

FORTY-NINTH DAY

Friday, April 11, 2025

The House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2025, convened at 12:08 p.m., with Speaker Nakamura presiding.

The Roll was called showing all members present with the exception of Representatives Cochran, Garcia, Kila, La Chica, and Matayoshi, who were excused.

By unanimous consent, reading and approval of the Journal of the House of Representatives of the Forty-Seventh and Forty-Eighth Days was deferred.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGES

The following messages from the Governor (Gov. Msg. Nos. 1102 through 1118) were received and announced by the Clerk and were placed on file:

Gov. Msg. No. 1102, informing the House that on April 10, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

H.B. No. 998, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONTENTS OF CITATIONS." (ACT 002)

Gov. Msg. No. 1103, informing the House that on April 10, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

H.B. No. 145, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EXPUNGEMENT." (ACT 003)

Gov. Msg. No. 1104, informing the House that on April 10, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

H.B. No. 386, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DANGEROUS DRUGS." (ACT 004)

Gov. Msg. No. 1105, informing the House that on April 10, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

H.B. No. 132, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EXPUNGEMENT." (ACT 005)

Gov. Msg. No. 1106, informing the House that on April 10, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

H.B. No. 408, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION." (ACT 006)

Gov. Msg. No. 1107, informing the House that on April 10, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

S.B. No. 1341, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ENERGY INDUSTRY INFORMATION REPORTING." (ACT 007)

Gov. Msg. No. 1108, informing the House that on April 10, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

S.B. No. 1382, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE NATIONAL GUARD." (ACT 008)

Gov. Msg. No. 1109, informing the House that on April 10, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

H.B. No. 994, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE OFFENSE OF PROMOTING PORNOGRAPHY FOR MINORS." (ACT 009)

Gov. Msg. No. 1110, informing the House that on April 10, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

H.B. No. 1175, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE PROCEDURE FOR TAX APPEALS." (ACT 010)

Gov. Msg. No. 1111, informing the House that on April 10, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

S.B. No. 1319, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO IDENTIFICATION PROCESSING." (ACT 011)

Gov. Msg. No. 1112, informing the House that on April 10, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

S.B. No. 100, SD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INTOXICATING LIQUOR." (ACT 012)

Gov. Msg. No. 1113, informing the House that on April 10, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

S.B. No. 289, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ETHICS ADMINISTRATIVE FINES." (ACT 013)

Gov. Msg. No. 1114, informing the House that on April 10, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

S.B. No. 1291, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS." (ACT 014)

Gov. Msg. No. 1115, informing the House that on April 10, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

S.B. No. 1447, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS." (ACT 015)

Gov. Msg. No. 1116, informing the House that on April 10, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

H.B. No. 137, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FIREARMS." (ACT 016)

Gov. Msg. No. 1117, informing the House that on April 10, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

S.B. No. 112, SD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO POLICE REPORTS." (ACT 017)

Gov. Msg. No. 1118, informing the House that on April 10, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

H.B. No. 392, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FIREARMS." (ACT 018)

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

The following communication from the Senate (Sen. Com. No. 779) was received and announced by the Clerk:

Sen. Com. No. 779, dated April 10, 2025, informing the House that the Senate has disagreed to the amendments proposed by the House to the following Senate Bills:

S.B. No. 38, SD 2, HD 2
 S.B. No. 88, HD 1
 S.B. No. 104, SD 2, HD 3
 S.B. No. 106, SD 1, HD 2
 S.B. No. 146, SD 1, HD 2
 S.B. No. 222, SD 1, HD 2
 S.B. No. 227, SD 1, HD 2
 S.B. No. 253, SD 2, HD 1
 S.B. No. 264, SD 1, HD 1
 S.B. No. 281, SD 1, HD 2
 S.B. No. 304, SD 1, HD 2
 S.B. No. 321, SD 1, HD 2
 S.B. No. 325, SD 1, HD 1
 S.B. No. 326, SD 1, HD 1
 S.B. No. 328, SD 1, HD 2
 S.B. No. 332, SD 1, HD 3
 S.B. No. 336, HD 1
 S.B. No. 353, SD 2, HD 3

S.B. No. 382, HD 1
 S.B. No. 383, SD 2, HD 1
 S.B. No. 428, HD 1
 S.B. No. 438, SD 2, HD 3
 S.B. No. 443, SD 1, HD 2
 S.B. No. 479, SD 1, HD 1
 S.B. No. 532, SD 2, HD 2
 S.B. No. 576, SD 1, HD 2
 S.B. No. 589, SD 1, HD 3
 S.B. No. 662, SD 1, HD 3
 S.B. No. 732, SD 2, HD 2
 S.B. No. 747, SD 1, HD 2
 S.B. No. 763, SD 2, HD 3
 S.B. No. 771, HD 1
 S.B. No. 822, SD 2, HD 2
 S.B. No. 865, SD 1, HD 2
 S.B. No. 890, SD 2, HD 2
 S.B. No. 903, SD 2, HD 2
 S.B. No. 933, SD 2, HD 1
 S.B. No. 935, SD 2, HD 3
 S.B. No. 952, SD 2, HD 1
 S.B. No. 960, SD 1, HD 2
 S.B. No. 1028, SD 1, HD 2
 S.B. No. 1035, SD 2, HD 2
 S.B. No. 1042, SD 1, HD 1
 S.B. No. 1044, SD 2, HD 2
 S.B. No. 1048, SD 2, HD 2
 S.B. No. 1099, HD 1
 S.B. No. 1117, SD 2, HD 2
 S.B. No. 1186, SD 2, HD 3
 S.B. No. 1221, SD 2, HD 3
 S.B. No. 1245, SD 2, HD 2
 S.B. No. 1281, SD 2, HD 2
 S.B. No. 1298, SD 2, HD 2
 S.B. No. 1316, SD 1, HD 2
 S.B. No. 1318, HD 1
 S.B. No. 1322, SD 2, HD 2
 S.B. No. 1343, SD 1, HD 2
 S.B. No. 1359, HD 2
 S.B. No. 1360, SD 1, HD 2
 S.B. No. 1361, HD 2
 S.B. No. 1377, SD 2, HD 1
 S.B. No. 1396, SD 3, HD 3
 S.B. No. 1419, SD 1, HD 2
 S.B. No. 1429, SD 2, HD 3
 S.B. No. 1431, SD 1, HD 2
 S.B. No. 1441, SD 2, HD 2
 S.B. No. 1448, SD 2, HD 2
 S.B. No. 1454, SD 1, HD 2
 S.B. No. 1464, HD 1
 S.B. No. 1465, SD 1, HD 1
 S.B. No. 1469, SD 2, HD 2
 S.B. No. 1511, SD 1, HD 2
 S.B. No. 1571, SD 2, HD 3
 S.B. No. 1585, SD 1, HD 2
 S.B. No. 1589, SD 3, HD 2
 S.B. No. 1641, SD 2, HD 2
 S.B. No. 1651, SD 1, HD 2
 S.B. No. 1667, SD 2, HD 3
 S.B. No. 1669, SD 2, HD 3

INTRODUCTIONS

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

Representative Hussey introduced Monique Ibarra from the Domestic Violence Action Center and her staff.

Representative Sayama introduced Angie Knight from the Diamond Head, Kapahulu, St. Louis Neighborhood Board.

Representative Matsumoto introduced staff from organizations that are the recipients of the Women's Legislative Caucus Easter Baset Drive: Domestic Violence Action Center: Monique Ibarra, Lani Moore, Ricke

Esposito, Anna Pertierra, Terese Pattioy, Lisi Ferguson, Jordan Addison, and Michael Robison; Institute of Human Services: Angie Knight and Heather Henderson; Parents and Children Together: Trisha Kajimura, Eddie Esperante, Leigh Morrison, and Kaho Otake; Salvation Army: Major Kimberly Stambaugh, Major Thomas Stambaugh, and Letitia Bryant; and Mohala Mai: Gaye Johnston.

Representative Kila introduced Dan Haire, president and CEO, Navian Hawai'i.

Representative Grandinetti introduced from Nā 'Ōpi'o Waiwai: Zoe Martinez, Hailee K-Aloha, Oaklynd Unea-Beamer, Ohawai Manuel, Kalei K-Aloha, and Jamee Miller; and from ASUH at UH Mānoa: Samantha Avila Gomez and Sonja Giardina.

Representative Quinlan introduced Denise Antolini, emeritus professor, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law.

ORDER OF THE DAY

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Representative Garrett, for the Committee on Higher Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2045) recommending that S.C.R. No. 138, SD 1, as amended in HD 1, 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 S.C.R. No. 138, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC STRATEGY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII," was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran, Garcia, and Matayoshi being excused.

Representative Garrett, for the Committee on Higher Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2046) recommending that S.C.R. No. 142, SD 1, as amended in HD 1, 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 S.C.R. No. 142, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT AN AUDIT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT'S USE AND MANAGEMENT OF ITS FUNDS," was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran, Garcia, and Matayoshi being excused.

Representative Garrett, for the Committee on Higher Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2047) recommending that S.C.R. No. 192, as amended in HD 1, be referred to the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.C.R. No. 192, HD 1 be referred to the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, 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.C.R. No. 192, HD 1, entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM TO ESTABLISH A VETERINARY MEDICINE EXPANSION WORKING GROUP TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF DEVELOPING A DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE PROGRAM," was referred to the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, with Representative Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Cochran, Garcia, and Matayoshi being excused.

Representative Garrett, for the Committee on Higher Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2048) recommending that S.C.R. No. 193, SD 1, as amended in HD 1, be referred to the Committee on Labor.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.C.R. No. 193, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMS AND OTHER INNOVATIVE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS THAT DIRECTLY ALIGN WITH JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND INDUSTRY NEEDS WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE REGION OF SERVICE," was referred to the Committee on Labor, with Representatives Cochran, Garcia, and Matayoshi being excused.

Representative Garrett, for the Committee on Higher Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2049) recommending that S.C.R. No. 203 be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.C.R. No. 203 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.C.R. No. 203, entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH CENTER AND IDENTIFY THE REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIVING FEDERAL FUNDING FROM THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON AGING FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH," was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representative Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Cochran, Garcia, and Matayoshi being excused.

Representative Lowen, for the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2050) recommending that S.C.R. No. 198, SD 1 be referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.C.R. No. 198, SD 1 be referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Shimizu 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."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.C.R. No. 198, SD 1, entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING HAWAII INSURERS AND THE HAWAII PROPERTY INSURANCE ASSOCIATION TO REDUCE INSURANCE COSTS ON LOCAL RESIDENTS BY PURSUING SUBROGATION CLAIMS AGAINST POLLUTERS WHO KNOWINGLY ENGAGED IN MISLEADING AND DECEPTIVE PRACTICES REGARDING THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THEIR PRODUCTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE," was referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, with Representatives Muraoka and Shimizu voting no, and with Representatives Cochran, Garcia, and Matayoshi being excused.

Representative Lowen, for the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2051) recommending that S.C.R. No. 111 be referred to the Committee on Health.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.C.R. No. 111 be referred to the Committee on Health, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in opposition with a comment, please. This resolution is declaring a public health emergency relating to climate change requiring solutions to strengthen Hawai'i's public health response to the climate crisis. And although I can appreciate the noble and righteous endeavor, my opposition lies in the uncertainty that vice speaker spoke about.

"My opposition is trying to redirect, with hope and desire, to focus on specific areas that we are well aware of that need help. Our public health system has such a broad array of services and coverages in our disadvantaged communities. There are so many gaps and problems in homelessness, disadvantaged communities, domestic violence and abuse, criminal justice system, our welfare system, our education system, our SNAP system, which stands for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, housing for our disadvantaged, missing children and sex trafficking, foster care, *kupuna* care to name a few, and the list can go on.

"Basically, I am hoping that we can be focused in our attention in identifying problems and really getting into the root of the problem. Not over-analyzing, but really getting down to specific action. And I think we could already begin doing that without another exhaustive study. My comments, thank you, Madam Speaker."

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

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

"Madam Speaker, so, I don't think that there is any uncertainty. I am in strong support. The scientific consensus is clear. Rising sea levels in Hawai'i are already eroding our shorelines, damaging roads, threatening homes in coastal areas. And we know that warmer ocean temperatures contribute to coral bleaching and harm marine ecosystems, which support both our local fisheries and the tourism industry, if we're worried about that. Extreme weather events like powerful storms and hurricanes are becoming more frequent, putting a strain on infrastructure and endangering residents.

"Declaring a public health emergency ensures that we confront these realities so that we can develop coordinated resources and policies to safeguard our islands for future generations. I'm concerned about the disinformation being spread on social media about pseudoscience generated by the fossil fuel companies. But hopefully as well-informed legislators, we can help educate our communities about the fallacies underlying fossil fuel company science. *Mahalo*."

Representative Alcos rose to respond, stating:

"Second time, brief comment. In opposition. I do like a cleaner environment, a climate. I believe my community, as well, wants it. But with all this climate change finance and money that we support, I still want to know what's going on with our sea level rise. I want to know what's going on with our studies that we invested millions of dollars with. I want to know are we gaining, are we losing the battle.

"All these departments come to us and ask for money for a new truck, couple more employees. But when it's just say, climate change, I want to know a little bit more specific in detail. How is it going to help us, are we looking at a 10-year term, what is the plan more specifically when they come and ask for finance and money and how it's going to protect us. Thank you."

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

"In support. Madam Speaker, I wanted to address the question raised by the previous speaker. Which is, and I'll just say, we are losing the fight. Which is why I think it's so important that this measure pass. We need to understand that climate change is not an abstract danger specifically to the environment. The environment includes people. It includes our people, our 1.5 million residents of Hawai'i. And I think it's important, first of all, primarily that we think of climate change as something that will affect our people. And for that reason, I am in support. Thank you very much."

Representative Shimizu rose to respond, stating:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. Still in opposition. Again, I appreciate the counter arguments by my colleagues. And there's no argument that climate change is important to study. Again, I point to the desire and hope that our efforts will be focused in areas that we know have problems. Areas that affect us daily. Areas that we've been introducing many, many bills and having many, many hearings and public testimonies."

Representative Quinlan rose to a point of order, stating:

"Madam Speaker, point of order. Just very broadly, I think this measure is addressing the specific link between climate change and public health, and I think we should keep the debate to that specificity."

The Chair addressed Representative Shimizu, stating:

"Representative Shimizu, please stick to the resolution at hand."

Representative Shimizu continued, stating:

"I thought I was doing that. So, my apologies if it was interpreted in a different way. Again, my hope is just to focus on problems that we know are there. So, thank you again, Madam Speaker."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In strong support. Madam Speaker, I'd like to have the words of the representatives from Kalihi and Wahiawā entered into the Journal as if they were my own, and just brief remarks," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Belatti continued, stating:

"Madam Speaker, we know that climate change is a problem. As the previous speaker said, we are dealing with all kinds of questions and policy issues. This one, this resolution specifically talks about public health.

"What we know and what international organizations know is that we now have this thing called a climate refugee. People who are having to leave their countries because sea level rise is affecting their homes. They are being forced to leave. They are having to immigrate to places like Hawai'i. We can say that some of those climate refugees are some of the hardest hit communities, the most vulnerable. Some of those even are from our COFA communities.

"So, although this resolution does not address the issue of immigration, climate refugees, when we talk about public health and the impacts of public health or the impacts of climate crisis on public health, we're also talking about the people who are harmed, not just our people, but the people who are coming to our shores. And that is going to exact a toll on our communities, on our budgets, on the policies and the solutions we are going to have to fashion moving forward. So, for those reasons, I strongly support this resolution that connects climate crisis and public health impacts. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In strong support. I would like the words of the representatives from Wahiawā, Kalihi, and Makiki inserted into the record as my own. Thank you," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Muraoka rose to respond, stating:

"In opposition. I just wanted to state, Madam Speaker, that I don't think anybody's against that. And my opposition comes from, I'm going to read it, declaring a public health emergency relating to climate change. And I do want to use some of the words of our speaker before me, that people are leaving because of climate change. I would like to also point out that people are leaving their homes here because of cost of living. Yet I haven't seen a declaration for public health emergency based on cost of living. I'm done."

Representative Souza rose to a point of order, stating:

"Point of order. The point of order was that his comments were not germane to the bill. Thanks."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In support. Just to come back to the content of the bill relating to public health, there are very clear and real public health impacts of climate change. Notably, increased high heat events where you can have really serious health impacts, especially with kids in schools, the increase of vector-borne diseases, and issues like crop failure, water insecurity. And the impacts, for example, of sea level rise would have if it caused our sewers to back up and then we were exposed to the kind of pathogens that can be carried by wastewater.

"So, this is actually very focused on public health impacts. There are very real health impacts of climate change, and these are often overlooked in favor of some of the other things we've heard other speakers mention. And that is what this reso is trying to accomplish. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In support. I would just like to have the words of the chair of Energy & Environmental Protection inserted into the Journal as if they're my own. I would also like to add that the heat impacts also affect our *kūpuna*, many of whom live in my district. And I am supporting this resolution because I feel that this resolution will make a difference in their lives," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.C.R. No. 111, entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION DECLARING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND REQUESTING STATEWIDE COORDINATION TO IDENTIFY, PLAN FOR, AND CREATE CROSS-SECTOR SOLUTIONS TO STRENGTHEN HAWAII'S PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS," was referred to the Committee on Health, with Representatives Alcos, Muraoka, Pierick, and Shimizu voting no, and with Representatives Cochran, Garcia, and Matayoshi being excused.

Representative Lowen, for the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2052) recommending that S.C.R. No. 110, SD 1 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 S.C.R. No. 110, SD 1, entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO CONDUCT A STUDY EVALUATING THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A GREEN BONDS PROGRAM IN THE STATE," was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran, Garcia, and Matayoshi being excused.

Representative Lowen, for the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2053) recommending that S.C.R. No. 103, SD 1 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 S.C.R. No. 103, SD 1, entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO CONVENE A TEMPORARY WORKING GROUP TO INVESTIGATE THE EXISTENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DANGERS OF PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES AND OTHER RELATED CHEMICALS," was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran, Garcia, and Matayoshi being excused.

Representative Kila, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2054) recommending that S.C.R. No. 37, as amended in HD 1, be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.C.R. No. 37, HD 1 be referred to the Committee on Finance, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In strong support. South Maui is rapidly growing and faces terrible traffic problems caused by overdevelopment without adequate infrastructure, severe flooding because of climate change, road closures, and high wildfire risks. This resolution for the Kīhei Mauka

Bypass urges for the development of Kihei roads needed for safe egress in medical and other emergencies like floods and wildfires.

"We must have this critically needed fire evacuation route, which is why I requested CIP funds for the design. I share this with you all today as it is my hope that this resolution will open the door for adequate funding for the safety of South Maui, which is currently a primary TAT revenue generator on Maui, my home, and also home to approximately 30,000 of my neighbors. Thank you, Speaker."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.C.R. No. 37, HD 1, entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI TO COLLABORATE WITH THE KIHEI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION IN THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KIHEI MAUKA ROAD PROJECT," was referred to the Committee on Finance, with Representatives Cochran, Garcia, and Matayoshi being excused.

Representative Kila, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2055) recommending that S.C.R. No. 184 be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.C.R. No. 184 be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

Representative Souza's written remarks are as follows:

"This resolution, SCR 184, is the companion of HCR 30. I opposed HCR 30 (and HR 29) and inserted comments into the journal relating to that measure. I will input the same sentiments here. This resolution, which requests each county police department to increase enforcement against out-of-state vehicles operating on public roadways that have not been properly registered in the appropriate county, targets out-of-state vehicles specifically. However, this measure should include all vehicles not properly registered in each county. One portion of this resolution states: 'WHEREAS, out-of-state vehicles that are not properly registered in Hawaii avoid contributing to the costs associated with maintaining public roadways, which creates an unfair burden on law-abiding residents.' This language assumes that all residents are law-abiding when it comes to registering vehicles, and non-residents or those who have out-of-state vehicles are not law-abiding when it comes to registering vehicles. This resolution should be calling for each county police department to increase enforcement against all vehicles operating on public roadways that have not been properly registered in the appropriate county, not just out-of-state vehicles. This ensures everyone operating on public roadways is contributing to the costs associated with maintaining these roadways."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.C.R. No. 184, entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING EACH COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT TO INCREASE ENFORCEMENT AGAINST OUT-OF-STATE VEHICLES OPERATING ON PUBLIC ROADWAYS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN PROPERLY REGISTERED IN THE APPROPRIATE COUNTY," was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representative Souza voting no, and with Representatives Cochran, Garcia, and Matayoshi being excused.

Representative Kila, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2056) recommending that S.C.R. No. 181, SD 1, as amended in HD 1, 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 S.C.R. No. 181, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP ON LOWERING THE LEGAL LIMIT OF BLOOD ALCOHOL CONCENTRATION TO 0.05 GRAMS OF ALCOHOL PER ONE HUNDRED MILLILITERS OF BLOOD WITH

THE INTENT OF PRIORITIZING SAFETY AND SAVING LIVES ON HAWAII'S ROADS," was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representatives Cochran, Garcia, and Matayoshi being excused.

Representative Kila, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2057) recommending that S.C.R. No. 23 be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.C.R. No. 23 be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

Representative Souza 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 Muraoka 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."

Representative Reyes Oda 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.C.R. No. 23, entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF A HIGHWAY PATROL AND SPEED CAMERAS ALONG MAJOR FREEWAYS AND HIGHWAYS IN PRIMARY AREAS OF SPEEDING," was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representative Reyes Oda voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Alcos, Amato, Muraoka, Shimizu, and Souza voting no, and with Representatives Cochran, Garcia, and Matayoshi being excused.

Representative Garrett, for the Committee on Higher Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2058) recommending that S.C.R. No. 50, as amended in HD 1, be adopted.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.C.R. No. 50, HD 1 be adopted, 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.C.R. No. 50, HD 1, entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF REGENTS TO ESTABLISH A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII MAUI COLLEGE," was adopted, with Representative Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Cochran, Garcia, and Matayoshi being excused.

Representative Marten, for the Committee on Human Services & Homelessness, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2059) recommending that S.C.R. No. 73, SD 1 be adopted.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.C.R. No. 73, SD 1, entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE TO DEVELOP A REPORT TO ADDRESS THE DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS OF CHILDREN BORN DURING THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 PANDEMIC," was adopted, with Representatives Cochran, Garcia, and Matayoshi being excused.

Representative Kila, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2060) recommending that S.C.R. No. 153, as amended in HD 1, be adopted.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.C.R. No. 153, HD 1, entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE COUNTY OF MAUI TO FULFILL ITS AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE AND RESOLVE LONGSTANDING JURISDICTIONAL AMBIGUITIES BY COMPLETING THE TRANSFER OF THE HUI ROADS, INCLUDING HUI ROAD F, FROM THE JUDICIARY," was adopted, with Representatives Cochran, Garcia, and Matayoshi being excused.

Representative Kila, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2061) recommending that S.C.R. No. 38, SD 1 be adopted.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.C.R. No. 38, SD 1, entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE COUNTY OF MAUI TO PRIORITIZE THE DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING OF THE NORTHERN TERMINUS OF THE KIHEI NORTH-SOUTH COLLECTOR ROAD," was adopted, with Representatives Cochran, Garcia, and Matayoshi being excused.

Representative Kila, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2062) recommending that S.C.R. No. 180, SD 1, as amended in HD 1, be adopted.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.C.R. No. 180, SD 1, HD 1, entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO SHARE INFORMATION ON THE SAFETY AND PERFORMANCE OF HELICOPTER AND AIR TOUR OPERATORS TO HELP RESIDENTS AND VISITORS MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS," was adopted, with Representatives Cochran, Garcia, and Matayoshi being excused.

Representative Kila, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2063) recommending that S.C.R. No. 182 be adopted.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.C.R. No. 182 be adopted, 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.C.R. No. 182, entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO INITIATE A SUMMER STREETS PILOT PROGRAM," was adopted, with Representative Pierick voting no, and with Representatives Cochran, Garcia, and Matayoshi being excused.

Representative Kila, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2064) recommending that S.C.R. No. 200, SD 1 be adopted.

On motion by Representative Todd, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.C.R. No. 200, SD 1, entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE OAHU METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TO CONTINUE TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROGRAMS THAT FOCUS ON EDUCATING KEY DECISION MAKERS RESPONSIBLE FOR TRANSPORTATION POLICY, PLANNING, FUNDING, AND IMPLEMENTATION," was adopted, with Representatives Cochran, Garcia, and Matayoshi being excused.

Representative Kila, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2065) recommending that S.C.R. No. 231, SD 1 be adopted.

Representative Todd moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that S.C.R. No. 231, SD 1 be adopted, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"In strong support, and permission to insert written comments into the Journal. Thank you."

Representative Souza's written remarks are as follows:

"As the chair of the Aviation and Space Caucus and the co-chair of the Maritime Caucus, I am in support of this measure, SCR 231, which requests the Department of Transportation to install and utilize electronic scanning equipment at each state airport and harbor to scan for illegal fireworks. We need to stop the import of illegal fireworks at our state entry points. I introduced similar legislation with HB 608, which establishes the shipping container inspection program and special fund. However, SCR 231 includes utilizing scanning equipment at each state airport as well. This measure, SCR 231, and its companion, SR 207, SD1, which was already adopted by the Senate on April 3, 2025, is necessary legislation to combat illegal fireworks in Hawai'i."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and S.C.R. No. 231, SD 1, entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO INSTALL AND UTILIZE ELECTRONIC SCANNING EQUIPMENT AT EACH STATE AIRPORT AND HARBOR TO SCAN FOR ILLEGAL FIREWORKS," was adopted, with Representatives Cochran, Garcia, and Matayoshi being excused.

RECONSIDERATION OF ACTION TAKEN

At this time, the Chair stated:

"Please turn to your digital action sheets by clicking on the action sheet tab on the top middle of your screen. We will be taking up a motion to reconsider our previous action in disagreeing to the Senate amendments, and give notice of the intent to agree."

Representative Todd moved that the House reconsider its action previously taken in disagreeing to the amendments made by the Senate, and give notice of intent to agree to such amendments for the following House Bill, seconded by Representative Morikawa:

H.B. No. 1194, HD 2, (SD 3)

Representative Kusch rose, stating:

"Can you maybe just give us a moment? I see no one's page is loading, so we can't see. Thank you."

At 12:34 p.m., the Chair declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The House of Representatives reconvened at 12:37 p.m.

Representative Belatti rose to speak in opposition to the motion to reconsider, stating:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand in opposition for, I believe, the motion to reconsider to accept the Senate amendments. May I request that I have an opportunity to insert written comments. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Hopefully briefly, 2025 it's been said that these are unprecedented times, and it surely is.

"There is a first time for everything, and I had never thought that I would stand up to speak in opposition to a motion to reconsider agreement when that is what has been recommended. However, my opposition is based on procedural issues and procedural grounds. This motion to reconsider to accept the amendments is a premature procedural move that artificially cuts off and circumvents the democratic process from playing out in its full and most robust form.

"Our vice speaker today gave an invocation that talked about how conference is a time when we negotiate with our counterparts, amongst ourselves, with stakeholders, and that's ultimately with community. So, it's

for these three reasons why I oppose this motion that will cut off and circumvent the democratic process.

"First, negotiation with our counterparts. There are no less than three drafts on the Senate side. We had two drafts on our side and multiple amendments. We deserve, the people of Hawai'i deserve, for us to be negotiating in conference, which is being cut off by this motion.

"Amongst ourselves, Madam Speaker. I had really high hopes at the beginning of this year, from a January 16, 2025 press release from this House where we stated a new rule and we applauded it, that members may be appointed to a conference committee even after voting against the adoption of a resolution or bill, allowing for continued input during the final deliberation stage. That opportunity is being cut off because we will not be able to go to conference.

"And now for our stakeholders and for our communities, and why this motion prematurely, absolutely prematurely, cuts off the opportunity for negotiation and conversation with our communities. We have all asked our communities to stay engaged, to call in and support amendments, or support a bill in conference. This motion today will cut that process off for this community.

"And I know that if the good representative from Hawai'i Kai was here, he would say that we should have a full, robust debate, because this House, this House is the marketplace of ideas. And when we take this motion and we accept this motion, we are not letting the full marketplace of ideas move forward because we are not allowing sides that disagree vehemently to come to the negotiating table.

"This vote on this motion to reconsider cuts off a vital process. A vital part of our legislative process where we can negotiate and come to more common ground. For those reasons, Madam Speaker, I oppose this motion. Thank you."

Representative Belatti submitted the following:



HAWAII HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Hale o nā Luna Maka'āinana

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 16, 2025
House Communications: Cathy S. Lee | 808-587-7242

HOUSE RULES TO BE UPDATED TO MODERNIZE AND IMPROVE LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES

Honolulu, Hawai'i – The Hawai'i House of Representatives is pleased to announce proposed updates to the House Rules for the 33rd Legislature, set for review and a vote on the House Floor tomorrow. These updates mark progress in modernizing and streamlining House procedures to support greater efficiency and inclusivity in the legislative process.

The House took a collaborative approach to the House Rules, inviting all members to submit their recommendations. Over 70 suggestions were received, and the bipartisan Advisory Committee on Rules and Procedure thoroughly reviewed the suggestions to ensure that the proposed amendments reflected diverse perspectives.

"The process is a true reflection of the House's values. We sought input from all members on rule changes that align with the dedication of our fifty-one members to serving the public with aloha, fostering collaboration, and respecting differing viewpoints, while maintaining integrity throughout the legislative process. This marks a step toward enhancing how the House operates," said Speaker Nadine K. Nakamura.

Key Highlights:

- **Testimony Enhancement**
To increase accessibility to testimony, on-time testimony submitted to committees will be made available to committee members and the public at least two hours before the meeting starts. Committee chairs are also encouraged to release testimony as early as possible.
- **Nominees List**
A new provision under House Rule 2.1(17) will ensure that a master list of all individuals nominated or appointed by the Speaker, along with their terms of service, is maintained and available to the public for easy reference.

- **Committee Description Updates**
A new Committee on Public Safety will replace the former Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans. This new committee will have oversight of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, as well as emergency management, including the prevention, preparation, response, and recovery from civilian emergencies and disasters, and the safety, welfare, and defense of the State.
- **Conference Committee Appointments**
Members may be appointed to a Conference Committee even after voting against the adoption of a resolution or bill, allowing for continued input during the final deliberation stage.
- **Telework Policy**
In line with modern work practices, a telework policy is being explored by the House Speaker, reflecting the evolving nature of work at the Hawai'i State Legislature.
- **Social Media Policy**
A new rule will provide guidance on the use of social media by House members, ensuring that legislative official social media accounts are used responsibly, and are in compliance with the State Ethics Code.
- **By Request Bills**
Additionally, although not reflected in House Rule amendments, the House will post a list on its website of non-package bills introduced "by request" to disclose who the bill is being introduced on behalf of – if it is a constituent request, it will note "constituent" to protect individual privacy.

"These rule changes will modernize procedures, clarify work practices, and enhance public participation in the legislative process," said Speaker Nakamura.

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Attachments

[2025-2026 House Rules & Rules for the Select Committee on Standards of Conduct \(Ramseyered\)](#)

[2025-2026 House Administrative and Financial Manual \(Ramseyered\)](#)

- Rule 16. Conference Committee
- 16.1. Conference committees shall consist of not less than three members each unless otherwise ordered by the House to be appointed for the purpose of resolving differences between the House and the Senate on any matters where the joint agreement of the House and the Senate is required and shall serve until discharged or until finally reporting on the matter referred to it.
- 16.2. The composition of the conference committee shall be as follows:
- (1) The chair of the standing committee having primary responsibility of the subject matter to be resolved shall be the chair of the conference committee on the part of the House. In the absence of the chair of the conference committee, a designee of the chair shall serve as chair, and
 - (2) The membership of a conference committee shall be on a proportional basis. In appointing the minority party members, the Speaker shall consult with the minority leadership of the House.
- The Speaker shall appoint the members of a conference committee as the Speaker and the chair of such standing committee having primary responsibility of the subject matter shall so mutually agree; **and**,
- [(3) In no event shall the membership of the conference committee include any member who has voted in the negative on adoption of a substantive resolution or has voted in the negative on third reading of a bill that is the subject of the conference committee.]**

Representative Iwamoto rose in opposition to the motion to reconsider and asked that the remarks of the representative from Makiki be entered into the Journal as her own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Amato rose in opposition to the motion to reconsider and asked that the remarks of the representative from Makiki be entered into the Journal as her own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In support. And I will also promise to keep things brief. I just wanted to point out that, as our new members may or may not be familiar with, this is relatively standard over the course of the next two to three weeks. We will see, I would wager, dozens and dozens of bills go through an almost identical process of reconsidering the original motion to disagree, as chairs who are entering this conference process, either with or without budget proceedings, will actually agree on the final version of a bill. To me, this is no different. Although the timing is a little bit different, partly because this does not have any direct financial impact, so it does not have to wait for the budget process to play out.

"I would also note that, as pointed out, there have been numerous drafts. Not only has this been vetted out extensively through multiple hearings, probably taking more time than any other piece of legislation outside of maybe the budget, and even that's arguable. But in addition to that, this has also been vetted out over multiple years and multiple sets of legislatures. I don't think I've seen necessarily an original argument made. These are really just kind of philosophical disagreements that people can feel more than entitled to agree or disagree upon.

"And lastly, I would say, the purpose of conference is largely to negotiate the differences, and it's typically between those lead chairs. If we have an agreement, then the conference process has played itself out on this particular measure. And we will have a vote next week should this motion pass, where we will have, I am sure, extensive debate here on the House floor, which is an additional time for us to really work things out.

"And should it pass, it will have an additional process where the governor will have to make a final decision on that. So even though we've had extensive processes, we will continue to have extensive debate on this measure, and that seems fine to me."

Representative Belatti rose to respond, stating:

"Second time, and just a quick rebuttal, and then one question of parliamentary inquiry. Rebuttal, I will agree with the majority caucus leader that, yes, this will play out many more times. But the way it will likely play out, and the way it normally has played out by custom and practice, is typically conference committees are convened, and then if a bill looks good and there's been opportunity to discuss and look at comp sheets and all those types things, then there's a motion and a move to agree that's done at the table in the conference committee amongst the House conferees if it's a House bill or the Senate conferee if it is a Senate bill. So, this is very unusual.

"And secondly, Madam Speaker, just a question of parliamentary inquiry. Will the comp sheet for House Bill 1194, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 3 be available to the members so that while we consider the 48 hours that we have to actually determine the merits of the bill, will we have that comp sheet available to us? Thank you, Madam Speaker."

At 12:45 p.m., the Chair declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The House of Representatives reconvened at 12:47 p.m.

At this time, the Chair stated:

"Just to clarify Representative Belatti's question at the end there, comparison sheets between the Senate and the House bill will be available in 48 hours and uploaded to Gateway."

Representative Alcos rose to speak in opposition to the motion to reconsider, stating:

"I'm in opposition. I would like to take the words of the former representative of Makiki. And also, as she said, for the representative of Hawai'i Kai, I think he would be standing up and agreeing with this. So, in opposition for this bill. Thank you."

Representative Todd rose to respond, stating:

"Thank you. Again, in support and first time speaking twice on anything, I think. Just as a minor technical aside, while we do have that process play out in conference, this is mostly just for the edification and speaking to the procedural motion, while we do have that process actually play across the conference table, there also will be times where chairs have just agreed, and they don't open conference because they're going to agree to the most recent draft. So, we will have both processes play out simultaneously and we'll try our best to keep people up to date."

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

"In support, Madam Speaker. I'm troubled by any insinuation that somehow there's something undemocratic about the process we are undertaking right now on a motion to reconsider. And I would like to ask a rhetorical question of everyone. What is the goal? Is the goal to pass legislation? Is the goal to reach agreement with our Senate counterparts on measures that we think will be beneficial to the public? Or is the goal to engage in processes that may not be necessary but satisfy some mysterious ethereal requirement of interests that are often unknown or unsaid?

"So, I would submit that we have done our job. We've had multiple public readings. There has been an incredible amount of input over the past few years. And now that we have finally reached agreement, I don't know that there is a need to continue the process further. This is well in line with our rules. This is well in line with custom and practice over the years. Previous majority leaders have stood here in this same spot, in this same seat, saying the exact same thing that I have before, asking for the exact same motion. And I just want to thank all the members for their support."

Representative Souza rose to speak in opposition to the motion to reconsider, stating:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in opposition. And I would like the words of the representative from Makiki and my co-chair for the Good Government Caucus inserted into the record as my own and her comments from both times that she stood up. Thank you," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Takayama rose to speak in support of the motion to reconsider, stating:

"Madam Speaker, thank you. I'd like to support the words of the majority leader. And as the one who submitted the request for agreement, I can assure my colleagues that I have reviewed the latest Senate draft and have agreed to it, as I have with two other House bills. Thank you very much."

Representative Hussey rose to speak in opposition to the motion to reconsider, stating:

"Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. In opposition to the motion. Madam Speaker, I'd like to raise concerns which are, frankly, quite nerdy and wonky, but if you would please indulge me for a moment. My concern is about the way that this impacts our sense of bicameralism, the construction of our legislature.

"Bicameralism is designed to, historically, is designed to balance two power groups. In the UK and in Hawai'i prior to the overthrow, bicameralism was intended to balance between hereditary elites against the general public. But in Hawai'i, in our current situation, really, the Senate and the House are quite identical, except that the Senate is half the number of members and so each member of the Senate has twice the amount of power as each one of us does. In addition, they have longer terms, and they have the additional power of advice and consent, when we have no corresponding unique power.

"This power imbalance, I believe, the one way in which it's addressed is through the conference process. And I appreciate the remarks of the representative from the North Shore. But I do think that there is a benefit to moving legislation all the way through the process. And I just want to share that when the notice came out last night indicating that this was the desire of leadership, thank you, Madam Speaker, I was curious about why this would be our direction for this particular measure. And so, I wanted to appreciate the remarks from the Health chair indicating that this was his request. Thank you very much."

Representative Shimizu rose to speak in opposition to the motion to reconsider, stating:

"Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition with a comment. I appreciate all of the input by my colleagues, and I respect the freedom we have to have different points of view and express them. I came into this floor session intending to probably approve this procedure, but after hearing the chair of the Public Safety offer a passionate explanation of her reason why she is in opposition, I would have to agree that although there are different reasons to approve this procedure, I feel in the spirit of public engagement and allowing time to possibly adjust this bill for those that oppose it, I will be in opposition. So, thank you, Madam Speaker."

Representative Perruso rose to speak in support of the motion to reconsider with reservations, stating:

"With reservations. So, I am uncertain, and I am uncertain because this is a very complicated measure. It's actually taken me five years to wrap my head around the issues around the legislation that we passed in 2019. And I sincerely question whether I adequately understand the measure before us. And while I am not a fan of conference committee in general, like I do appreciate the efforts to streamline and send as few measures to conference committee as possible, it isn't precisely this kind of case where for me that additional time, that additional ability to negotiate would be useful. And I think that in this particular instance, my objective or my hope is that we can pass legislation that won't face legal challenge and will satisfy the courts."

Representative Quinlan rose to a point of order, stating:

"Madam Speaker, point of order. We're speaking about a motion to reconsider."

The Chair addressed Representative Perruso, stating:

"Please stick to the motion at hand, which is to reconsider."

Representative Perruso continued, stating:

"Right, so I am uncertain about whether this is the wisest path forward."

Representative Tam rose to speak in support of the motion to reconsider with reservations, stating:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. With reservations and a brief comment. My reservations on this motion is that the House draft we sent to the Senate is better than the one they sent back."

Representative Souza rose to respond, stating:

"Still in opposition, Madam Speaker. I would like to request to insert written comments into the Journal. Just a brief comment. I do think that even though this particular motion for reconsideration is a procedural motion and we are not debating the merits, I do think that this particular bill, due to perhaps its contentious nature, would benefit from the conference process. And so therefore, I am in opposition. And yeah, I think we do need to increase transparency and the conference process will do that in this particular instance. Thanks."

Representative Souza's written remarks are as follows:

"I am in opposition to the motion to reconsider disagreement and give notice of intent to agree to the Senate amendments in HB 1194, HD 2, SD 3. The House agreeing to the Senate amendments bypasses the conference process, which is integral to fostering further discussion and transparency in the legislative process. Simply agreeing to the Senate amendments without vigorous contemplation, which embodies the spirit of the conference process, is not beneficial to the public interest or to the transparency that we should aim to sow at the Legislature. Although conference facilitates a process that seeks agreement, which agreeing to the Senate amendments in the first place seems to render the process moot for this measure, conference is still necessary to foster important discussion that this measure appears to require. The contentious nature of the substantive merits of this bill, even though this motion is procedural and is not decided on the merits, and the distinct comparisons between the House version and the Senate version, warrants the bill prime for the conference process. Agreement by the House also bypasses the voting process that takes place in conference if the Chairs agree to the bill language and the conference committee votes at that time

on whether to move the measure forward. Essentially, the House agreeing to the Senate amendments removes the risk involved in the conference process altogether. Although agreeing to the other chamber's amendments is not unusual, it should not be considered the practice that is in the best interests of transparency and invoking the full scale of the legislative process."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the House reconsidered its action previously taken in disagreeing to the amendments made by the Senate, and gave notice of intent to agree to such amendments for H.B. No. 1194, HD 2, SD 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MIDWIVES," with Representatives Perruso and Tam voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Alcos, Amato, Belatti, Hussey, Iwamoto, Shimizu, and Souza voting no, and with Representatives Cochran, Garcia, and Matayoshi being excused.

At this time, the Chair stated:

"Members, this measure will appear on Monday's Order of the Day for agree and final reading."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Kapela: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm also going to just say thank you to the body, I know it's been a long floor session, I wasn't expecting it to be this long. So, thank you for your patience. Tonight is Art at the Capitol. It's finally here. So, we actually have something to celebrate. It's going to be beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the Rotunda and also when many of our offices begin to open to the public for Art at the Capitol.

"We have an incredible lineup of performers including musicians, cultural practitioners, dancers, filmmakers, and food vendors. Our food vendors include sweet treats from Mala-Be, Veggi Dogs, and for those who love our local options, laulau from Papa Laulauz. We also have a chess exhibition that's going to be happening on the Second Floor and a tea ceremony demonstration that will happen in the Rotunda and then again on the Third Floor. Rounding out the evening in the Auditorium, starting at 6:30 p.m., will be the revival of our legislative talent show. So, you won't want to miss it, and please stick around.

"And I also have a number of thank yous to the people who made this event possible. First, I want to thank my Senate counterpart, Senator Chris Lee and his staff, the Office of the Governor, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Rod and House Sergeant-at-Arms and Senate Sergeant-at-Arms, House Communications, Senate Communications, the Cathy squared, you folks are the best, thank you, 'Ōlelo Community Media, all of the legislators and their staff who are choosing to stay and keep their offices open so that the public can view our art, thank you. And our many volunteers and vendors.

"I want to thank our performers, Ohana Arts; 'Ohina Films, that will be showing local films from indie filmmakers right here in our House chamber. The representative from Kaimukī and Hawai'i Urasenke, the Hawai'i Youth Symphony, Zoë Wilks, Hayley Cheyney Kāne, Miss Hawai'i who will be performing her Miss America talent, Asianna Saragosa-Torres, Miss Hawai'i volunteer who will be emceeding our talent show, Ballet Hawai'i, 808 Breakers, Taiko Center of the Pacific, Honolulu Theater for Youth, the Hawai'i Chess Federation, and an incredible artist known as Lovejack, who will be performing in the LG and Governor's offices.

"I would also really like to thank some incredible people who are in the gallery today. My staff: my office manager, Ruby Jordan, my committee clerk, Mahalia Giesselmann, and my legislative aide who has really taken the lead on planning Art at the Capitol, these three have spent hours and hours and hours planning this event, so Emma Schell, thank you for your work on this and your leadership. Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to plan Art at the Capitol and I hope you all stick around to enjoy it."

Speaker Nakamura: "Thank you for your leadership for this exciting program."

Representative Matsumoto: "Again, to remind everybody, we have our Women's Legislative Caucus Easter Baskets. It's happening right after session, so right now, because it's been a long session. And so, we're going

to head up right to the Rotunda on the Father Damien side. Please bring your baskets. Please bring all of your staff as well. We will need some extra help going around the barriers to take all of the baskets and give them to the different organizations. So please, we'll see you right after the session and you'll get to see who the Easter Bunny is and the Easter Chick. Thank you."

Representative Souza: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is just a reminder that the Hawai'i Future Caucus that is co-chaired by myself and the representative from Hawai'i Island will be holding its Intro to Future Caucus Zoom session today at 3:00 p.m. Hawai'i time. This is being put on by the Future Caucus nationally, but if you are eligible and you did receive the email, please tune in at 3:00 p.m. Thanks."

Representative Marten: "Thank you. I wanted to invite you folks to come to my office between 5:15 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. for some live violin music by my talented office manager, Emi Horii, who I have not had the opportunity to introduce here. Also, sitting next to her is Scott Peters, who I have not had the opportunity to introduce, my legislative aide. But just a little live music, please come take advantage of our talented staff. Thank you."

Representative Sayama: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just on behalf of the Hawai'i Urasenke Foundation that will be performing the tea ceremony today. It will be having tea demonstration, offering tea candy, and tea drinks at Room 309 starting from 4:45 p.m. They'll have another session at 5:30 p.m. and finally at 6:30 p.m. So, I really welcome every one of your members and staff to please visit. Thank you."

At this time, the Chair stated:

"The Chair would like to remind committee chairs that today is the lateral filing deadline for Senate concurrent resolutions that need to move to their final committees. Please file your committee reports and drafts with the Chief Clerk's Office by 6:00 p.m. this evening."

ADJOURNMENT

At 1:02 p.m., on motion by Representative Morikawa, seconded by Representative Reyes Oda and carried, the House of Representatives adjourned until 11:30 a.m. Monday, April 14, 2025. (Representatives Cochran, Garcia, and Matayoshi were excused.)

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

House Communication dated January 16, 2025, from Brian L. Takeshita, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, to the Honorable President and members of the Senate, informing the Senate that the House has reconsidered its action taken in disagreeing to the amendments made by the Senate on April 10, 2025, and gives its notice of intent to agree to the following House Bill:

H.B. No. 1194, HD 2, SD 3