

FIFTEENTH DAY

Friday, February 7, 2025

The House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2025, convened at 12:12 p.m., with Speaker Nakamura presiding.

The Roll was called showing all members present with the exception of Representatives Cochran, Kong, Olds, and Ward, who were excused.

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

INTRODUCTIONS

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

Representative Hussey introduced students from Kamehameha Schools Kapālama Campus; and their kumu: Renade Kaneakua, Hauoli Gardner-Roulston, Ariana Smith, and Vanessa Souki.

Representative Muraoka introduced his staff: Kelli Timoteo, Elizabeth Kekahuna, Tanya Kaahaaina, and Philip Ganaban.

Representative La Chica introduced Mike and Rita James from California; and her staff, Erika Anderson.

Representative Todd introduced football players from Kamehameha Schools.

Representative Evslin introduced the Kaua'i High Varsity Boys Canoe Paddling Team: Dylan Finch, Alex Melchor, Colten Delacruz, Jai Santa Maria, Jaden Kerr, Cato Sudaria, Maka Diego, Teiven Borales, and Cedric Tejada; Wade and Mitzi Yamamoto; and their coach, Doneen Stokes; the Island School Paddling Team: Max Evslin, Keala Doyle, Elijah Enoka, Jude Washburn, Mia Javellana, Ruby Swartz, Taimana Kjeldsen, Kealohilani Eu-Parziale, Nola Brown, and Ilihia Ventura; and their coaches, Maui Kjeldsen and Jed Gushman; Nancy Nagramada; and his staff: Kenneth Peck, Chance Inoshita, and Malie Adams.

At 12:21 p.m., the Chair declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The House of Representatives reconvened at 12:50 p.m.

ORDER OF THE DAY

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Representative Takayama, for the Committee on Health, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 249) recommending that H.B. No. 716, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 716, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 716, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Alcos and Garcia voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Cochran, Kong, and Ward being excused.

Representative Ilagan, for the Committee on Economic Development & Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 250) recommending that H.B. No. 22 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 22 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."

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

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

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

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

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

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

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 22, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COLLABORATION WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Matsumoto, Muraoka, Pierick, Reyes Oda, and Shimizu voting no, and with Representatives Cochran, Kong, and Ward being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 251) recommending that H.B. No. 224, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 224, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY RIGHTS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Cochran, Kong, and Ward being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 252) recommending that H.B. No. 426, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 426, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE STABILIZATION OF PROPERTY INSURANCE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran, Kong, and Ward being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 253) recommending that H.B. No. 70, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 70, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONDOMINIUM," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Cochran, Kong, and Ward being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 254) recommending that H.B. No. 253, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 253, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran, Kong, and Ward being excused.

SUSPENSION OF RULES

On motion by Representative Morikawa, seconded by Representative Garcia and carried, the rules were suspended for the purpose of considering a certain House Bill for Third Reading by consent calendar. (Representatives Cochran, Kong, and Ward were excused.)

THIRD READING

H.B. No. 1440, HD 1:

Representative Todd moved that H.B. No. 1440, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"In opposition. I want to stand on my comments from second reading and I also would like to insert comments into the Journal. Thank you."

Representative Souza's written remarks are as follows:

"I will stand on my comments from second reading regarding HB 1440, HD 1. However, I will add that every duly elected member of this body shall be able to utilize their fair share of resources that the funding in this bill provides for the Legislature. If the \$15,927,770 of taxpayer dollars is essentially to provide resources for the members of the House of Representatives during the period the bill encompasses, then we do not need such a large pot of funding if all members are not able to use the resources. In theory, the dollar amount should be adjusted downward accordingly.

"To my knowledge based on my own experience, 50 of the 51 members of the House can utilize their respective partisan research office. Utilization of the partisan research offices should not be under the jurisdiction of the party leaders based off custom and practice and should be a matter for the Speaker of the House to oversee generally.

"For instance, the Minority Caucus has decided that I am not able to use the partisan research office if I do not participate in the Minority Caucus. However, obliging with Minority Caucus directives as a prerequisite to be able to use the partisan research office as I deem needed, is not how we should be handling the resources in the House. I should not have to be a part of a group that I share many philosophical differences with in order to utilize the services that I should receive as a Republican member, and moreover, as a duly elected state representative.

"This is antithetical to the very virtues that the Republican party itself values. Yet, the Minority Caucus has deprived me of a resource for not obliging with their terms and having the political will and courage to forge my own path for the betterment of my constituents. Changing the culture at the Legislature to reflect a fair and transparent distribution of resources is necessary."

Representative Matsumoto rose in support of the measure and asked that her written remarks be inserted in the Journal, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Matsumoto's written remarks are as follows:

"For the purposes of transparency, I would like to address comments made pertaining to this measure. Our caucus had an agreed upon code of conduct. Before session, every member had the opportunity to provide comments on these internal guidelines, they were unanimously voted on, and every member signed them. Our caucus is following our agreed upon code of conduct, including disciplinary action for members who do not adhere to the policy or who indicate they do not wish to be part of the caucus."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and H.B. No. 1440, HD 1, 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," passed Third

Reading by a vote of 47 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Souza voting no, and with Representatives Cochran, Kong, and Ward being excused.

At 12:56 p.m., the Chair noted that the following bill passed Third Reading:

H.B. No. 1440, HD 1

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

By unanimous consent, the following resolution (H.R. No. 12) and concurrent resolution (H.C.R. No. 12) were referred to Printing and further action was deferred:

H.R. No. 12, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO PROVIDE FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU'S WASTEWATER TREATMENT INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS," was jointly offered by Representatives Kong, Garcia, Hussey, Iwamoto, Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Lee, Muraoka, Olds, Pierick, Shimizu, Takayama, and Templo.

H.C.R. No. 12, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO PROVIDE FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU'S WASTEWATER TREATMENT INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS," was jointly offered by Representatives Kong, Garcia, Hussey, Iwamoto, Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Lee, Muraoka, Olds, Pierick, Shimizu, Takayama, and Templo.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Garrett: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just want to remind the members of the Higher Education Committee that our hearing this afternoon is not going to be here at the State Capitol, but rather at Bachman Hall on the campus of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. It's about an hour away. And please don't forget that the Punahou Carnival started today, so there might be some traffic in the area. So, please be on time. Thank you."

Representative Kapela: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just want to let the body know that we have a save the date for Art at the Capitol, April 11th. Please participate, open your doors, share your beautiful art with our community. And more information will come in your email."

Representative Matsumoto: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. I forgot to announce this earlier, but today is National Wear Red Day for American Heart Association. And so, I just wanted to acknowledge the work that they do in our communities in regards to heart disease. Thank you."

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:57 p.m., on motion by Representative Morikawa, seconded by Representative Garcia and carried, the House of Representatives adjourned until noon, Monday, February 10, 2025. (Representatives Cochran, Kong, and Ward were excused.)