

**HAWAII STATE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

REGULAR SESSION OF 2026

***ROUGH DRAFT
JOURNAL***

**EIGHTH DAY
FEBRUARY 3, 2026**

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

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EIGHTH DAY

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

The House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2026, convened at 12:08 p.m., with Vice Speaker Ichiyama presiding.

The Roll was called showing all members present with the exception of Representative Kitagawa.

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

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

The House of Representatives reconvened at 12:10 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

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

Representatives Templo and Matayoshi introduced Christian Homeschoolers of Hawai'i: Kēhau Akiona, Sarai Akiona, Jonah Akiona, Kame'e Akiona, Mahana Akiona, Crystale Cayaban, Alohalani Cayaban, Caleia Cayaban, April Ikeda, Caytlyn Ikeda, Aedyn Ikeda, Cody Ikeda, Alice Ikeda, Malulani Anderson, Mary Joy Serrano, Lawrence Serrano, Kyleur Serrano, Landon Serrano, Courtney Stuursma, Aaron Stuursma, Alec Stuursma, Evangeline Stuursma, Violet Stuursma, Christy Cottrell, Morgan Cottrell, Owen Cottrell, Peyton Cottrell, Weston Cottrell, and Emerson Cottrell.

Representative Marten introduced students from Malama Honua Public Charter School: Kaia Clemons, Kahone Kaamaiopili, Keolu Poepule, and Quinn Joseph; their teacher, Kumu Jazz; and Kumu Lei, Kolomana Pery, and Juliet Nowaczyk.

Representative Garcia introduced his staff: Hunter Harris and Erica Holzer; and Dr. Amy Bosler from Christian Homeschoolers of Hawai'i.

Representative Pierick introduced homeschooler Lora Burbarg.

Representative Ilagan introduced Dave Erdman, interim president, Retail Merchants of Hawai'i; and Angela Melody Young.

Representative Matsumoto introduced Leilani Soon.

ORDER OF THE DAY

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Representative Belatti, for the Committee on Public Safety, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1751, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Higher Education.

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1751, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD STATE TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Higher Education, with Representative Kitagawa being excused.

Representative Belatti, for the Committee on Public Safety, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1752 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1752, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with Representative Kitagawa being excused.

Representative Ilagan, for the Committee on Economic Development & Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3-26) recommending

that H.B. No. 1636, as amended in HD 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Water & Land.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1636, HD 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Water & Land, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"In opposition. I'd just like to note that all the testimony submitted on this bill in committee was in opposition. I want to thank the retail merchants for being here as well, as this would give a huge burden to our local retailers, which I don't believe should be placed upon them. So, for those reasons and all the testimony opposing it, a no vote."

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

Representative Matsumoto rose and asked that the Clerk record 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 Muraoka rose to speak in opposition to the measure, stating:

"I rise in opposition. Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is just crazy. In my community, I witnessed one of the two supermarkets out there hire an additional individual, buy a box truck, to go out in the community to go pick up their own carts. Now we want to punish them for that. They're not leaving their carts out. Why are they got to bear the brunt or why do they have to get more financial hardship in a time like this?"

"Secondly, these trickle-down costs go right to our working families. You know they took bags away for some other reason, now you got to go to the store, you got to pay for a bag. With a bill like this, it'll almost seem like they're going to force you to rent a cart when you go to shop. This is crazy and for that reasons I oppose it."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise with reservations. I totally agree with my colleagues in opposing the bill. But I understand that there are concerns and I would look forward to further discussions in my WAL and JHA committees. So, I'm willing to prove with reservations for continued discussion on this matter, how we can come to a better, equitable solution. Thank you."

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

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support and additional comments. Madam Speaker, I want to state that we don't have any intention to make it harder for these food establishments, especially regulating their shopping carts. And what your ECD Committee did was amend this bill to minimize those costs. And I'm just going to read this statement in the bill, it's on section F, that no county shall assess an impound, storage, or disposal fee or any fine to a business establishment if a shopping cart is removed from the business establishment's premises without its consent.

"That means, if a shopping cart were stolen, Madam Speaker, that food establishment would not be assessed that cost. Because we understand that a shopping cart will somehow magically leave the premise. And we don't want that on our food establishments. So, we passed this bill to make sure that there are enabling language for the counties to be able to take these shopping carts that's all across our roads, but also ensure that our counties do not make it burdensome for these food establishments. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, in support. Shopping carts are a blight in our community, quite frankly. If you go to the windward side where it rains all the time, the shopping carts end up in drainage ditches, they can collect debris, they can clog drainage channels, streams. But more than that, they're just kind of everywhere. I think all of our communities are experiencing a similar hardship. The cost for removal of them falls upon, usually, the city and county or private landowners to remove them and deal with these fairly expensive shopping carts.

"What this bill does, Speaker, is it gives the counties, again, like the previous speaker said, an option to remove them and tries to fund it. We're not trying to do an unfunded mandate here. We're trying to hold the people responsible for allowing these shopping carts to leave the premises. Even if they were stolen, I would argue, the fine should be the same. Measures need to be put in place by the businesses to secure their own property. Otherwise, we're going to continue to see what we've been seeing the last 40, 50 years where shopping carts get taken off the property, abandoned, sometimes destroyed, and then the taxpayer has to bear the burden, we all have to bear that burden of that.

"So, I strongly support this bill. I hope that businesses will put countermeasures in place to prevent their shopping carts from leaving the premises. But if they do, I do believe that the businesses should be responsible for bearing some of the costs of the removal, and it should not fall upon all the taxpayers to do so. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Speaker. I rise in support. So, in Kailua Town, there is a stream called Hamakua Stream. And as part of my non-profit work, in collaboration with the state, we do cleanups twice a year. And in each of those cleanups, we fish out probably about eight shopping carts from that state wildlife sanctuary and return them to the respective businesses in not very good shape. But that is work we are doing, right, as a non-profit. We should not be bearing that cost, as our previous speakers have mentioned, the businesses should play a role as well. Thank you."

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

Representative Gedeon 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. 1636, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SHOPPING CARTS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Water & Land, with Representatives Kong and Shimizu voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Gedeon, Matsumoto, Muraoka, Pierick, and Reyes Oda voting no, and with Representative Kitagawa being excused.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Quinlan: "You may know him as the Finance chair, but my dog thinks he's a cuddly bear. Today is the day that he was born. To celebrate, he left his beard unshorn. Happy Birthday, Chris."

Representative Kila: "*Mahalo*, Madam Speaker. And just out of respect to her, because I know she is watching, I would like to wish a sincere happy birthday to my mom. And just in case I don't get to see her when I get home tonight, I am very thankful for all the mothers in the Legislature and our colleagues who are mothers as well. Happy Birthday, mom."

COMMITTEE REASSIGNMENTS

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

H.B.

Nos. Re-referred to:

- | | |
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| 1983 | Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance |
| 2141 | Committee on Economic Development & Technology, then to the Committee on Higher Education, then to the Committee on Finance |

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| 2254 | Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance |
| 2268 | Jointly to the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Economic Development & Technology, then to the Committee on Finance |
| 2357 | Committee on Economic Development & Technology, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance |
| 2463 | Committee on Economic Development & Technology, then jointly to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce and the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance |
| 2505 | Committee on Health, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance |
| 2548 | Jointly to the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems and the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, then to the Committee on Finance |
| 2570 | Committee on Economic Development & Technology, then jointly to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs and the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, then to the Committee on Finance |
| 2577 | Committee on Education, then to the Committee on Finance |
| 2586 | Committee on Transportation, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance |
| 2592 | Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs |
| 2593 | Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs |
| 2618 | Jointly to the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection and the Committee on Tourism, then to the Committee on Finance |

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:24 p.m., on motion by Representative Morikawa, seconded by Representative Garcia and carried, the House of Representatives adjourned until noon tomorrow, Wednesday, February 4, 2026. (Representative Kitagawa was excused.)