, as was indicated earlier, if you're hungry, you're not going to be very smart or you're not going to be very much prone to excel in your academic performance.

"So, Mr. Speaker, this is good, but I hope it's temporary. We should be able to have an economy that allows people to buy lunch for their kids. I put the burden of proof on this body that we are not diversifying our economy enough to have wages in our families. And I'm still talking about this is good. Let's give them a crutch, but let's not wire it to them where it's forever and ever. We've got to get people to be self-confident, independent, and self-reliant rather than government for anything, even including their lunch and their breakfast.

"It's unfortunate we have to do it. It's a good bill, but it's unfortunate we have to do this. We've got to get a stronger economy to make this not happen perpetually into the future. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In favor, in support. This is my bill. I think the best way to prevent being becoming an ALICE family is to get a good education. And kids can't learn without food.

"So, pretty simple bill. It sounds like everyone is in favor of, well it sounds like most of us are in favor of feeding kids. I think this bill is fairly targeted since a lot of ALICE families are in the public school system. For better or worse, a lot of wealthier families choose to not send their kids to public schools. So, this is a bill, again, targeted relief. And what better way to spend government money than feeding kids and growing the next generation? Thank you."

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

"Mr. Speaker, I would just like to enter the words from the vice chair of Higher Education and the chair of Labor into the Journal as if they were my own. And also to note that, as the previous speaker mentioned, the majority of our students are actually living in poverty, and the majority of our schools

are Title I schools. So that should be some indication to the body that there is a high level of need," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Garcia rose to respond, stating:

"Mr. Speaker, still with reservations. I do want to say, as somebody who was raised in public housing and with free breakfast and lunch in Hawai'i public schools, I appreciate the services that are there for families who cannot afford to pay for their own school lunch. But for families who can afford to pay for it, it should not be the job of every other hard-working taxpayer in the state to cover that. So, with reservations."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1775, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Garcia and Ward voting aye with reservations, with Representative Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 287-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2535, HD 1 be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2535, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CHILD CARE," was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 288-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2485, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2485, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO STATE TAX ADMINISTRATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Hashem, for the Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 289-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1812, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1812, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you. Request for a ruling on a potential conflict. My cousin is the chair of the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission, and this bill pertains to them."

The Chair addressed Representative Souza, stating:

"Chair states no conflict based on your disclosure. The measure affects a broad class of individuals and entities. The ruling will stand until *sine die*."

Representative Souza continued and asked that the Clerk record an aye vote with reservations for her, 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. 1812, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CORRECTIONS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representative Souza voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Hashem, for the Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 290-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2241, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2241, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CIVIL AIR PATROL," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Hashem, for the Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 291-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2483, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2483, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECKS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Holt, for the Committee on Economic Development, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 292-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1956, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1956, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand in strong support, and I'd like to write strong comments into the Journal regarding the revitalization of the business community, which goes back to our previous discussion about, why are there so many ALICE families? Because we haven't revitalized our economy to do what we are best at. Having said that, this is a good bill, we need, again, all boats rise with a rising economy. When our economy is so weak and wages so small, Mr. Speaker, we need bills like this for us to focus our attention on revitalization of our business community."

Representative Ward's written remarks are as follows:

"I am in strong support of HB 1965. In my 'past life' prior to joining elected office, I worked extensively in the business world as both a small business owner and entrepreneur trainer, as well as studied Hawai'i's business environment and potentials at length as the focus of my PhD. When joining the Legislature in 1993, I co-created the House Small Business Caucus which continues to this day to advocate on behalf of our entrepreneurs. One of my greatest priorities is increasing Hawai'i's economic diversification and competitiveness. Our location and resources provides us with a prime opportunity to expand in many different directions. We can be the Hollywood of the Pacific, the Space Center of the Pacific, the Geneva of the Pacific, the Pharmaceutical Center of the Pacific, the list goes on..."

"This measure through the creation of a task force to explore such potentials is long overdue. I am hopeful that its findings will allow us to become more entrepreneurial, more innovative, and more competitive in our region and across the world in a variety of fields. As we continue to suffer from brain drain to the U.S. mainland, it is crucial we invest in our state and its people by stimulating our industries and fostering a friendly business climate which as of late we have sadly failed to do."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1956, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Kapela and Perruso voting no, and with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Holt, for the Committee on Economic Development, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 293-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1959, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1959, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Holt, for the Committee on Economic Development, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 294-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1957, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1957, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO RESEARCH ACTIVITIES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Marten, for the Committee on Human Services, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 295-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2555, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2555, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Garcia 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. 2555, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE CHILD PROTECTIVE ACT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representative Garcia voting no, and with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 296-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1674, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1674, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 297-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1774, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1774, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS," was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 298-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2058, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2058, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DANGEROUS DOGS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the

Committee on Finance, with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 299-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2199, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2199, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT," was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 300-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2340, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2340, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CLAIMS AGAINST THE STATE, ITS OFFICERS, OR ITS EMPLOYEES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 301-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2486, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2486, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Garcia 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. 2486, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TAX ENFORCEMENT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Garcia voting no, and with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 302-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2488, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2488, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE TAXATION BOARD OF REVIEW," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 303-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2621, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2621, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

"Mr. Speaker, a no vote, please, with a very, very brief comment. Why do we want to embarrass the police with a bill like this? They're the ones who watch over us. Why should we want to embarrass them with this ethical auditing of what they do? Thank you."

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

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

Representative Matsumoto rose and asked that the Clerk record an aye vote with reservations for her, 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. 2621, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Matsumoto voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Pierick, and Ward voting no, and with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Evslin, for the Committee on Housing, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 304-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2292, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2292, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Evslin, for the Committee on Housing, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 305-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2431, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2431, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

"In opposition. This bill would spend tax dollar money on creating more government, more positions in the department of housing to solve the housing crisis. The problem with the housing crisis in Hawai'i is the government, so more government isn't going to solve the issue."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2431, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Garcia voting aye with reservations, with Representative Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Belatti, for the Committee on Health & Homelessness, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 306-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1963, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1963, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

Representative Kapela rose and asked that the Clerk record an aye vote with reservations for her, 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. 1963, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH CARE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, with

Representatives Kapela and Perruso voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

Representative Belatti, for the Committee on Health & Homelessness, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 307-24) recommending that H.B. No. 2253, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2253, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Kila and Takayama being excused.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

By unanimous consent, the following resolutions (H.R. Nos. 8 and 9) and concurrent resolutions (H.C.R. Nos. 18 and 19) were referred to Printing and further action was deferred:

H.R. No. 8, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE HAWAII OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES TO PRIORITIZE POLICIES AND SERVICES EXPANDING FINANCIAL AND OTHER FORMS OF BENEFITS FOR HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD VETERANS, RETIREES, AND VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES," was offered by Representative Matsumoto.

H.R. No. 9, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT NATIVE PLANT SEEDING PROJECTS IN MILILANI MAUKA TO RESTORE THE ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE FROM THE NOVEMBER WILDFIRES," was offered by Representative Matsumoto.

H.C.R. No. 18, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE HAWAII OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES TO PRIORITIZE POLICIES AND SERVICES EXPANDING FINANCIAL AND OTHER FORMS OF BENEFITS FOR HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD VETERANS, RETIREES, AND VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES," was offered by Representative Matsumoto.

H.C.R. No. 19, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT NATIVE PLANT SEEDING PROJECTS IN MILILANI MAUKA TO RESTORE THE ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE FROM THE NOVEMBER WILDFIRES," was offered by Representative Matsumoto.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, requested a waiver of the 48-hour advanced notice requirement for the purpose of decision making on the following measure on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. in Conference Room 325, and the Chair "so ordered."

H.B. No. 1651, HD 1, Relating to the Safety of Educational Workers.

At 12:28 p.m., the Chair declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The House of Representatives reconvened at 12:29 p.m.

Representative Gates, for the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, requested a waiver of the 48-hour advanced notice requirement for the purpose of hearing the following measure on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 9:15 a.m. in Conference Room 325, and the Chair "so ordered."

H.B. No. 1525, Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Incentives.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:30 p.m., on motion by Representative Morikawa, seconded by Representative Garcia and carried, the House of Representatives adjourned until noon tomorrow, Wednesday, February 14, 2024. (Representatives Ichiyama, Kila, and Takayama were excused.)