

THIRTY-THIRD DAY

Friday, March 15, 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 Speaker Saiki presiding.

The invocation was delivered by Representative Jackson D. Sayama, after which the Roll was called showing all members present with the exception of Representatives Ganaden, Gates, and Quinlan, who were excused.

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

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGES

The following message from the Governor (Gov. Msg. No. 1102) was received and announced by the Clerk and was placed on file:

Gov. Msg. No. 1102, informing the House that on March 14, 2024, the following bill was signed into law:

H.B. No. 2520, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE LEGISLATURE, THE AUDITOR, THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU, THE OMBUDSMAN, AND THE ETHICS COMMISSION." (ACT 002)

INTRODUCTIONS

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

Representative Lowen introduced Jeff Boehm from The Marine Mammal Center in California.

Representative Cochran introduced guests participating in Ocean Awareness and Action Day: Tapani Vuori and Michael Takamura from Maui Ocean Center; Aunty Tweetie and the Lind family from Kīpahulu 'Ohana; Emily Fielding, Scott Crawford, and Alana Yurkanin from The Nature Conservancy; and Jana August.

Representative Belatti introduced Stevenson Middle School 8th graders: Cyrus Tang, Lam Nhi, Christopher Li, Farhan Shams, Jackson Wheeler, Bryan Gushiken, Brian Nakai, Leila Song, Cyrell Tuazon, Joshua Walter, Ava Badiable, Olivia deNeuve, A-Fitfon Fiti, Isaiah Hasegawa, Zaylee Hunziker, Suzuko Kawaguchi, Skyler Ma, Aruhn Salmer Narruhn, Jing Cheng Ni, Curtis Ortiz, Uriah Paopao, Haliaka Rattley, Nanami Yano, Reika Birn, Alonzo Chavez, Kelly Mae Daculiat, Preston Harada, Mia Hudson, Kayla Kakesako, Shilho Kane, Emily Lau, Seamus Murphy, Ashley Rimarim, Jacquelyn Tucker, Kiara Keopuhiwa-Siracusa, Jemalie Sieberg-Palalay, and Baily Pascual-Tabuyo; and teachers: Dr. Andrea-Bernadette Pratt, Marcus Shinbo, Darren Serra, and Nicole Amano.

Representative Sayama introduced his staff: J. Kimo Barrus, Ashley Yoshikawa, and Evelyn Hee; and Representative Nakashima's staff: Lori Hasegawa, Victoria Tan, Pam Seeney, Naomi Wong, and Lorelei Metzger; and his partner, Agnes Santiano.

At 12:10 p.m., the Chair declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The House of Representatives reconvened at 12:25 p.m., with Vice Speaker Ilagan presiding.

ORDER OF THE DAY

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Representative Tam, for the Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1106-24) recommending that S.B. No. 3281, 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. 3281, SD 2, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

Representative Kahaloa 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. 3281, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CULTURE AND THE ARTS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representative Kahaloa voting aye with reservations, with Representative Holt voting no, and with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Perruso, for the Committee on Higher Education & Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1107-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2937, SD 1, 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. 2937, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ACCESS TO LEARNING," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Perruso, for the Committee on Higher Education & Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1108-24) recommending that S.B. No. 3191, SD 1, 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. 3191, SD 1, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Amato 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. 3191, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representative Amato voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Gates, for the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1109-24) recommending that S.B. No. 3365, SD 2 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. 3365, SD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PLANT CARE COMPONENTS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Gates, for the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1110-24) recommending that S.B. No. 3237, SD 2, 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 S.B. No. 3237, SD 2, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Pierick rose and asked that the Clerk record a no vote for him, 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 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 Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3237, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, with Representatives Amato and Perruso voting aye with reservations, with Representative Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Gates, for the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1111-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2500, SD 2, 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. 2500, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Gates, for the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1112-24) recommending that S.B. No. 572, 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. 572, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1113-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2072, SD 1, 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 S.B. No. 2072, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1114-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2257, SD 3, 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 S.B. No. 2257, SD 3, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1115-24) recommending that S.B. No. 3087, SD 1, 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 S.B. No. 3087, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1116-24) recommending that S.B. No. 3091, SD 2, 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 S.B. No. 3091, SD 2, 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."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3091, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR FOOD SERVICES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1117-24) recommending that S.B. No. 3092, SD 2, 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 S.B. No. 3092, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Woodson, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1118-24) recommending that S.B. No. 3207, SD 2, 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 S.B. No. 3207, SD 2, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

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

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

"No vote, brief comment please. So, as we discussed in the hearing on this measure, this measure is objectionable and I oppose this measure because it removes the cap on the superintendent salary when we just created two additional positions, very highly paid positions in the Department of Education, to support the superintendent's work. And I think that this flies in the face of what we're trying to do around fiscal accountability. And so, I urge members to vote no on this measure."

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

"In opposition, brief comment. I wanted to say, my opposition is in regards to there being no cap. I think that if the bill is modified to keep the \$250,000 limit and not have that sunset, I think I'd be in favor of it. Thank you."

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

"A no vote, please. And may the remarks from the representative from Wahiawā be entered into the Journal as my own please, if she'll agree with it," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"In strong support, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. In 2014, the Legislature passed a proposal that increased the superintendent's cap from \$150,000 to \$250,000 annually. And included in that proposal was a provision that said that the superintendent shall be evaluated annually. That has been a benefit.

"That act has a sunset date of July 1, 2024. And so, unfortunately, if we do not pass this bill, then that means that not only will the superintendent's cap decrease to \$150,000, but it would have compounding impacts because there are complementing provisions that say that assistant superintendents, complex area superintendents, their cap is proportionate to the superintendents. So, inadvertently, we would have to actually decrease the salaries of our complex area superintendents, that would have a cascading impact of potentially decreasing the salaries of our principals and vice principals across the state. That is concerning to me.

"If you take a look at what is the comparable salary for superintendents across the country for similar school district sizes, the average amount is about \$356,000. And so, if you recall this last round, we had challenges having individuals that were attracted to that very challenging position. Superintendent Hayashi was very gracious and has, in my mind, done a good job with setting us on the proper trajectory to increased learning outcomes over time.

"And so, the proposal as it stands right now, it actually does not increase the cap. What it does is it says that the Board of Education shall establish a cap for the superintendent. That's fair. There is a public process that the board has to go through to do that, and it will allow them to have additional flexibility. And so, because of the compounding impacts it would have if we didn't pass this bill, because we need to make sure that we're attracting talent to that position, I humbly ask my colleagues to support this proposal. Thank you."

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

Representative Amato rose, stating:

"I'd like to change my vote to reservations, please."

Representative Ward rose to respond, stating:

"Second time in opposition, Mr. Speaker. One thing we have to remember, it's not about the money, it's about performance. I mean, half of our kids can't even read at the third-grade level, they can't do math. I would say, let's give the guy \$1 million if we become the best in the nation for our students. But we are rewarding mediocrity by the way that this bill does it. And we shouldn't do that. We are not performing as we should. We got really smart kids in our communities, but they're not getting the value of what the educational system should offer them. So, we're offering higher wages to somebody who's doing a bad job. Thank you."

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

"In opposition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to address a few things. With regards to comparable salary and how, if that's the motivation to vote yes in favor of this bill, there's a mayor in Texas who makes only \$1 a year, and so with regards to, we have to have a salary that's equal to other places, there's other places that make very little money when you have an executive position. I believe also the lieutenant governor of Texas is about like \$1 or something very small. And it's a very prestigious position, has lots of responsibility, but the income is very low. And it's, you're wanting to attract servant leaders, not necessarily people that are looking for the money. Side note, I got a pay decrease getting this job.

"With regards to a ratio-based salary for the assistant superintendent and the complex area superintendent, we can change that law. We don't necessarily have to increase the superintendent's salary in order to help their salary. Let's just change the law that says their salaries can be more similar.

And then with regards to attracting a good superintendent for a big salary, many people want to be the superintendent. I can give a list of names who would be happy to apply. So, I don't think that's the main crux of the issue.

"I'm not in favor of paying the superintendent more. I know this bill doesn't directly do that, but it indirectly does that by unleashing a cap. And so, if teachers are making not a lot of money and the community is saying, let's pay teachers more, I think let's focus more energy on that versus having one executive potentially make \$300,000 a year."

Representative Perruso rose to respond, stating:

"Second time, in opposition. So, I deeply appreciate the work that the chair on Education has done on this measure, and I really appreciate the concerns and the way that this problem is being tackled. I think that I still have deep reservations about deferring to the Board of Education and giving them additional power around salaries, because the Board of Education is not elected. And so, there is very little public control or even public influence over the Board of Education, a problem that's really evident when the public tries to agendize their issues concerning public education on the Board of Education agenda.

"And so, I think that given that distance from the public, that buffering from the public, it's really important that we maintain oversight and some control over what's happening with salaries, because should a situation arise in which there's an overly cozy relationship between the Board of Education and the superintendent, I think that the public would suffer. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, in strong support. The residents of Hawai'i voted to make the Board of Education not elected. We used to have an elected Board of Education. We passed a constitutional amendment to take that away from the voters, and the voters decided to do that. So, I think the voters felt like an appointed board of education would be much more effective than one that was elected. And many of those people got elected year after year because nobody wanted to run.

"The other issue I wanted to bring up is, education in Hawai'i is the most critical issue for our young kids, and we're not willing to appropriately consider paying the superintendent, who has a responsibility over 180,000 of our kids in Hawai'i, a salary that people would consider to be an appropriate salary to hire possibly the brightest and the best. But we are willing to pay coaches for the University of Hawai'i way beyond \$250,000, just so we can have a successful sports team. So, with that, I am in strong support of this measure. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3207, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Amato, Hussey-Burdick, and Tam voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Garcia, Kapela, Matayoshi, Perruso, Pierick, Souza, and Ward voting no, and with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Marten, for the Committee on Human Services, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1119-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2305, 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. 2305, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MISSING PERSONS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan 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. 1120-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2885, SD 2, 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

S.B. No. 2885, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1121-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2819, SD 1, 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. 2819, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRAFFIC SAFETY," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Ichiyama, for the Committee on Water & Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1122-24) recommending that S.B. No. 3327, SD 1, 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. 3327, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Ichiyama, for the Committee on Water & Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1123-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2143, SD 1, 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 S.B. No. 2143, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Ichiyama, for the Committee on Water & Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1124-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2502, SD 2, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Higher Education & Technology.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.B. No. 2502, SD 2, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Higher Education & Technology, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Pierick 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 S.B. No. 2502, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE GENERATION OF WILDFIRE SUSCEPTIBILITY MAPS FOR HAWAII," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Higher Education & Technology, with Representative Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1125-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2683, SD 1, 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 S.B. No. 2683, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DEFAMATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1126-24) recommending that S.B. No. 3109, SD 1, 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 S.B. No. 3109, SD 1, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support with a very, very brief comment. Having had the honor of being on the watchdog committee of the Hawaiian Homes, \$600 million, I'm not sure if it's been reported yet, but there's going to be almost 5,000 people taken off the waitlist of the 28,000 people because of this bill. I mean, because of the \$600 million. This bill just says, in case you don't encumber all that money, which, by the way, the great work of Kali Watson, he's encumbered that and even more money.

"So, the good news is, this is a failsafe, just in case some of that encumbered may slip, this will give him more time to spend the money. But the point is, the money's been well spent, and 5,000 Hawaiians are going to get leases because of that. That is very good news, and that's why I'm very in strong support of this. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 3109, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1127-24) recommending that S.B. No. 3176, SD 1, 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 S.B. No. 3176, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TAX ENFORCEMENT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1128-24) recommending that S.B. No. 3363, SD 2, 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 S.B. No. 3363, SD 2, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Souza rose and asked that the Clerk record a no vote 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 S.B. No. 3363, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Kapela voting aye with reservations, with Representative Souza voting no, and with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Nakashima, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1129-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2112, 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

S.B. No. 2112, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INSTALLMENT LOANS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Nakashima, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1130-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2132, SD 1, 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. 2132, SD 1, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Pierick 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 S.B. No. 2132, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD-TENANT CODE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representative Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Nakashima, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1131-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2404, SD 1, 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. 2404, SD 1, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

Representative Kong 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."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2404, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONDOMINIUMS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representative Hussey-Burdick voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Kong and Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Nakashima, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1132-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2600, 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 S.B. No. 2600, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONDOMINIUMS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Nakashima, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1133-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2959, SD 1, 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 S.B. No. 2959, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Labor & Government Operations, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1134-24) recommending that S.B. No. 578, SD 3, 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. 578, SD 3, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO GOVERNMENT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Labor & Government Operations, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1135-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2351, 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. 2351, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Labor & Government Operations, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1136-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2516, SD 2, 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. 2516, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Belatti, for the Committee on Health & Homelessness, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1137-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2556, 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. 2556, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH COURT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representatives Belatti and Marten, for the Committee on Health & Homelessness and the Committee on Human Services, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1138-24) recommending that S.B. No. 3290, SD 2, 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 S.B. No. 3290, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representatives Lowen and Perruso, for the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection and the Committee on Higher Education & Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1139-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2504, SD 2 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 S.B. No. 2504, SD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO STATE PROGRAMS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the

Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Lowen, for the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1140-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2677, SD 2, 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. 2677, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Lowen, for the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1141-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2770, 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. 2770, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representatives Belatti and Marten, for the Committee on Health & Homelessness and the Committee on Human Services, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1142-24) recommending that S.B. No. 3139, 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 Committees was adopted and S.B. No. 3139, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CRISIS SERVICES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representatives Belatti and Marten, for the Committee on Health & Homelessness and the Committee on Human Services, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1143-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2285, SD 2, 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 Committees be adopted, and that S.B. No. 2285, SD 2, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, 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."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committees was adopted and S.B. No. 2285, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE STATE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, with Representatives Garcia and Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representatives Ichiyama and Evslyn, for the Committee on Water & Land and the Committee on Housing, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1144-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2836, 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 Committees was adopted and S.B. No. 2836, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING

TO MAUI'S PERMANENT HOUSING RECOVERY," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representatives Ichiyama and Lowen, for the Committee on Water & Land and the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1145-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2922, SD 2, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred jointly to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce and the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committees be adopted, and that S.B. No. 2922, SD 2, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred jointly to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce and the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Amato 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 S.B. No. 2922, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES," passed Second Reading and was referred jointly to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce and the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representative Amato voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Evslyn, for the Committee on Housing, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1146-24) recommending that S.B. No. 3332, SD 2, 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 S.B. No. 3332, SD 2, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Pierick 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 S.B. No. 3332, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EVICTION MEDIATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, with Representative Pierick voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Evslyn, for the Committee on Housing, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1147-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2044, SD 2, 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 S.B. No. 2044, SD 2, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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 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 expands the conveyance tax to different transactions. Hawai'i has some of the highest taxes in the nation. I'm not in favor of expanding conveyance tax."

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

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 Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2044, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE CONTROLLING INTEREST TRANSFER TAX," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, with Representatives Alcos, Matsumoto, and Ward voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Garcia and Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representatives Lowen and Ichiyama, for the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection and the Committee on Water & Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1148-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2322, SD 1, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Health & Homelessness.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committees was adopted and S.B. No. 2322, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WATER QUALITY," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Health & Homelessness, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representatives Lowen and Ichiyama, for the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection and the Committee on Water & Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1149-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2997, SD 2, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred jointly to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce and the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committees be adopted, and that S.B. No. 2997, SD 2, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred jointly to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce and the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Amato 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 S.B. No. 2997, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES," passed Second Reading and was referred jointly to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce and the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representative Amato voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representatives Lowen and Ichiyama, for the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection and the Committee on Water & Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1150-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2513, SD 2, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Higher Education & Technology.

Representative Nakamura moved that the report of the Committees be adopted, and that S.B. No. 2513, SD 2, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Higher Education & Technology, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Pierick 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 Committees was adopted and S.B. No. 2513, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WASTEWATER SYSTEMS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Higher Education & Technology, with Representative Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representatives Lowen and Ichiyama, for the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection and the Committee on Water & Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1151-24) recommending that S.B. No. 3285,

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 Committees was adopted and S.B. No. 3285, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representatives Lowen and Ichiyama, for the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection and the Committee on Water & Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1152-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2518, SD 2, 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 Committees be adopted, and that S.B. No. 2518, SD 2, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Hussey-Burdick rose and asked that the Clerk record a no vote 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 Perruso rose and asked that the Clerk record a no vote 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 Committees was adopted and S.B. No. 2518, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO GEOTHERMAL ENERGY EXPLORATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, with Representatives Amato and Kapela voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Hussey-Burdick and Perruso voting no, and with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Belatti, for the Committee on Health & Homelessness, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1153-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2605, SD 2, 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 S.B. No. 2605, SD 2, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, 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 Ward rose and asked that the Clerk record an aye vote with reservations 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 Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2605, SD 2, 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 Garcia, Perruso, and Ward voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Belatti, for the Committee on Health & Homelessness, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1154-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2837, SD 2, 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. 2837, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING

TO THE OAHU REGIONAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Belatti, for the Committee on Health & Homelessness, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1155-24) recommending that S.B. No. 3128, SD 2, 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. 3128, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ACT 212, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2021," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Quinlan, for the Committee on Tourism, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1156-24) recommending that S.B. No. 3006, SD 2, 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 S.B. No. 3006, SD 2, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Strong support, Mr. Speaker. This bill gives naming rights for the convention center, something that we should have done long ago. And you know I've preached too many times on this floor about the stadium, the Aloha Stadium, should be named because there are thousands and millions of dollars waiting to be put up on the marquee to allow us to have less taxpayers' money and more people for naming rights. So, I think they're doing the right thing on the convention center. I just don't like the fact that the roof leaks so much and a lot of the money that we save, we push through because of the water factor.

"But otherwise, this is a good bill. We're finally getting a little bit entrepreneurial. I often accuse the state of being not very innovative or creative. Naming rights should have been done from the get-go, but I hope that this bill will spill over for the naming rights of the, hopefully in Hālawā, new stadium, not at the University of Hawai'i, but I know I'm getting off course with that one. Thank you."

Representative Perruso rose and asked that the Clerk record a no vote 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. 3006, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE CONVENTION CENTER," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Amato and Hussey-Burdick voting aye with reservations, with Representative Perruso voting no, and with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Quinlan, for the Committee on Tourism, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1157-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2659, SD 1, 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 S.B. No. 2659, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO REGENERATIVE TOURISM," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representative Quinlan, for the Committee on Tourism, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1158-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2406, SD 1, 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 S.B. No. 2406, SD 1, 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 Amato rose and asked that the Clerk record an aye vote with reservations for her, 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 Tam rose and asked that the Clerk record an aye vote with reservations for him, and the Chair "so ordered."

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

Representative Kong 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 a no vote for her, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Garcia rose and asked that the Clerk record an aye vote with reservations 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."

Representative Hussey-Burdick rose to respond, stating:

"Sorry, can I just make a brief comment on my reservations. As a matter of procedure, I have a hard time voting in support of a bill that has zero testimony in support. It just feels like we're not really doing the work of the people. Thank you."

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 S.B. No. 2406, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Alcos, Amato, Garcia, Hussey-Burdick, Matsumoto, and Tam voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Kapela, Kong, Perruso, and Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representatives Tamas and Gates, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs and the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1159-24) recommending that S.B. No. 2461, SD 2, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Health & Homelessness.

On motion by Representative Nakamura, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committees was adopted and S.B. No. 2461, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MEDICAL CANNABIS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Health & Homelessness, with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

Representatives Tamas and Gates, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs and the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1160-24) recommending that S.B. No. 3335, SD 2, 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 Committees be adopted, and that S.B. No. 3335, SD 2, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be

referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand in support of this legislation. This bill is a reasonable, moderate, and measured approach to regulating the legal use of cannabis by adults in Hawai'i. I want to acknowledge the diligent efforts of the Attorney General's Office and the hard work of my own staff in the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee, members of the Senate.

"Together, we have worked to identify the best practices utilized in other states which have legalized adult use of cannabis. And we tailored the provisions to Hawai'i's unique legal, statutory, and societal context. The Senate considered the measure, made useful amendments, and your Committees on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs and Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems heard this measure and made additional amendments to the bill, which strengthen provisions to address concerns brought up by members of this body.

"This legislation, as crafted originally by the attorney general, has six main themes to it, or pillars. The enacting of the Hawai'i cannabis law, a legal safe harbor from state criminal prosecution concerning activities relating to cannabis for those who strictly comply with its provisions. Second, the creation of a robust independent body, the Hawai'i cannabis and hemp authority, with the power to regulate all aspects of the cannabis plant, whether it's medical use cannabis, non-medical adult use, or hemp, in accordance with the Hawai'i cannabis law.

"Third, the continuing role of law enforcement agencies in addressing illegal cannabis operations not acting in accordance with the Hawai'i cannabis law, which pose threats to public order, public health, and business operators who choose to operate in the legal market. Number four, a vibrant, well-funded social equity program to be implemented by the Hawai'i cannabis and hemp authority with the intent to bring greater economic opportunity to disadvantaged regions of the state and to help transition formerly illicit operators into the legal market.

"Number five, a delayed effective date of approximately 18 months for the legalization of non-medical adult-use cannabis and the first legal retail sales to allow the Hawai'i cannabis and hemp authority, law enforcement, licensees, and the public to prepare. And number six, the implementation of extensive, well-funded public health protections, including a public health and education campaign to inform the public about the new laws, the continuing risks to public health, especially to children, posed by cannabis, and financial assistance for public health services such as addiction and substance use treatment.

"So, the purpose of this act is to establish the Hawai'i cannabis and hemp authority, cannabis and hemp control board, and cannabis and hemp control implementation advisory committee. Also to establish laws for the cultivation, manufacture, sale, and personal adult use of cannabis. It amends or repeals existing laws relating to cannabis, including hemp. It establishes taxes for adult-use cannabis and medical use cannabis sales. It establishes the legalization of the possession of certain amounts of cannabis for individuals who are at least 21 years old beginning January 1, 2026. It transfers the personnel and assets of the Department of Health and assets of the Department of Agriculture relating to cannabis and hemp to the Hawai'i cannabis and hemp authority. And finally, this measure provides certainty for hemp farmers, support for small hemp farmers and industrial hemp projects, and effectively regulates hemp-derived cannabinoid products that may pose a danger to public health or public safety.

"This is a carefully crafted measure that I hope addresses the concerns of the members of this body, and I urge members to support it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In opposition. I'd first like to start off by thanking the Judiciary and Agriculture Committees for their work on this bill, as I know the bill is very long, over 300 pages, and the hearing on Wednesday lasted for many hours. However, I am in strong opposition to

this bill, which would legalize marijuana. And I'd like to highlight just a few of the reasons for my opposition today.

"In Wednesday's joint committee hearing, it was evident that the majority of organizations and individuals who testified were in opposition to this bill. The prosecuting attorneys for the City and County of Honolulu and Maui County, as well as the Honolulu, Hawai'i County, Maui County, and Kaua'i County police departments, testified in strong opposition to this bill. The Department of Law Enforcement, the Department of Health, and the Department of Education also submitted testimony sharing serious concerns with this measure. The Attorney General's Office submitted comments on this measure, however, they noted during the hearing that the attorney general does not support the legalization of adult use of cannabis.

"I'd also like to highlight that there were a total of 221 testimonies submitted for this bill on Wednesday's hearing. Of the 221 testimonies, 61 or approximately 28% were in support, 44 had comments, but many of those comments included concerns, and 116 testimonies were in opposition. In addition, there were two community petitions submitted in testimony, which shared opposition to this bill. A total of 525 people signed on to those two petitions in opposition. Clearly, the majority of testifiers are in opposition to the legalization of marijuana.

"Supporters of legalization of marijuana will often reference a Star Advertiser poll that was previously conducted, in which the results showed that 58% of the population are in support of the legalization of marijuana. I'd like to share a little more details about this poll. This poll was conducted in July of 2022 and surveyed 800 registered Hawai'i voters with a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5%. The question was asked, do you support or oppose the legalization of recreational marijuana to generate tax revenue for the state? Let me repeat that question again. Do you support or oppose the legalization of recreational marijuana to generate tax revenue for the state?"

"The question was not simply, do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana, but it in fact asked people if their support or opposition to legalization was based upon the generation of tax revenue for the state. Many people believe that legalization will help to generate millions of dollars for our state, which can be used to address the many concerns that we have, such as funding for education, reducing homelessness, or helping to support our families in need. This bill does not, in fact, generate tax revenue for the state that can be used in the way that community members assume and think it should be used. The Department of Taxation provided testimony that this bill would, in fact, decrease the general fund by \$1 million in its first year and \$2.5 million each year thereafter.

"I would like to note, however, that this bill does create two special funds which evenly splits any proceeds from the tax on cannabis. The first special fund is the cannabis regulation, nuisance abatement, and law enforcement special fund, and the second special fund is the cannabis social equity, public health and education, and public safety special fund. However, both of these special funds do not designate funding to address any current community concerns, such as funding public education or other support services. This bill does none of that.

"The programs that are funded through this bill's two special funds are simply programs created to operate the cannabis program and address any possible and new concerns that will arise because of the legalization of marijuana. Even though a community grant program is included in this bill, it will not help to address our statewide issues that I just mentioned or the issues that community members assume will be fixed through any possible revenue generation.

"Mr. Speaker, there are so many other reasons why I oppose this bill and believe that this is the wrong direction we are headed towards as a state. But I will end by saying this. We are fooling ourselves to think that this bill will not have a negative impact on our youth, our families, or our communities. Even though this bill states that legalization is for adult use only, for those 21 years and older, it is unrealistic for us to believe that legalization will not increase access for youth or underage use of marijuana.

"Alcohol use, smoking, and vaping are all adult-use products for individuals who are 21 years or older, but we are facing one of the worst youth vaping epidemics in the nation. If we can't control youth vaping, what makes us think we can control access to and use of marijuana for our youth?"

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting no on this measure. Thank you very much."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In opposition. I want to piggyback on some of what the previous speaker said about finances, which I think is kind of the low hanging fruit reason to vote against this bill. This bill will cost approximately \$39 million in its first year alone, it's not expected to generate any net tax revenue. And honestly, we're fronting that \$39 million in a year where we are well in the red. I mean, in the year where we are talking about possible government furloughs, in the year where we are talking about cutting government programs, we're going to have to front \$39 million across the board for this bill and hopefully get some of that back in tax revenue. I don't think this is the year for us to be trying that sort of experiment.

"Another point that I'd like to make in opposition is the seeming boom in the black market for states that have legalized recreational marijuana. One of the arguments I always hear in favor of legalizing marijuana is that it will get rid of the black market, that because it's legal and you can buy it everywhere, that there's going to be no reason to have the black market anymore. Yet this bill imposes significant restrictions, which I agree with, and licensure and regulations in making sure that a legal marijuana industry is safe.

"The black market doesn't have to abide by any of that. The black market doesn't pay taxes. The black market doesn't have any regulations on safety or control. And that same marijuana that's going to be sold, you can't really tell whether it was grown legally or illegally once it's in someone's pocket. So, the black market in other states that have legalized this have undercut the legal market. The legal guys want to do it fairly and legally and pay their taxes, which I can respect. But the black market can sell it for a cheaper price because they're not regulated, it's not subject to tax. And because of the normalization of legalizing marijuana, more people are willing to purchase it from the black market, from shadier sources. Because, again, once that marijuana is in your pocket, there's really no real way for us to tell whether that marijuana was purchased legally or illegally. So, I think if we do this in Hawai'i, the black market will undercut the legal market and we will see decreased tax revenues than what's projected.

"The danger to our society too is, I mean just the physical danger to our society from driving impaired is also going to increase if we legalize marijuana. Though the Prosecutor's Office pointed out that in a study done of Idaho and Oregon, once Oregon had legalized marijuana, cannabis impaired driving in the Rocky Mountains area post legalization starkly rose. And in a year where our own Speaker of the House has led the fight in regulating and trying to reduce the fatalities and accidents from driving without a license, I think that this is not the right time to now introduce another substance which could impair driving. I think that we're going in the wrong direction with that, given the direction that we're going with the driving without a license bills.

"The impact on tourism I think cannot be understated. I think every single person in this room has sign waved at one point or another, probably excessively. And we've all had that car drive past us, and it just hits you right in the face. Someone's smoking cannabis, and that smell really carries. When I'm taking my kids down to the aquarium in Waikīkī, it just kind of strikes you. And I'll look around, and I can't even see the person smoking, but I know it's around, the smell is just so strong and it carries.

"I understand that there are proposals to keep it out of Waikīkī, keep it out of high tourism areas. But that will require a massive crackdown and I don't think that law enforcement has the, frankly, the personnel in order to do that. And I think that that's going to lead to just a lot more arrests and a lot more people in jail, which I don't think that the introducers of this bill intended.

"Speaking of law enforcement and not having enough people, this bill requires a fairly large number of law enforcement officers to be hired to regulate this industry. Which, again, I think is the right direction to go if the state is to do this, I appreciate the Judiciary chair's efforts in making sure that there is a robust law enforcement division and branch to regulate this industry, were we to legalize it. But we just don't have the people. We're already short how many officers? If we're to put this up, and even if it's

delayed 18 months, if we can't hire and fill all those positions, which as the Labor chair, let me tell you, it's not an easy task to do."

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

Representative Matayoshi continued, stating:

"Thank you. So, if we can't fill these positions, we're going to have to take the officers elsewhere. Well, we either have two choices. We can take the officers from elsewhere, and we're going to have even fewer officers on the crimes currently plaguing our communities, or we're going to have to try to do this legalized marijuana with fewer officers in the marijuana division, which I think is going to lead to disastrous results. So, I don't think there's a good way out of that situation, unfortunately.

"And my last point I just want to leave you with is, it's still federally illegal. There's an effort on the federal level to move it from a Schedule I to a Schedule III drug. That's not making it legal, you still need a prescription for Schedule III drugs. And, okay, I'm not going to opine on what schedule drug marijuana belongs in. But as long as it's federally illegal, we, by legalizing it here on a state level, put ourselves at the mercy of whichever president and whichever party is in control of the federal government at the time. And I do not want to subject our state to that kind of uncertainty, ever. Thank you."

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

"Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition. My opposition is based on public health concerns. Most of you don't know that I've sat on the Health Committee almost continuously during my entire career, including serving as chair of the Senate Health Committee for eight years. This legalization of marijuana is a public health disaster. First of all, it is a powerful, mind-altering hallucinate and intoxicant, which alters the brain, especially amongst young people up until their mid-20s or so, as the brain develops until that age. It produces, among other things, all kinds of psychological and psychic disorders including schizophrenia, depression, hallucination, lack of motivation. This is especially so amongst young people.

"Its effect on driving is dramatic. Driving is a zero-error activity. But marijuana impairs perception, vision, motor coordination, and makes people vulnerable to less attention. In the State of Washington, marijuana driving deaths double in the one year after legalization. In Colorado, one out of every eight traffic fatalities are marijuana related. Suffice to say that, marijuana also has other unintended consequences, such as, to produce opposition from the American Medical Association, the American Cancer Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Lung Association, American Epilepsy Society, and many, many, many other health and medical organizations, both statewide and nationally.

"I would say that no state has been able to curb the black market on marijuana. This results in all kinds of spillover effects amongst underage people. And I would note that underage people are particularly susceptible to the mental and mind-altering effects of marijuana.

"To say the least, marijuana is at least as dangerous in terms of lung health as smoking. One study suggests that marijuana produces four to five times the toxins and carcinogens as tobacco smoke, four or five times. So, you don't have to smoke a lot of marijuana to damage your lungs. In addition, it is associated with increased likelihood of heart attacks and weakens the immune system.

"The U.S. surgeon general has said famously that no amount of marijuana is safe for adolescents and advises the same against pregnant women, noting that marijuana and the active ingredient, THC, of marijuana, causes the placenta and brain blood barrier affecting the baby in utero.

"All in all, marijuana leads to a host of problems, and I won't get into the association between marijuana and crime and the marijuana in and amongst inmates.

"In the public hearing held, we had time and time again people saying, I started with marijuana and then I went on to so-and-so, and then I messed up my life. Not easy to say in public that you messed up your life. People weren't saying, I started drinking and then went on to so-and-so, and then I

messed up my life. They were speaking specifically on marijuana. And this was said time and time again in the public hearing recently held this week."

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

Representative Kobayashi continued, stating:

"I will conclude simply by saying that marijuana is a public health disaster with consequences and unintended ill effects that cannot be controlled once the bottle is open. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise in strong opposition to the legalization of marijuana. I also have about a dozen reasons why this is the case. The first of which is it doesn't even belong in this legislature, this is something that should be on the ballot, Mr. Speaker. The polls, depending on which one you read, say, well, you know, we want it, then the other polls say we don't want it. I know my district is 57 against, 43 for it. This is an issue as serious as same sex marriage, which means it should go to the people rather than to this elected body. That's my first reason, Mr. Speaker.

"The second reason is, we don't have to go to the moon to prove it's there. Why don't we learn from what Colorado did? Why don't we learn from those who have done it already in California? We're saying we got to do it to show that the black market is not going to proliferate, which is a joke, that traffic accidents are not going to increase, that the youth are not going to be hurt, particularly for those whose brains have not even been developed yet, that gangs and corruption is not going to come and take over.

"Mr. Speaker, I think we're not being scientific enough, or let's say we're being too egotistical, to think that we are going to be immune from those things that's already happened in other places. That's why when I say, do we have to go to the moon to prove it's there, why don't we listen to Mr. Armstrong and all the other people who've been there and done it?

"My third reason issue is this, if we go back to Wednesday's hearing and we divide the pros of who want it, it's basically follow the money, it's economic reasons. Because when we had all the people who have got different diseases, we gave the medical marijuana the go ahead. And that was one of the big reasons I voted for that.

"But when I hear these economic reasons like, hey, we're going to get \$39 million in our first year, we're going to get I think it's about \$109 million by year four. We don't realize, Mr. Speaker, that those are *manini* compared to the Japanese market in Hawai'i, you know how much it's worth, \$2 billion. Even if when Prosecutor Alm says, the Japanese have told him, very reliable sources from Japan and in Waikiki, you guys legalize marijuana, our Japanese visitors, when they said the Japanese are not going to come, that's a \$2 billion market, Mr. Speaker. \$39 million is chump change chicken feed compared to even if only 25% or 50% of the Japanese don't come. We're risking big money.

"And the other thing was, and it was brought out in the hearing, DHRD said, because of the federal money and the prohibition at the federal level, you guys pass a bill like this, we may jeopardize millions of dollars of federal funds. And you can ask the chair of Finance, federal funding is a big part of our budget. We get a lot of money from transportation and all the other, DHS, the social factors.

"The point is, those who are for it are saying, follow the money. And if you look at the downside of it, now I'm not even talking about the mental illnesses that come from it or the traffic deaths it can happen from, for what all the police departments have said about us. So, let's dispense with this money.

"The other argument they give is that, well, we're going to decriminalize these people, we got sort of a thing that we want to expunge. We can do that separately. You don't have to legalize marijuana to say we're going to expunge and we're going to protect the lives and the reputation of these young people. And, Mr. Speaker, if you look at marijuana now and how it's practiced or enforced, it's already legalized. You can get marijuana anywhere at any time. And if you do get caught, HPD says we don't really enforce this when we smell it and we go do it, I mean, they leave it alone. And if there may be big money behind it and they have to do an enforcement,

you get, and this is quoting Prosecutor Alm, you get a parking ticket. A slap on the wrist, \$125 bucks."

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

Representative Ward continued, stating:

"I've just begun to give my speech here. The point is, the police are not enforcing it. It's already legal, it's already *de facto* legal. I've jumped now to number five, the black market. This reality is proven already by the empiricism given to us, some rumor, some fact, those who are on medical marijuana, up to 70% of those people are going to the black market. They're not going to the dispensaries. Dispensaries are too expensive, they're too otherwise regulated, and people are not going to go to the dispensaries. Dispensaries were created so the medical people and others would go to them, and now they're going to the black market.

"Every person who thinks they can grow something and make money, a quick buck, this black market is going to proliferate. I said earlier, if we listen to the lessons of Colorado and California, the cartels have even come in because there's so much money in the black market. The Chinese farmers have come in because of so much money in the black market. So, who are we to think in Hawai'i that we are going to avoid it? I think that is so naive. I mean, the money is quick, it's fast. And we're going to say, we're not going to have that. And in the AG's bill, it says, we're going to reform those black market people and make them straight and narrow, we're going to make them legalized. That is such a naive concept.

"And by the way, the attorney general is against the legalization of marijuana. I repeat, the attorney general is against the legalization of marijuana. She said, if you guys are, I'm gonna editorial, if you guys are stupid enough to pass it, okay, we'll implement it, here's the way to avoid the difficult things to do it. But the AG herself knows that the public safety issues, which the police departments of every county have said is a no, no, Mr. Speaker. That's playing with fire.

"Let me move on to number eight. And this is, I think, one of the most important issues. It's about the future. We talk about the *keikis*, we got to keep the *keikis*, we got to educate them. Mr. Speaker, this bill will dumb down our kids. To think that only 21-year-olds are going to go and smoke marijuana because the bill says so, is so naive, is so silly. We can't even keep, as one of the good speeches were made earlier, we can't even keep the vaping under control. Everybody's vaping. And now you can go buy a vial of THC and stick it in your vape. Which means these young kids, mostly high school, particularly, even though I think in testimony in Wednesday's hearing, 33% of Hawai'i's youth, high school kids, 33% are regular users of marijuana. Not just occasion, I mean probably 100% have tried it, 30% are regular users.

"My point is, in this last point, we're dumbing down our kids. Do we want a stupid Hawai'i? I don't think so. So, for the sake of the youth, we should be totally against something like this. And it's so naive to think that this is going to be avoided because we can control it. We can't even control fireworks, we can't control vaping, we can't control the illicit market for cigarettes. And I was really amazed to hear that four times the amount of toxins come to you when you smoke marijuana. My god, there's enough against cancer for smoking and now we got four times that, and we want to legalize it, we want to give our stamp of approval to say, hey, us adults, we can do it. We're sending the signal to the young kids, hey, it's okay, mom and pop do it, you can do it also.

"So, in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, this bill will jeopardize our future. It will jeopardize and make life here the least of which is going to be beneficial for our young people. We need to send a warning by not passing this bill. We don't need to ruin our communities.

"And I want to end on one of the notes that came out in our hearing. The west side people were pleading with us, don't pass this bill, we want to build our communities, we don't want to ruin our communities. The west side were almost crying to the community. And I say before this body, they're crying for us because there's a correlation between, and this is a DEI thing, you guys who are woke and know DEI, there's a geographical factor here. The lowest in the most poverty parts of our state are the highest users of marijuana. So, what we do is we commit this stuff, so you guys are already

poverty stricken, are going to get even get worse, because we don't want you to get out of poverty. We want to numb you down, we want to make you kick back and relax. Because they're the highest users of marijuana, Mr. Speaker. That is very unfortunate. We're going to commit our communities that are already poor to being already poor."

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

Representative Ward continued, stating:

"Okay, I've run out of time. I don't think that our constituents want this. If everybody did a poll, you would see because they know that some of the things that are going on by the facts coming out about the dumbing down and the other issues, Mr. Speaker, I think we'd know that this is not the way that we would be, as those who push the economics, we would be pennywise and pound foolish. Those who push the recrimination, we can expunge these records whatsoever.

"And lastly, Mr. Speaker, we don't want to be pennywise and pound foolish. And we must know that this is an election year, people are paying attention to us. And I would hope everybody in this room would get close to their constituents, because numbing and dumbing down the people of Hawai'i is not the future of this great state. We have great potential, but this is one of the steps backward against the people of Hawai'i rather than for the people of Hawai'i, which is why we are here and what we are supposed to be, for the people of Hawai'i. This bill goes in the opposite direction. Other than that, I have no strong feelings about the bill."

At this time, the Chair stated:

"Thank you, members, for your passionate speeches. I do want to remind you all that we are going through second reading, and this bill still has to go through CPC and FIN."

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

"Thank you, in support. I apologize in advance, I normally don't speak on second reading, but I figured we might want a little bit more balance in the discussion, very quickly. I think it's very possible, on top of respectful debate on the merits of the measure, I think it's very fair to say that there will be unintended consequences and some harm produced through legalizing. But I would also note that there's a lot of harm in not legalizing. And the real question is, where do you find that balance? And, we have to make a policy call on whether legalization is more harmful than prohibition.

"I would suggest that if you look through our country's history, prohibition has almost always been disastrous. I do think that it's relevant to look at a lot of the health impacts that have been mentioned. We have hepatitis, fibrosis, cirrhosis, stroke, high blood pressure, arrhythmia, cardiomyopathy, pancreatic cancer, liver cancer, colorectal cancer, breast cancer, head and neck cancer, which I didn't even know was a thing. That's all from alcohol.

"And I think if we had a bill on the floor to prohibit alcohol, which is demonstrably dangerous, and numbers would suggest significantly more harmful than cannabis usage in a vast majority of studies conducted on this issue, that it would fail spectacularly because we have a history, that we know that prohibition for alcohol does not work.

"There's been a lot of talk about how the black market is already thriving. Again, that's an argument for legalization. Prohibition is not effective, it props up the black market. It's also worth noting that one of the reasons the black market has had continued success in many other states that have legalized is because of overburdensome regulation when they've legalized cannabis. There's an opportunity, and I think this bill, there's a lot to learn from that.

"A lot of the front-end cost, I would argue, is completely unnecessary and, again, overly burdensome. I would prefer a more just blanket approach, but I would acknowledge that in the committees and the testimony we've received, that's just not viable if we're trying to get this through the administration, through the Legislature, which is why a lot of concessions have been made. But I don't think it's a fair point to suggest that the black market success in other states and the upfront cost is a result of legalization, when many of those concessions that are made to opponents of legalization are what have led to those outcomes.

"Beyond that, I think that it's fair to say that maybe our prosecutor here in Honolulu is not necessarily a tourism expert, and that is not his field. I don't think it's fair to say that tourism is all of a sudden going to disappear and dry up. I believe if you go through any major metropolitan area on the West Coast that has currently legalized cannabis, you will see a great number of tourists there. They're not all of a sudden disappearing from Seattle, San Francisco, and Portland, or Las Vegas, for that matter. I don't think there's any evidence to suggest that that would actually be the case.

"And lastly, I would just say that, very often, in terms of our discussion around energy and just the means of production here in our country and in Hawai'i specifically, we very frequently fail to recognize that much of the harm of our policymaking, of our consumption here, is exported to other countries. I think it's very clear, at least in my personal opinion, so maybe that's not a fair statement, that prohibition and the war on drugs has been the single most harmful policy agenda in the Western Hemisphere since slavery. And I don't say that lightly. I think the evidence is there. If you look at how it has completely destroyed many communities across the Western Hemisphere, we don't see that on our day to day here because we've exported that harm elsewhere. That's all I got, thanks."

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

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

"I'd like to adopt the words as all the representatives that oppose this bill," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Alcos continued, stating:

"And I would like to have a short comment. In opposition. About the finance, I hear a lot about money, if we could make money, it's not about the finance and the money, whether we make a billion dollars. Life that we're trying to save doesn't have a price that we want to come in and try to say that, hey, we can make \$500 million if we pass this bill and help our state, but yet we're going to kill one of our family members.

"We are here in the Capitol, I'm joining as a representative here in the House for my community, to save life, to make a valuable, a strong community. But having this inside our schools, in our parks. I know it's about adults, but it's not helping our community, I don't see it. You can already get medical use of it. And making it legal, I feel that this is going totally the opposite way. And we should never look at money just because the state can make money and that's why we want to go in this direction. It should never be about that. It should be about how can we help families. Thank you."

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

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in strong support. Let me be clear, marijuana is medicine. I realize this is a sticky issue, but it resonates with me because, as a stroke survivor, I would rather have the opportunity to use THC to relieve my severe, constant pain than to use the opioids. Yet my health insurance will not cover a 329 card, and the 329 process is unattainable for many. My health insurer will not even give me a 329 examination to get a card, nor cover marijuana as a prescription, but it's willing to hand me opioids like they're candy.

"It is a fact that marijuana saves lives. In Colorado, after legalization, opioid deaths were reduced by 6.5%, violent crime was reduced, and of course, critical revenue was raised. I don't need to remind you all of the revenue, but anyway. The buzz is that traffic death rates statistics are invalid, as there is a clear lack of disambiguation of variables and traffic reports reported as cannabis fatalities, as alcohol was not separated as a variable. Officials like the AG and the county prosecutor should be precise and scientific when presenting scientists' potentially statistically biased arguments to the Legislature if they're to be taken seriously. They were not.

"This is about more than revenue arguments. We need to recognize that for too many people that have been sent to jail for simple marijuana possession at enormous cost to our society in lost wages, family disruption, incarceration costs, the loss of jobs, and income tax revenue. Teen use of

synthetic delta-8 THC is actually higher in states without legalized marijuana.

"Decriminalization was just gutted in the Senate, just today. Yet also today, Democratic Vice President Harris said nobody should go to jail for smoking weed. And people will continue smoking it. In January, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra defended rescheduling marijuana based on science, not Reefer Madness propaganda scare tactics that we have been hearing. The days of the 1936 Reefer Madness propaganda are over in most of the country. Didn't we learn anything from 1920s prohibition? Prohibition in Hawai'i will only continue to funnel money to the black market and strengthen the illicit dealers.

"For too long, the Legislature has been bogged down in the weeds. We have an obligation to vote as the majority of our population requests. And let us be clear, a vast majority of voters say legalize it. Don't let adults' rights go up in smoke. This is an opportunity not to be wasted. It is high time we legalize marijuana. I am a strong supporter of the well vetted, detailed, and comprehensive version of this bill. Thank you."

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

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

"No vote, Mr. Speaker. In strong opposition, and I would like the words of the vice chair of Finance to be inserted into the Journal as my own. And brief comment. I just wanted to thank the Judiciary chair, as a member of the Judiciary Committee, for all of his hard work on cannabis legislation this session, for the bills that he introduced, and even the amendments to the Senate bill specifically. So, *mahalo* and thank you for allowing a democratic process in our committee hearings. *Mahalo*," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

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

"Mr. Speaker, opposition. Mr. Speaker, as the representative from Kuapā or is commonly known as Hawai'i Kai has shared, the west side of O'ahu faces social disparities. But on the east side of O'ahu, they are much more affluent. But this issue transcends class and finances, where there are folks in opposition on both sides. Mr. Speaker, in your chamber today, this is a bipartisan opposition, with both sides of the House and both parties rising in opposition.

"Mr. Speaker, Oregon was hailed as the forefront and the fore founding of marijuana legalization. And within the last two weeks, headlines have read, they are now rolling back all prohibitions that they have caused, and they have unleashed a monster that they can no longer control. The Pandora's Box of marijuana legalization may fear to do the same things here in Hawai'i as it has done across the state.

"Mr. Speaker, yes, as folks have raised their support for this measure the same way folks have raised their opposition, every single county police department in the State of Hawai'i has raised opposition to marijuana legalization. I would not like to be on the side that continues to alienate and not support our law enforcement as they continue to do the unpopular work of our law-abiding citizens to bring law and order to this state.

"Mr. Speaker, erring on the side of caution has always proved to be better than to go headfirst, not knowing what to come. I appreciate the Judiciary chair doing their fair due diligence to bring this measure forward. But in today's circumstances and what we are currently facing in Hawai'i, there is no way I could support this measure. And for the folks that have stood in opposition and provided testimony, I stand in opposition for those reasons. Thank you."

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

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

"In opposition and I'd like the words of the representative from Kapolei as if they were my own," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

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

Representative Ichiyama rose in opposition to the measure and asked that the remarks of Representative Kitagawa be entered into the Journal as her own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Matsumoto rose in opposition to the measure and asked that the remarks of Representative Kitagawa be entered into the Journal as her own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

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

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

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

"In opposition. I support medical marijuana, but I don't support recreational marijuana. According to the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Strategic Unit, this was what they found. The yearly rate of emergency department visits related to marijuana increased by 52% after the legalization of recreational marijuana. That's from 2012 to 2016. Do we want to be increasing emergency deaths in Hawai'i? I think not. The percentage of all Colorado traffic deaths that were related to marijuana increased from 11% in 2013 to 21% in 2017. Do we want to be increasing traffic deaths in Hawai'i? I think not.

"Where marijuana is commercially available, companies are going to market it to drive up the profit and to try to get as many users as possible, even if only a certain percentage of users are problematic. That number of problematic users will go up when the number of people using marijuana goes up.

"I have close family members who are hurting their lives by using legalized substances in Hawai'i and in California, legalized alcohol in Hawai'i, legalized marijuana in California. The majority of testimonies submitted in committees are against this legalization. I sent out a survey to my district. Hardcopy mailers, also digital copies and emails, and then a QR code for the younger folks to use that digital option on the hard copy mailers sent to their homes. Over 60% of my community voted no, Elijah, please don't give your yes vote to this bill. I'm listening to my community, I'm going to vote no.

"I'd like to thank the words of the Finance vice chair and the District 20 representative. I don't think the pros outweigh the cons in this issue, and I'm going to be voting no."

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

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

"No vote, brief comment. No, please."

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

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In strong support. I just want to take a moment to thank the chair of Judiciary for having the political courage and the will to be able to bring this measure over from the Senate and to craft a really wonderful piece of legislation that provides a pathway forward for legalization, but also creates the guardrails that are necessary if we are going to legalize. I do believe that one day legalization will be a reality. I think that it's important that we have a pathway forward to ensure that our local growers are people that can become a part of this industry, that our medical industry can thrive, and I think that this bill allows that as well.

"Beyond that, I would also just like to say that this is not new. There are states across the country who have done this, and we are in no way leading the charge. We're trying to find, I think, a smart and possible way to ensure

that legalization can happen in our state before we have big multi-state organizations come here and really take away our potential to help our local industry. Beyond that, I'm just going to say that people are smoking marijuana and cannabis, they're going to continue to smoke cannabis. And I think that we cannot continue to jail people for smoking a plant. Thank you."

Representative Ward rose to respond, stating:

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Second time in opposition, strong opposition. Two words that come to mind. One, the prohibition where being misused, it's got the Al Capone imagery of prohibition. This is nothing like that. When you get a parking ticket as the reason why if you got smoking, and most, as I said, the police don't even give people an arrest. So, to say people are going to go to jail because of their smoking? If you're a dealer, of course. If you're doing and, outside of what is allowable, you get a parking ticket. I mean, you don't get a parking ticket. And if you have the minimum within the legalized area, you get a \$125 fine, of which we can make it \$5 if we want.

"The point is, there's no reason to make legalized marijuana because of the decriminalization. Because if we are so suppressed and the young people, no that's not the reason. The reason is because the downside economically, socially, politically, mental health wise, *et cetera*, all the ills of society, Mr. Speaker, are not there.

"We were elected to benefit the people of Hawai'i. The argument about the economics is a false argument, even those on the mainland. Because here's what happens when they say we got a windfall of marijuana for even those that are making it. They put in the marijuana money, say, for an education, then they back out the standard amount of money that they would allocate to that department, and you get a net *manini* gain. So, this argument about it is going to be an economic boon is just not valid.

"The other one about the decriminalize and expungement. We can do that without legalizing marijuana. Mr. Speaker, the cries of the west side, and I appreciate the representative from the west side, of all the things that have been happening there, this would be even an intensification of that. And for all of the people of Hawai'i, we've got enough things to get us high on. We got enough drinks, we got enough kind of drugs and toxic and other sorts of things to do. We don't need to add another one onto it. I'm not justifying what we have, but to add on more, the blood is going to be in our hands, Mr. Speaker. Thank you."

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

Representative Todd rose to respond, stating:

"Just very briefly, still in support. I just wanted to note that during the prohibition era, alcohol was actually legal for consumption and legal to have in your home. So, it was actually more legal during prohibition than it is for cannabis currently. I just want to note that. Thank you."

Representative Onishi 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 Committees was adopted and S.B. No. 3335, SD 2, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CANNABIS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, with Representatives Sayama and Takayama voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Aiu, Alcos, Chun, Garcia, Garrett, Hashem, Ichiyama, Kila, Kitagawa, Kobayashi, Kong, La Chica, Lamosao, Matayoshi, Matsumoto, Nishimoto, Onishi, Pierick, Souza, Takenouchi, Ward, and Woodson voting no, and with Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, Martinez, and Quinlan being excused.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Matsumoto: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that today is the last day to get in your ballot for the Easter Bunny and Easter Chick, so if you haven't turned it in yet, please turn it into my office, Room 302. Thank you."

COMMITTEE REASSIGNMENTS

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

- H.R.**
No. **Re-referred to:**
98 Committee on Transportation, then to the Committee on Finance
- H.C.R.**
No. **Re-referred to:**
117 Committee on Transportation, then to the Committee on Finance
- S.B.**
No. **Re-referred to:**
2362, Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, then to the Committee
SD1 on Finance

ADJOURNMENT

At 1:37 p.m., on motion by Representative Morikawa, seconded by Representative Garcia and carried, the House of Representatives adjourned until noon Monday, March 18, 2024. (Representatives Cochran, Ganaden, Gates, and Quinlan were excused.)