

THIRTY-FIRST DAY

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

The House of Representatives of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2024, convened at 12:03 p.m., with Speaker Saiki presiding.

The invocation was delivered by Representative Darius K. Kila, after which the Roll was called showing all members present with the exception of Representative Alcos, who was excused.

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

INTRODUCTIONS

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

Representative Todd introduced students from Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo and Ke Kula 'o Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u Iki; Senator Laura Acasio; and his brother, Kazuo Todd.

Representative Tarnas introduced students, teachers, and chaperones from Kanu o ka 'Āina.

Representative Kitagawa introduced students, teachers, and community members from Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau.

Representative Morikawa introduced students from Kula Aupuni Ni'ihau A Kāhelelani Aloha: Jaebri-Lynn Buesil-Ruiz, Xylie Ann Hasegawa Borja, Lyric Kanahale-Beniamina, Kristin Kanahale-Bush, Namolinawaikula Pahulehua, Nape'aholokai Stevens, Kamakuamauloa Kanahale, Tyler Kanahale, Jaysha-Marie Ruiz, and Gia-Lynn Pacheco; staff: Steven Sullivan, Kumu Kaleo Stevens, Kumu Kaeo Bradford, and Heidi Kanahale; and Principal Hedy Sullivan.

Representative Nakamura introduced students, teachers, and parents from Kanuikapono PCS.

Representative Lamosao introduced Nikki-Ann Yee, co-founder, Ma'i Movement; and her staff, Mason Sadiarin.

Representative Evslin introduced students, parents, and teachers from Kawaikini PCS.

Representatives Tam introduced Senator Kurt Favella.

Representative Gates introduced students from Kamaile Academy PCS; his friend, Derek Turbin; and Josiah Ubando.

Representative Kila introduced students from Ka Waihona o Ka Na'auao PCS; and supporters of Bretman Rock: Brett Anderson, Will Jacobson, Ty Flynn, Lindsay Margiotti, and Brian Meller.

Representative La Chica introduced her staff: Erin Conway and Erika Anderson; and her constituent, Trevor Nagamine.

Representative Kapela introduced Susie Osborne from Kua O Ka Lā PCS.

ORDER OF THE DAY

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS
(FLOOR PRESENTATIONS)

The following resolution (H.R. No. 215) was announced by the Clerk and the following action taken:

H.R. No. 215, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING BRETMAN ROCK ON HIS SUCCESS ACROSS ALL SOCIAL MEDIA, COMMENDING HIM FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUPPORTING YOUTH, AND HONORING HIS COMMITMENT AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF HAWAII, THE UNITED STATES AND THE WORLD, INCLUDING HIS CONTINUED EFFORTS TO SUPPORT NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND FILIPINOS," was offered by Representative Kila.

Representative Kila moved that H.R. No. 215 be adopted, seconded by Representative Lamosao.

Representative Kila highlighted the remarkable achievements and career defining accomplishments of Bretman Rock as he became a global icon and trailblazer, winning many awards and amassing over 50 million followers while inspiring people to embrace their uniqueness and celebrate their individuality.

Representative Lamosao celebrated Bretman Rock's achievements and his journey as Filipino-American; shared how his journey mirrors that of many Filipino families across Hawai'i and how he has educated people about Filipino culture, breaking stereotypes and fostering understanding along the way; and wished him continued success.

Representative Tam commended Bretman Rock for his authenticity and unapologetic self-expression; thanked him for helping to normalize acceptance of individuals who may be different, helping many in the LGBTQ community feel validated; and recognized his many accomplishments.

Representative Kila admired Bretman Rock for his commitment to supporting local and small businesses in Hawai'i, using his platform for change and to uplift and empower Native Hawaiian and Filipino voices and communities; and congratulated and introduced honorees who were seated on the Floor of the House:

Bretman Rock Sacayanan Laforga, beauty influencer and social media personality; and

Mark Keiffer Pesca, his cousin and travel assistant.

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and H.R. No. 215 was adopted, with Representative Alcos being excused.

At 12:23 p.m., the Chair declared a recess to allow the members to meet and congratulate the honorees.

The House of Representatives reconvened at 12:30 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF RULES

On motion by Representative Morikawa, seconded by Representative Garcia and carried, the rules were suspended for the purpose of considering certain House Bills for Third Reading by consent calendar. (Representatives Alcos, Amato, Hashem, Ilagan, Kila, Lowen, Matayoshi, Quinlan, Todd, and Ward were excused.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Representative Yamashita, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1069-24) recommending that H.B. No. 1911, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1911, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY," passed Third Reading by a vote of 46 ayes, with Representatives Alcos, Amato, Kila, Lowen, and Todd being excused.

At 12:31 p.m., the Chair noted that the following bill passed Third Reading:

H.B. No. 1911, HD 2

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Labor & Government Operations, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1071-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2291, SD 2, 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 S.B. No. 2291, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING

TO ADVISORY BOARDS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representative Alcos being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Labor & Government Operations, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1072-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2286, SD 2, 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 S.B. No. 2286, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INTERNSHIPS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representative Alcos being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Labor & Government Operations, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1073-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2503, SD 2, 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 S.B. No. 2503, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EQUITY," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representative Alcos being excused.

Representative Quinlan, for the Committee on Tourism, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1074-24) recommending that S.B. No. 3364, SD 2, 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 S.B. No. 3364, SD 2, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Mr. Speaker, I rise with reservations and a brief comment. Mr. Speaker, this is a tourism issue of which I know many people in the Legislature is very concerned that we've overdone tourism. And my point is, we got a management theme that this is following now. My point is, let's not overdo it, let's remember marketing is still key.

"My wife is a graduate of the TIM, the Travel Industry Management at UH, and she says tourism can turn on a dime. You cannot assume that because they are here, they're always going to come. It's a very volatile industry. So, when we say, hey, we're going to cool marketing and we're going to up the management, let's be moderate, let's be wise in what we're doing because, Mr. Speaker, they're still 50% of our budget. And if we lose that, we are not in good shape. So, let's be very moderate in our consideration. Thank you."

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

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

"In strong support, Mr. Speaker. And first I'd like to say that this bill has nothing to do with reducing marketing dollars or telling people not to come to Hawai'i. This bill has to do with the future of our society, of our state. We all know the numbers, \$900 million in TAT collections, 220,000 jobs directly supported by the tourism industry. And yes, it is absolutely the most crucial sector of any industry that we have in Hawai'i.

"However, Mr. Speaker, we cannot ignore our constituents. We cannot ignore our residents. We cannot continue to have hordes and hordes of people pile into certain hot spots and absolutely destroy the quality of life for so many neighborhoods, like the district that I represent. And I don't really know what regenerative tourism is, we throw that word around a lot. It's a bit of a buzzword, Mr. Speaker. But that's what we're attempting to define. We're trying to find a pathway forward so that both the tourists, the tourism industry, and most importantly, our treasured residents and

constituents can have a higher quality of life and maybe even a better vacation. *Mahalo.*"

Representative Ward rose to respond, stating:

"Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleague from the North Shore. Continuing with reservations and a comment and a retort. Clearly, we cannot ignore our constituents. But clearly, we cannot ignore the unemployed. This is an economic issue, Mr. Speaker. We've got to keep constituents in our neighborhoods peaceful. We got to keep the traffic, the infrastructure, and everything in solid condition. But when you got half of your economy in the balance, making sure that people are employed is more important than making everybody happy campers because there's no noise next door. Which Airbnb is even the worst culprit that we have here with this particular marketing issue. Thank you."

Representative Quinlan rose to respond, stating:

"Still in support, Mr. Speaker, and I would just like to invite my colleague from Hawai'i Kai to come and visit me on a Saturday around noon. We'll drive to my mother's house for lunch. But bring a book, it's going to be a long trip."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3364, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DESTINATION MANAGEMENT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Garcia and Ward voting aye with reservations, and with Representative Alcos being excused.

Representative Quinlan, for the Committee on Tourism, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1075-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2913, SD 1, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2913, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRAVEL INSURANCE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, with Representative Alcos being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1076-24) recommending that S.B. No. 3328, SD 1, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Labor & Government Operations.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 3328, SD 1, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Labor & Government Operations, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Perruso rose in opposition to the measure and asked that her written remarks be inserted in the Journal, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Perruso's written remarks are as follows:

"As we work hard to address the critical issue of the teacher shortage crisis, it's imperative that we do not fall into the trap of pursuing short-term solutions that perpetuate long-term instability. The bill before us, SB 3328, proposes a concerning approach by essentially privatizing public land for teacher housing, to potentially help support individuals without teaching licenses from outside our state to teach within our DOE, individuals who, based on their contracts, will most likely leave the DOE classroom within 3-5 years.

"While the intention behind providing housing for incoming teachers is noble, we must recognize the inherent risks of relying on a transient workforce. By prioritizing individuals who may not have a long-term commitment to our communities, we risk exacerbating the very issue we seek to resolve – the teacher shortage crisis.

"Instead of locking into a model that prioritizes short-term fixes, we must invest in sustainable solutions that strengthen our education system from within. This means prioritizing the development of our own teacher pipeline,

nurturing and empowering individuals within our communities to become educators.

"Investing in grow our own teacher pipeline development not only addresses the immediate need for qualified teachers but also fosters a sense of commitment and continuity within our schools. By supporting aspiring educators from our communities, we ensure that they are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in their roles, leading to long-term stability in our education system.

"Furthermore, investing in our own teacher pipeline development aligns with our values of community empowerment and sustainability. It allows us to nurture local talent, build strong relationships between educators and students, and foster a sense of belonging within our schools.

"While the temptation to opt for quick fixes may be enticing, we cannot afford to sacrifice the long-term stability of our education system. Let us reject the notion of privatizing public land for transient teacher housing, reject the notion of creating a special real estate development branch within the DOE, and instead commit ourselves to investing in grow our own teacher pipeline development. Together, we can ensure that every child has access to quality education and build a brighter future for generations to come."

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

Representative Hussey-Burdick 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."

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

Representative Belatti 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 S.B. No. 3328, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Labor & Government Operations, with Representatives Amato, Belatti, Hussey-Burdick, Kapela, and Matayoshi voting aye with reservations, with Representative Perruso voting no, and with Representative Alcos being excused.

THIRD READING

H.B. No. 1800, HD 1:

Representative Nakamura moved that H.B. No. 1800, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. First of all, before I get started on my comments, I'd like to thank you, Mr. Speaker, and your leadership team, for your continued support in allowing me to work on this committee as well as this budget. Thank you. And then also to the vice chair of Finance for her unwavering help and support through the whole process. She's a trooper, she's always there, and she's always continued to do whatever we need to get the work done for the committee. So, thank you very much.

"And then also, I'd like to thank our CIP chair, who worked really hard this year. He actually had to redo the budget. Mr. Speaker, I think three times. A little bit because of me, but, yeah, he did a good job, so we'd like to thank him for all his hard work. And we'd also like to thank the members of the Finance Committee who put in the work and the time throughout the whole process and the hours, going through all the bills that came through the committee and sitting through those long hearings and as well as combing through the budget and advising us on how to proceed forward. So, thank you very much to the committee.

"And of course, as many of you know, Mr. Speaker, the work cannot be done without our staff. So, I'd like to thank all our staff. Some of them are sitting up there, most of them are. Our budget research office, headed by our research chief, Randall Hiyoto, and Stacey Tagala is our supervisor. I'll have

them all stand up at once. And then also our researcher analysts, we have Kevin Peralta, Brendan Lee, Jordana Mangan, Brent Lopianetzky, and Jowana Lobendahn.

"And then from our budget office headed by our budget chief, Jon Kawamura, who is taking the pictures, and also our CIP analysts, who is most of the members' favorite person, Heath Williams up there. And, of course, Rebekah Kim, she's a budget analyst that assists Jon in many endeavors. And also, the other analysts up there, Elizabeth Bryant, Nancy Clark, Dianne Gabrillo, and Rika Kaneshige. And then not in the audience, I think, I cannot see, is working with special projects is our volunteer, Linda Chu Takayama, I'd like to thank her and Lisa Chun for working on all these things that we need.

"And then from our front office, our office manager, Lois Tambalo, and I think only Nikko is up there. And Kimoko Anmontha and Janis Higaki, I'd like to also thank them. And, of course, Mr. Speaker, Nandana Kalupahana, our committee clerk who, you know, bats cleanup for us. So, I'd like to thank all of them for all their hard work. And please, everybody, could you all please rise and please help me thank them for all their hard work. Thank you.

"Mr. Speaker, your Committee on Finance finds that the constitutional responsibility and power for appropriation rests solely with the Legislature. The biennium budget was enacted June 2023. A short time later, after the Legislature Regular Session 2023 adjourned *sine die*, Lahaina and Upcountry Maui experienced a devastating wildfire and burned. Since then, the administration has been spending money appropriated for other specific purposes and transferred money to programs purportedly tied to relief and recovery.

Ensuring the safety and recovery of our communities will come at an extraordinary cost to the state budget. We currently expect to spend over \$1 billion towards this relief and recovery effort. This is over 10% of our general fund budget."

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

Representative Yamashita continued, stating:

"Thank you very much. At the same time, preserving, maintaining, and enhancing our fundamental core services and the safety of the Hawai'i communities remain our priority.

"On October 30th, 2023, over two months after the wildfire, the administration issued Executive Memorandum 23-08, which diverted \$172 million appropriated by the Legislature for various other purposes and initiatives. In order to pay for these expenses associated with the wildfire, the diversion was accomplished by emergency proclamation when the Legislature was not in session.

"Mr. Speaker, although this action was proper under existing law, your committee notes that managing the crisis brought on by the wildfire, there is still a lack of clear, comprehensive plan from the administration to address this complex issue that has come to light over the past eight months. Fully determining the state's exposure will be an extremely challenging task. Although some wildfire funding requests were received from the administration, they were too late for the House to consider at this point in the legislative calendar.

"In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, your committee has been actively gathering information to make informed decisions and recommendations to the House. These include \$65 million for victim recovery, announced in the media November 2023, \$122 million for a housing program that was announced in the media November 2023, \$66 million for expenses incurred by state agencies responding to the needs on Maui, and \$10 million in costs incurred by the state pursuant to Emergency Management Assistance Compact. This is where the state receives aid from other states across the country in the immediate aftermath of the wildfire. And \$150 million as a potential subsidy for Maui County.

"And finally, \$500 million is being set aside for those who may be determined to be FEMA ineligible for temporary housing. This is a contract with the Red Cross for housing, for families in hotels who are waiting for permanent housing to be arranged. The contract originally started at \$99 million and quickly ballooned to \$300 million. Recently extended, it

now may cost as much as \$500 million. Governor's Message 4, which was received by the House on March 5, pegged the cost at \$297 million already.

"Many of these expenditures will be FEMA reimbursable, but it has taken years to get reimbursed for past disasters. We need to make sure that this budget can withstand a short-term shock, and important services for our community retain critical funding.

"Consequently, Mr. Speaker, financial prudence requires a focus and priority of your committee to ensure accountability and transparency in this budget. All known potential costs for programs associated with aiding survivors of the wildfire have been appropriated in this budget to eliminate the need for emergency proclamation to divert money from important programs. The necessity to divert money appropriated by the Legislature has been eliminated.

"Communication, coordination, cooperation among all branches of government will be needed in the coming days, months, and years to develop and implement a solution for our survivors. The cost to ensure the safety net and recovery of our community will be enormous. Although this budget focuses heavily on the expenses of the Maui wildfire, the core services of the state must be maintained.

"Numerous individuals in our community still grapple with enduring impacts of the pandemic, homelessness, the challenges of high cost of living. It is critical to maintain and enhance a robust safety net to foster a resilient community and build a stronger economy."

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

Representative Yamashita continued, stating:

"Thank you. This includes mental health, health care for our disabled and *kīpuna*, biosecurity to protect our *āina* and natural resources, business and workforce development, child care and education, affordable housing, and public welfare. Preserving, maintaining, and enhancing these fundamental services are a priority of this budget. I ask my colleagues for support of this measure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I yield to the vice chair of Finance."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The House prioritizes funding our public schools and ensuring quality education for our *keiki*. House Bill 1800, HD 1 allocates the following funds to support education: \$14,925,959 for vice principal and educational assistant salary increases, \$12,931,380 for weighted student formula and English language learner communities, \$6 million for weighted student formula for small and remote schools, \$5 million for athletics, including coaches' salaries and transportation, \$413,915 for advanced placement exams, \$20,990,000 for summer learning programs, \$5 million for security, \$18,266,346 for bus services, and \$10 million for door lock replacements and door blockers. This funding will help to ensure that we build stronger, safer, and more resilient schools in our community. And I'd now like to yield to the representative from Waimea."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support this budget because it prioritizes quality education for our *keiki* as well as higher education. \$6 million invested into the Preschool Open Doors Program enhances educational opportunities for our youngest learners. \$1.64 million in mental health support for our youth underscores the House's commitment to addressing mental health needs. Allocating over \$22 million to Promise Program for University of Hawai'i ensures residents can access quality education locally and that our state can retain local talent. Additionally, the budget aims to restore pandemic-era cuts to UH. A hopeful step for our communities is seen in the \$1 million for JABSOM to expand healthcare access to underserved communities. And now I yield to the representative from Liliha."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support. Mr. Speaker, this budget also reflects that investing in mental health and overall health care for the well-being of our state remain a priority for the House majority, as we look to build safer, stronger, and more resilient communities. It includes over \$43 million committed to behavioral health, mental health services for both

youth and adults, and making all of these healthcare programs more accessible for the public to get the necessary support they need. The budget also reflects over \$11 million invested in additional healthcare sectors, including children with special needs, emergency medical services, family health services, and healthcare management. I now yield to my colleague from Moloka'i."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support. This budget bill provides \$2 million to address rural air transportation to assist residents in medically underserved rural islands with accessing care that is only available on urban islands. This will bring much needed relief to patients who face dire consequences when they're unable to reach their appointments because of frequent and last-minute flight changes and cancellations.

"This budget places substantial investments in prioritizing funding for wildfire prevention, fire protection resources, and post-fire restoration and rehabilitation for our state. Additionally, this budget provides important funding for issues affecting our environment, including funding for expanding hydrologic data collection, as well as funding to provide response capacity for little fire ants, which is a growing epidemic across our state. With that, I will yield to the representative from Waipahu."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support. This bill also prioritizes health care, cost of living, and Hawai'i's workforce. \$400,000 will be going to DAGS for menstrual products and dispensers in state buildings, which demonstrates the House's commitment to ensuring access to products and removing barriers for those who may not be able to afford it. And \$818,630 for positions for the Solar For All initiative in the Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority, which builds local jobs for our economy.

"Also appropriates \$50 million for the Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Revolving Fund, which demonstrates the House's commitment to clean energy and assist local families in lowering their energy bills. It also appropriates \$6 million for HTDC Accelerator, which empowers the growth of local businesses within the industries of manufacturing, technology, and beyond. And last but not least, \$15.5 million for home and community-based services. *Mahalo*."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support. I now have the honor to highlight some of the budgetary areas for the support of agriculture and our local food system here in Hawai'i. The House draft of the state budget addresses food security for our residents. It allocates \$2 million for the Da Bux double up double bucks program, which partners with food retailers across the state to make Hawai'i grown fruits and vegetables more affordable for low-income recipients of the federal food benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. It also allocates \$18 million for school meals for our *keiki*.

"Additionally, a key component of our budget is addressing biosecurity in our state to protect our *āina* and preserve the integrity of natural resources and our environment. That includes \$700,000 for system upgrades for the animal quarantine, animal information system, \$2,967,852 for positions for plant quarantine inspectors, \$1,490,112 for positions for a plant quarantine branch. Working with the Department of Agriculture, this funding helps redeploy special funds in order to address invasive species, including little fire ants, coconut rhinoceros beetle, coqui frogs, brown tree snakes, and more, which threaten our environment.

"The goal is to establish a multidimensional system to prevent the entry and movement of pests and prohibited or restricted organisms into the state and between the islands. So that's why moving from special funds for these 46 positions to A funds will help us use that special fund to allocate money to our much-needed biosecurity needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I yield my time to the representative from Nānākuli."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support. This budget is reflective of some of the highest needs and priorities of our residents in the State of Hawai'i. One of the biggest issues that constant constituents voice about is

traversing statewide roadways. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share that the state budget is a reflection of those concerns. The House draft of the state budget demonstrates our commitment to ensuring our roads and transportation infrastructure throughout the state is safe and reliable for our residents.

"At this time in the day and age of Hawai'i, we are not building, but we are having to repair and maintain important infrastructure to allow folks to traverse throughout the state. As the representative from Nānākūli, I see firsthand the investments that are made by the Department of Transportation to make the lives for the folks on the west side of O'ahu a better place.

"Mr. Speaker, \$3 million for routine maintenance on O'ahu highways and roadway safety maintenance services, \$1.25 million for Google Safety Analytics to help us collect data to develop strategies for ensuring safe roads, \$133 million that will be allocated to our well needed and deserved harbors. Mr. Speaker, \$826 million to our airports that are in desperate need of this funding, and almost \$500 million for our highways across the state.

"This budget is also reflective of a priority that has been made clear by families and students across the state, that they need a working group to create and task recommendations to handle and support our deaf and hard of hearing students across the state in our education system. Mr. Speaker, this budget is truly reflective of the priorities that have been raised by residents across the state, and I'm happy to rise in support. Mr. Speaker, at this time I'd like to yield to the representative from Mānoa."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Rising in strong support. Mr. Speaker, since the onset of the pandemic, and despite the best efforts of the prior deputy director of DHRD, vacancies throughout state agencies have persistently risen, resulting in numerous unfilled positions across the state. Furthermore, a recent report indicates that 30% of current state civil service employees will become eligible for retirement within the next five years.

"Mr. Speaker, the House draft of the state budget demonstrates our commitment to addressing these vacancies, examining strategies for retaining public workers amidst these retirements, and exploring recruitment approaches to attract high quality individuals to pursue a career in public service within the State of Hawai'i. Specifically, this draft includes \$826,000 to support the Department of Human Resources Development in recruiting, retaining, and training employees. It also includes \$2.2 million to support the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations in addressing unemployment insurance, and \$3.6 million to the Department of Education for work-based learning. With that, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to yield to the representative from Waipahu and Pearl City."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support. Mr. Speaker, Hawai'i's *kūpuna* population continues to grow, and more than ever, an increased workforce in the healthcare sector is needed to support this growing population. In this budget we are allocating \$400,000 to the Executive Office on Aging to support our *kūpuna* and over \$23 million for Medicaid in-home services. Additionally, in supporting the delivery of quality care for our residents and services for our vulnerable populations, we've committed \$3 million for mobile clinics, which will provide assistance and treatment to displaced individuals. At this time, I'd like to yield to the representative from Moanalua."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support. This year's state budget highlights the House investment in affordable housing and demonstrates our ongoing commitment to building more affordable rental and for sale housing for low- and moderate-income families in Hawai'i. This budget allocates \$15 million for the accessory dwelling unit revolving fund, \$150 million for the Rental Housing Revolving Fund, and over \$378,000 to add positions to the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

"Additionally, Mr. Speaker, the House continues to call for aquifer remediation and an integrated approach to resolving the water crisis. Immediate action needs to happen to ensure clean water now and in the future for Hawai'i residents, and this budget allocates \$750,000 to the Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the CIP chair."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to start by thanking you, Mr. Speaker, and the members of this body, for giving me the honor and privilege of being your CIP chair again this year. It's a duty that I don't take lightly. I try to work as hard as I can on it because I know how important it is to you and also to the state.

"I do want to thank, I've got to start by thanking the chair and vice chair of the Finance Committee. This has been a very tough budget year. Your guidance and your leadership in the committee has been invaluable, and I'm very thankful that the two of you are there. I want to thank the members of the Finance Committee. We have sat through countless hours of briefings and hearings, and through those briefings and hearings are why we are here today with this budget.

"The overarching theme for when we created this CIP budget was rebuilding. Rebuilding is a word that carries weight. It's one that speaks to resilience, determination, and the unwavering spirit of all our communities. So, as we worked on this budget, we always kept in mind that this is more than CIP, this is more than numbers. This is a reflection of the values of our community.

"There was no doubt that this was a tough budget year, and it was a tough CIP budget year, Mr. Speaker. The administration gave us a budget that was \$144 million in the red, it was unbalanced by \$144 million. Your CIP budget does not take into account the governor's messages that came down on March 5, because it was too late for us to include it. In the absence of guidance from the administration, your CIP committee had to make some very tough choices. And those tough choices were helped by the hard work and dedication of staff. And I really want to thank them for their hard work. First of all, Teru Okamoto is our session staffer who helped on CIP, if he could stand, Teru, and be recognized. Next is the irreplaceable Taylor Date, who handles members' CIP. Please stand to be recognized, Taylor. And finally, the guy that eats, sleeps, and dreams CIP budget, Heath Williams.

"So, Mr. Speaker, what's in the CIP budget? Let me go through some of the highlights. The budget includes \$40 million for critical agriculture infrastructure, mostly irrigational and reservoir systems. We allocated \$230 million to affordable housing. For the DOE budget, I know a lot of communities and a lot of members were very nervous about the proposed lapses of projects in their community. This is an area that we worked very hard on and gave a lot of thought to.

"In the absence of a needs assessment by the DOE, it really fell on legislators working with their communities, with their school principals, to figure out what our communities need. So, these projects that were proposed lapsed were critical projects to communities, and we heard from all of you legislators and all of the people in communities. So, this budget restores all the projects that were not completed and will lapse and reappropriate those projects for two years to give them a chance to go forward for the DOE to complete them.

"We also allocated \$42.5 million to a new mental health crisis unit at the state hospital. We allocated \$40 million for comprehensive child welfare information systems, \$28.9 million for renewable energy."

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

Representative Nishimoto continued, stating:

"\$28.3 million for the state parks. We significantly increased UH's budget system wide. We gave \$50 million in subsidies to the counties. And finally, we funded every single Lahaina-related CIP project that was in the administration's budget. Mr. Speaker, this CIP budget isn't about fixing what's broken, it's about laying the groundwork for a brighter future. I urge my colleagues to support this budget. Thank you."

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

"Mr. Speaker, I kept waiting for, I yield to the representative from Hawai'i Kai. But other than that, I have to insert myself now. I'm impressed, the first filibuster I've witnessed on this floor. Very well done. Except remember, this is only third reading in the House. We've got to deal with the Senate. The Senate is going to probably manipulate a few numbers, but I like the

confidence by which everyone spoke, like these are the numbers. Well, they're not the numbers.

"In support. I don't agree with all of it, and I've got a couple of things. First, the chair's staff did a super job. Even when we traveled to the Big Island, to Maui, they keep the numbers. The only difficulty is when I ask my staff to give me some numbers out of the budget, they say, give me the Da Vinci Code. Mr. Speaker, we still have a difficulty deciphering what's where and how, even inside if it's difficult, the public has an even more difficult time doing it.

"Having said that, one of my big issues is, we've been told that the Maui fires are going to cost us \$6 billion. This is a \$11.3 billion budget. We've got \$1 billion for Maui. Are we going to fall short of that? And my biggest concern is this, I don't see anything in the budget from the Maui fires lessons learned. We don't even know what the cause of the Maui fire is yet, let alone knowing what are the lessons learned. We have to plan ahead. I don't see that in the budget. I would have liked to have seen the AG's report, the FEMA report. I don't think any of that has been released. So, when we're going to plan proactively, we need to know ahead of time.

"The other thing I wanted to mention is probably the unkindest thing that we're doing to the people of Hawai'i is this cannabis task force, \$2.2 million. If we want to, as I spoke here on the floor before about numbing and dumbing down the people, this money is going to be used for, what I think is very naively, to take those in the black market. And by the way, the black market now is king of marijuana, 80% of even the medical marijuana people, 80% of every other sale is black market. This bill, giving the money to say, we're going to convert you guys, we're going to have a come to Jesus moment and we're going to make you legitimate growers of marijuana. It didn't happen in Colorado, it didn't happen in California, and the probability of these people being reformed and cleansed and washed and becoming legitimate growers is very, very, very remote.

"Having said that, Mr. Speaker, the bill has, I think, the best intentions. But remember, behind that is what the UH, UHERO people have said. We have an anemic economy. So, I don't think we can be too bold and robust in our bragging of what we've got here. There could even be something, for example, when the Japanese visitors don't come back because we have, within the Legislature, legalized recreational marijuana, they said, hey, we're out of here. That's a good third of the tourism budget. So, we have to be very careful with that, Mr. Speaker.

"Having said that, it's a good budget. We're on our way, but hopefully there's not going to be any dislocations in the near future. Thank you. Or I have anybody to yield to, I let that be left up to them."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With reservations. So, I'd like to thank the chair of Finance, the vice chair, the CIP chair, and all the staff with regards to this bill. It's a wonderful bill with many wonderful qualities. A lot of good stuff going on for education. The main concern I have is for cannabis. I have a note here that says, statewide multimedia campaign to provide information related to cannabis use and misuses. And that's a potential budget item for \$2.2 million. That's concerning for me, I don't think we should be putting money towards that, if we will do that. So, I'll be voting with reservations."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and H.B. No. 1800, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET," passed Third Reading by a vote of 47 ayes, with Representative Pierick voting aye with reservations, and with Representative Alcos, Amato, Ganaden, and Quinlan being excused.

At 1:08 p.m., the Chair noted that the following bill passed Third Reading:

H.B. No. 1800, HD 1

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The following measures were referred to committee by the Speaker:

<u>H.R.</u> <u>Nos.</u>	<u>Referred to:</u>
68	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Finance
69	Committee on Water & Land
70	Committee on Housing
71	Committee on Housing
72	Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
73	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Finance
74	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
75	Committee on Human Services, then to the Committee on Finance
76	Committee on Water & Land
77	Committee on Water & Land
78	Committee on Human Services, then to the Committee on Finance
79	Committee on Water & Land
80	Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs
81	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Finance
82	Committee on Human Services, then to the Committee on Finance
83	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance
84	Committee on Education, then to the Committee on Finance
85	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance
86	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
87	Jointly to the Committee on Water & Land and the Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans, then to the Committee on Finance
88	Committee on Transportation, then to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
89	Committee on Transportation, then to the Committee on Finance
90	Committee on Housing, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
91	Committee on Finance
92	Committee on Transportation, then to the Committee on Finance
93	Committee on Education
94	Committee on Economic Development, then to the Committee on Finance
95	Committee on Education, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
96	Committee on Human Services, then to the Committee on Finance
97	Committee on Health & Homelessness, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
98	Jointly to the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Health & Homelessness, then to the Committee on Finance
99	Committee on Housing, then to the Committee on Finance
100	Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

101	Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, then to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce	99	Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, then to the Committee on Finance
102	Committee on Housing, then to the Committee on Finance	100	Committee on Housing, then to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
103	Committee on Finance	101	Committee on Human Services, then to the Committee on Finance
104	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Finance	102	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance
106	Committee on Health & Homelessness, then to the Committee on Finance	103	Committee on Education, then to the Committee on Finance
107	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs	104	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance
108	Committee on Education	105	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
109	Committee on Education	106	Jointly to the Committee on Water & Land and the Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans, then to the Committee on Finance
110	Committee on Education	107	Committee on Transportation, then to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
111	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance	108	Committee on Transportation, then to the Committee on Finance
112	Committee on Housing, then to the Committee on Finance	109	Committee on Housing, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
113	Committee on Health & Homelessness, then to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce	110	Committee on Finance
114	Committee on Transportation, then to the Committee on Finance	111	Committee on Transportation, then to the Committee on Finance
115	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Finance	112	Committee on Education
116	Committee on Transportation, then to the Committee on Finance	113	Committee on Economic Development, then to the Committee on Finance
117	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs	114	Committee on Education, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
118	Committee on Education, then to the Committee on Finance	115	Committee on Human Services, then to the Committee on Finance
119	Committee on Legislative Management, then to the Committee on Finance	116	Committee on Health & Homelessness, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
120	Committee on Housing, then to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce	117	Jointly to the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Health & Homelessness, then to the Committee on Finance
121	Jointly to the Committee on Housing and the Committee on Water & Land	118	Committee on Housing, then to the Committee on Finance
122	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Finance	119	Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
<u>H.C.R.</u>		120	Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, then to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
<u>Nos.</u>	<u>Referred to:</u>	121	Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
82	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Finance	122	Committee on Housing, then to the Committee on Finance
83	Committee on Water & Land	123	Committee on Finance
84	Committee on Housing	124	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Finance
85	Committee on Housing	125	Committee on Health & Homelessness, then to the Committee on Finance
86	Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce	126	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
87	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Finance	127	Committee on Education
88	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs	128	Committee on Education
89	Committee on Housing, then to the Committee on Finance	129	Committee on Education
90	Committee on Education	130	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance
91	Committee on Human Services, then to the Committee on Finance	131	Committee on Housing, then to the Committee on Finance
92	Committee on Water & Land	132	Committee on Health & Homelessness, then to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
93	Committee on Water & Land	133	Committee on Transportation, then to the Committee on Finance
94	Committee on Human Services, then to the Committee on Finance		
95	Committee on Water & Land		
96	Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs		
97	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Finance		
98	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Finance		

- 134 Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Finance
- 135 Committee on Transportation, then to the Committee on Finance
- 136 Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
- 137 Committee on Education, then to the Committee on Finance
- 138 Committee on Legislative Management, then to the Committee on Finance
- 139 Committee on Housing, then to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
- 140 Jointly to the Committee on Housing and the Committee on Water & Land

COMMITTEE REASSIGNMENTS

The following measures were re-referred to committee by the Speaker:

S.B.

Nos. Re-referred to:

- 2487, Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
SD1
- 2997, Jointly to the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
SD2 and the Committee on Water & Land, then jointly to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce and the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance

ADJOURNMENT

At 1:09 p.m., on motion by Representative Morikawa, seconded by Representative Garcia and carried, the House of Representatives adjourned until noon tomorrow, Thursday, March 14, 2024. (Representatives Alcos, Amato, and Ganaden were excused.)