

**HAWAII STATE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

REGULAR SESSION OF 2026

***ROUGH DRAFT
JOURNAL***

**TWENTIETH DAY
FEBRUARY 23, 2026**

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK

BT

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TWENTIETH DAY

Monday, February 23, 2026

The House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2026, convened at 12:04 p.m., with Speaker Nakamura presiding.

The Roll was called showing all members present with the exception of Representatives Cochran and Kapela.

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

ORDER OF THE DAY

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS
(FLOOR PRESENTATIONS)

The following resolution (H.R. No. 16) was announced by the Clerk and the following action taken:

H.R. No. 16, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING DR. JAMI FUKUI; SHON MORISHIGE, RN; KYLE OHISA, PA-C; DR. PARWATHI PANIKER; AND DR. LINDA WONG FOR BEING SELECTED BY THEIR PATIENTS AS 2025 HAWAII HEALTHCARE HEROES AND RECOGNIZING THEM FOR THEIR UNWAVERING DEDICATION TO PROVIDING COMPASSIONATE, LIFE-CHANGING CARE," was offered by Representative Takayama.

Representative Takayama moved that H.R. No. 16 be adopted, seconded by Representative Matayoshi.

Representative Takayama recognized the Healthcare Association of Hawai'i 2025 Healthcare Heroes and highlighted their exceptional dedication and compassion in serving patients across the State; acknowledged the Healthcare Association of Hawai'i's longstanding leadership since 1939 in strengthening and supporting a robust healthcare system and commended the nurses, doctors, paramedics, and caregivers who provide critical care throughout the islands; honored their extraordinary contributions to the health and well-being of Hawai'i's communities and expressed appreciation for their service.

Representative Matayoshi recognized the Hawai'i Healthcare Heroes and highlighted the meaningful, patient-driven nomination process administered by the Healthcare Association of Hawai'i since 2014; acknowledged that the honorees are selected through heartfelt testimonies reflecting compassion and professional excellence and commended the profound impact these healthcare professionals have had on individuals and families statewide; honored Dr. Jami Fukui for her leadership in clinical breast oncology, research, and compassionate care; congratulated Dr. Parwathi Paniker for her expert, patient-centered treatment of complex skin cancers, and introduced honorees who were seated on the Floor of the House:

Dr. Jami Fukui, oncologist, Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children; and

Dr. Parwathi Paniker, dermatologist, Kaiser Permanente Kona Medical Office.

Representative Takayama acknowledged Mr. Morishige's skilled and encouraging rehabilitation nursing; commended Mr. Ohisa's expert and empathetic management of complex neurological care; honored Dr. Wong's life-saving surgical leadership and patient-centered; congratulated the honorees for their lasting impact on the lives of their patients and their outstanding service to the people of Hawai'i; and introduced honorees who were seated on the Floor of the House:

Shon Morishige, registered nurse, REHAB Hospital of the Pacific;

Kyle Ohisa, neurology physician assistant, Pali Momi Medical Center; and

Dr. Linda Wong, general surgeon and transplant surgeon, Queen's Medical Center.

Representative Takayama also recognized guests of the honorees who were seated in the gallery:

Healthcare Association of Hawai'i: Hilton Raethel, Paige Heckathorn Choy, and Robert Choy;

Dr. Jami Fukui: Lynn Enright and Beth Hoban;

Shon Morishige: Kelly Morishige, Livia and Daniel Morishige, Kay and Ken;

Kyle Ohisa: Linde, Myles, and Travis Masuhara, Susan Ohisa, Cheryl Ohisa, and Kyler Ohisa; and

Dr. Linda Wong: Martin Tran.

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and H.R. No. 16 was adopted, with Representative Cochran being excused.

At 12:17 p.m., the Chair declared a recess to allow the members to meet and congratulate the honorees.

At 12:28 p.m., the Chair declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair.

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. (Representative Cochran was excused.)

THIRD READING

H.B. No. 2240, HD 1:

Representative Kahaloa moved that H.B. No. 2240, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support with reservations. After reading the bill, I appreciate that there is funding for the House and the Senate for session, as well as what happens in between sessions. It goes into detail about what this budget would cover. It does not include the words 'special session,' it does include the words 'override session.' It is my understanding that those expenses would be included in this budget, but my reservations are that it does not state that explicitly. And I'm concerned because the public has before been informed that the cost of special session was one of the reasons why we did not have special session. So, for those reasons, I stand with reservations. Thanks."

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:

"HB 2240, HD 1 states, in Section 2, subsection 1, '[t]he sum of \$16,644,520 for defraying any and all session and nonsession expenses of the house of representatives up to and including June 30, 2027, including the 2026 regular session, thirty-third legislature of the State of Hawaii, and pre-session expenses and the expenses of any committee or committees established during the interim between 2026 and 2027 regular sessions . . .'

"The \$16,644,520 figure does not itemize the dollar amounts for specific House of Representatives' costs, such as the costs of funding the minority and majority research offices. The minority leadership has not allowed me to use the minority research office and resources because I choose not to participate in the minority caucus. The minority research office is funded by taxpayer dollars. Therefore, the minority leadership depriving me and State House District 43 of the opportunity to utilize this research office is wholly unfair and inequitable. I have brought this exact issue to light for at least two prior legislative sessions when this funding bill came up. Nothing is ever done to remedy the situation. House leadership must take action to ensure resources are not only benefitting members who comply with caucus mandates. This brings up a more potent issue that if a member is a free thinker and charts their own path as a legislator, they cannot receive

resources that are provided to other members. Every member of this body is duly elected by the people of their respective districts, and no member should be deprived of resources that are paid for by the people of the State of Hawai'i."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and H.B. No. 2240, 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 48 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Iwamoto voting aye with reservations, with Representative Souza voting no, and with Representative Cochran being excused.

At 12:30 p.m., the Chair noted that the following bill passed Third Reading:

H.B. No. 2240, HD 1

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

By unanimous consent, the following resolution (H.R. No. 15) and concurrent resolution (H.C.R. No. 13) were referred to Printing and further action was deferred:

H.R. No. 15, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO COLLABORATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION TO DEVELOP A STUDENT CORAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM," was jointly offered by Representatives Lowen, Kahaloa, Kapela, and Tarnas.

H.C.R. No. 13, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO COLLABORATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION TO DEVELOP A STUDENT CORAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM," was jointly offered by Representatives Lowen, Kahaloa, Kapela, and Tarnas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Ichiyama: "Thank you, Speaker. Just wanted to remind members that the National Conference of State Legislatures and our new point person from NCSL from Hawai'i, Uyen Vong, is hosting a lunch for all of the members, House and Senate, to be held in Conference Room 329 immediately following the end of floor session. So, members, please join us for lunch. There will also be a staff breakfast on Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Thank you."

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:31 p.m., on motion by Representative Morikawa, seconded by Representative Garcia and carried, the House of Representatives adjourned until noon tomorrow, Tuesday, February 24, 2026. (Representative Cochran was excused.)