

**HAWAII STATE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**REGULAR SESSION OF 2026**

***ROUGH DRAFT  
JOURNAL***

**TWENTY-FIFTH DAY  
MARCH 10, 2026**

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CLERK**

BT

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## TWENTY-FIFTH DAY

**Tuesday, March 10, 2026**

The House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2026, convened at 9:37 a.m., with Speaker Nakamura presiding.

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

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

## SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications from the Senate (Sen. Com. Nos. 30 through 136) were received and announced by the Clerk:

Sen. Com. No. 30, transmitting 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," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 31, transmitting S.B. No. 2004, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO OUTDOOR ADVERTISING," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 32, transmitting S.B. No. 2005, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONSERVATION BANKING," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 33, transmitting S.B. No. 2014, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 34, transmitting S.B. No. 2041, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 35, transmitting S.B. No. 2050, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CHIROPRACTIC," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 36, transmitting S.B. No. 2055, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CIVIL RIGHTS," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 37, transmitting S.B. No. 2074, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO STATE FACILITIES," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 38, transmitting S.B. No. 2075, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROCUREMENT," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 39, transmitting S.B. No. 2095, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 40, transmitting S.B. No. 2101, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ORGANIC WASTE," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 41, transmitting S.B. No. 2138, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD STATE TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 42, transmitting S.B. No. 2146, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 43, transmitting S.B. No. 2245, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO REVOLVING DOOR RESTRICTIONS FOR

STATE EMPLOYEES," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 44, transmitting S.B. No. 2247, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO POLITICAL FUNDRAISING BY EXECUTIVE BRANCH EMPLOYEES," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 45, transmitting S.B. No. 2261, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 46, transmitting S.B. No. 2313, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING FOR CANDIDATES TO ELECTED OFFICE," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 47, transmitting S.B. No. 2319, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 48, transmitting S.B. No. 2320, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 49, transmitting S.B. No. 2339, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 50, transmitting S.B. No. 2354, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 51, transmitting S.B. No. 2356, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PARKING," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 52, transmitting S.B. No. 2360, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO STATE ENTERPRISE ZONES," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 53, transmitting S.B. No. 2362, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 54, transmitting S.B. No. 2433, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONDOMINIUMS," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 55, transmitting S.B. No. 2466, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 56, transmitting S.B. No. 2487, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 57, transmitting S.B. No. 2494, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CORRUPTION," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 58, transmitting S.B. No. 2499, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VACANCIES," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 59, transmitting S.B. No. 2528, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PARTIAL PUBLIC FINANCING OF ELECTIONS," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 60, transmitting S.B. No. 2532, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE CAMPAIGN SPENDING

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COMMISSION'S ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 61, transmitting S.B. No. 2545, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VETERANS," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 62, transmitting S.B. No. 2548, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOL FACILITIES," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 63, transmitting S.B. No. 2549, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO STUDENT TRANSPORTATION," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 64, transmitting S.B. No. 2550, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOL MODERNIZATION," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 65, transmitting S.B. No. 2565, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CERTIORARI REVIEW BY THE HAWAII SUPREME COURT," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 66, transmitting S.B. No. 2566, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DOMESTIC ABUSE ORDERS FOR PROTECTION," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 67, transmitting S.B. No. 2578, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE FILM INDUSTRY," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 68, transmitting S.B. No. 2595, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 69, transmitting S.B. No. 2598, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO NON-GENERAL FUNDS," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 70, transmitting S.B. No. 2602, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE GENERAL FUND," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 71, transmitting S.B. No. 2603, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 72, transmitting S.B. No. 2613, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL LAND TRANSFER," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 73, transmitting S.B. No. 2657, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DEMENTIAS RESEARCH," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 74, transmitting S.B. No. 2673, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE COUNTIES," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 75, transmitting S.B. No. 2687, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 76, transmitting S.B. No. 2706, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 77, transmitting S.B. No. 2727, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DISCRIMINATION," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 78, transmitting S.B. No. 2756, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONSERVATION ENFORCEMENT," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 79, transmitting S.B. No. 2798, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 80, transmitting S.B. No. 2800, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO IRRIGATION SYSTEMS," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 81, transmitting S.B. No. 2802, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 82, transmitting S.B. No. 2809, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO BUDGET-RELATED REPORTS," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 83, transmitting S.B. No. 2876, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO NATURAL HAIR BRAIDING," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 84, transmitting S.B. No. 2877, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 85, transmitting S.B. No. 2879, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 86, transmitting S.B. No. 2908, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PERMITTING," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 87, transmitting S.B. No. 2927, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PROCUREMENT," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 88, transmitting S.B. No. 2928, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PROCUREMENT," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 89, transmitting S.B. No. 2929, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC NOTICE," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 90, transmitting S.B. No. 2934, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AMBULANCES," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 91, transmitting S.B. No. 2944, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONSERVATION," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 92, transmitting S.B. No. 2961, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 93, transmitting S.B. No. 2969, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE MAUI WILDFIRE EXPOSURE STUDY AND MAUI HEALTH REGISTRY," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 94, transmitting S.B. No. 2987, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LIGHT POLLUTION," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 95, transmitting S.B. No. 3002, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 96, transmitting S.B. No. 3011, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 97, transmitting S.B. No. 3022, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CULTURE AND ARTS," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 98, transmitting S.B. No. 3029, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 99, transmitting S.B. No. 3047, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FINANCIAL LITERACY," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 100, transmitting S.B. No. 3048, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 101, transmitting S.B. No. 3063, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROCUREMENT," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 102, transmitting S.B. No. 3069, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CIVIL SERVICE EXEMPT POSITIONS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 103, transmitting S.B. No. 3076, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TOBACCO ENFORCEMENT," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 104, transmitting S.B. No. 3081, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO A PROGRAM TO CHARACTERIZE THE POTENTIAL OF UNDERGROUND ENERGY RESOURCES STATEWIDE," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 105, transmitting S.B. No. 3082, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MILITARY FAMILIES," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 106, transmitting S.B. No. 3090, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 107, transmitting S.B. No. 3095, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND INVESTMENT OFFICE STAFF SALARIES," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 108, transmitting S.B. No. 3096, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM'S EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NORMAL COST AND ACCRUED LIABILITY," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 109, transmitting S.B. No. 3097, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE EXEMPTION FROM CIVIL SERVICE OF EXECUTIVE PERSONNEL OF THE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 110, transmitting S.B. No. 3109, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 111, transmitting S.B. No. 3110, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 112, transmitting S.B. No. 3136, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LEAD MATERIALS IN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 113, transmitting S.B. No. 3137, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S AUTHORITY TO REGULATE FOOD, DRUGS, AND COSMETICS," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 114, transmitting S.B. No. 3138, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INDEPENDENT AUDITS OF DEPOSIT BEVERAGE DISTRIBUTORS," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 115, transmitting S.B. No. 3139, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE STATE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 116, transmitting S.B. No. 3140, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE STATE FIRE COUNCIL," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 117, transmitting S.B. No. 3157, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 118, transmitting S.B. No. 3180, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO STATE EMPLOYMENT," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 119, transmitting S.B. No. 3199, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 120, transmitting S.B. No. 3201, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CORAL REEF RESILIENCE," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 121, transmitting S.B. No. 3203, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AIR MEDICAL SERVICES," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 122, transmitting S.B. No. 3215, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HARBOR SAFETY," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 123, transmitting S.B. No. 3229, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 124, transmitting S.B. No. 3232, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO UNIVERSAL SCHOOL MEALS," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 125, transmitting S.B. No. 3233, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE HOUSING," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 126, transmitting S.B. No. 3238, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LANGUAGE ACCESS," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 127, transmitting S.B. No. 3240, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE MILITARY AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 128, transmitting S.B. No. 3245, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 129, transmitting S.B. No. 3247, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 130, transmitting S.B. No. 3264, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND STAFF SALARIES," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 131, transmitting S.B. No. 3279, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 132, transmitting S.B. No. 3286, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 133, transmitting S.B. No. 3302, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOMEMADE FOOD PRODUCTS," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 134, transmitting S.B. No. 3320, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE FOOD AND PRODUCT INNOVATION NETWORK," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 135, transmitting S.B. No. 3332, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO STATE-FUNDED TRAVEL," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

Sen. Com. No. 136, transmitting S.B. No. 3333, SD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION," which passed Third Reading in the Senate on March 06, 2026.

On motion by Representative Morikawa, seconded by Representative Garcia and carried, the following Senate Bills passed First Reading by title and further action was deferred: (Representative Kong was excused.)

S.B. No. 2004, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2005, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2014, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2041, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2050, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2055, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2074, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2075, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2095, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2101, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2138  
 S.B. No. 2146, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2245  
 S.B. No. 2247, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2261, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2313, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2319, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2320, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2339, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2354, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2356, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2360, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2362, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2433, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2466  
 S.B. No. 2487, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2494  
 S.B. No. 2499  
 S.B. No. 2528, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2532  
 S.B. No. 2545, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2548, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2549, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2550, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2565  
 S.B. No. 2566  
 S.B. No. 2578, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2595, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2598  
 S.B. No. 2602, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2603, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2613, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2657, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2673, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2687, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2706, SD 1

S.B. No. 2727  
 S.B. No. 2756  
 S.B. No. 2798, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2800, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2802, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2809  
 S.B. No. 2876  
 S.B. No. 2877, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2879  
 S.B. No. 2908, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2927, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2928, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2929, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2934, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2944, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2961, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2969, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 2987, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3002  
 S.B. No. 3011, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3022, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3029, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3047, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3048, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3063, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3069, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3076, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3081, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3082, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3090, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3095, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3096, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3097, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3109, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3110, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3136  
 S.B. No. 3137, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3138, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3139, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3140  
 S.B. No. 3157  
 S.B. No. 3180, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3199, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3201, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3203  
 S.B. No. 3215  
 S.B. No. 3229, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3232  
 S.B. No. 3233, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3238, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3240, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3245, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3247, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3264, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3279, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3286, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3302, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3320, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3332, SD 1  
 S.B. No. 3333, SD 1

## INTRODUCTIONS

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

Representative Lowen introduced participants of the Care for ‘Āina 2026 Pilina Kanaloa: Ocean Day at the Capitol.

Representative Tam introduced Michael Golojuch, Jr. from the LGBTQ+ Commission; Isis Usborne from the Lambda Law Student Association at UH; and Dale Vanderbrink from Neighborhood Board No. 11.

Representative Evslin introduced students from Island School: Ella Aoun, Elie Aoun, Jeylah Asuncion, Rachele Asuncion, Hugh Brayham, Mira

Cates, Boone Clifton, Kip Clifton, Wainohia Cobb Adams, William Corbo, Scier Dela Cruz, Mackenzie Enriquez, Sophie Esquivel, Emmanuelle Esquivel, Daisy Fisher, Naomi Glick, Hendrix Gushman, Jed Gushman, Kahamhana Kuhaulua, Ben Kuhaulua, Antonio Ledesma, Derrick Ledesma, Aubrey Leung, Nolan Paul, Zoe Pendleton, Phoebe Sakiyama, Iomana Silva, Bobilee Silva, Ian Tanigawa, and Mason Weir; and their teachers: Ms. Ka'aihue, Ms. Kara, and Ms. Saebre.

Representative Quinlan introduced Denise Antolini, apiarist and retired law professor.

Representative Iwamoto members of the Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center: Andrew Ogata, Maddie Sesepera, Dr. Rick Ramirez, Shalani Placencia, and Kekoa Kealoha.

### ORDER OF THE DAY SUSPENSION OF RULES

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

### CONSENT CALENDAR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

At this time, the Chair stated:

"Members, there will be no discussion as these are items agreed to by this body for placement on the consent calendar."

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1022-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2117, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2117, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE ARTS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1027-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2155, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2155, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1028-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1832, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1832, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AQUACULTURE," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1030-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1601, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1601, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO BIOSECURITY," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1032-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2297, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2297, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1033-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2397, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2397, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOL FACILITIES," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1034-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1893, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1893, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1035-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2533, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2533, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1036-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1890, HD 2, as amended in HD 3, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1890, HD 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1038-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2004, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2004, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1041-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1810, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1810, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CHARITABLE SOLICITATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1048-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2323, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2323, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE

WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1055-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1691, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1691, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1061-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1671, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1671, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1062-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2619, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2619, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOMEMADE FOOD PRODUCTS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1063-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1481, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1481, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN REMAINS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1064-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2314, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2314, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SYSTEMS OF CARE," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1065-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2319, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2319, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE STATE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1070-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2214, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B.

No. 2214, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TAX CREDITS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1072-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2488, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2488, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1073-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2009, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2009, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1074-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2007, HD 2, as amended in HD 3, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2007, HD 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HOUSEHOLD AND DEPENDENT CARE SERVICES TAX CREDIT," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1076-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1964, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1964, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1077-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2218, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2218, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1079-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1535, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1535, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1081-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1977, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1977, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1082-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2054, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloo, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2054, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION'S ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1083-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2046, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloo, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2046, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE 'OLELO HAWAI'I COMMISSION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1084-26) recommending that H.B. No. 146, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloo, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 146, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY'S 'OLELO HAWAI'I INITIATIVES," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1085-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2094, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloo, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2094, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO JURY DUTY," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1086-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2181, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloo, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2181, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1088-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2515, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloo, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2515, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WORKFORCE HOUSING," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1089-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2444, HD 2, as amended in HD 3, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloo moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2444, HD 3 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Templo's written remarks in support of the measure are as follows:

"I support HB 2444 as it provides direct financial relief to low-income renters through tax credits. In Hawai'i, renters are carrying an increasing burden, often paying a significant portion of their income just to remain housed. This measure helps offset the high cost of rent and is targeted toward

individuals and families who are most financially burdened by housing expenses.

"The Low-Income Household Renters' Tax Credit was originally established to support residents who do not benefit from homeowner tax advantages and to reduce the regressive impact of our tax system. It was intended to promote affordability, support housing stability, and ensure that renters receive meaningful tax relief.

"This bill builds on that intent by increasing the credit from \$50 to \$187 per exemption; and expanding the adjusted gross income eligibility to \$30,000 to \$40,000 who has paid more than \$1,000 in rent. For many working families, *kūpuna*, and individuals living paycheck to paycheck, even a modest increase like this can make a real difference.

"In my district, I see firsthand that families are struggling—not from a lack of effort, but because the cost of living continues to outpace wages. This measure acknowledges that reality and takes a tangible step to ease that pressure.

"I also appreciate that this credit is targeted to those who need it most. By expanding both the amount and eligibility, we are moving toward a more equitable tax system that better supports our most vulnerable residents.

"At the same time, this cannot be the end of the conversation. While tax credits provide important relief, we must continue advancing long-term solutions, including increasing housing supply, strengthening tenant protections, and creating pathways to homeownership.

"I would like to extend my sincere *mahalo* to the Housing chair, Economic Development and Technology chair, and Finance chair for their leadership on this measure.

"HB 2444 is a strong step forward, and I am proud to support efforts that put money back into the pockets of our people and help keep our communities stable and thriving."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2444, HD 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1090-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2385, HD 2, as amended in HD 3, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloo, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2385, HD 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOUSING," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1092-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1724, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloo, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1724, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1093-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1733, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloo, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1733, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HOUSING LOAN AND MORTGAGE PROGRAM," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1101-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2416, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2416, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO A MARITIME YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PATHWAY PROGRAM," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1103-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2001, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2001, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LOVE MY LIBRARY DAY," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1105-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1603, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1603, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL PARK LEASES," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1107-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1753, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloe moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1753, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Templo's written remarks in support of the measure are as follows:

"I support HB 1753 as it strengthens consumer protection and gives people greater control over their personal information online. This measure ensures that social media platforms provide a clear and accessible process for users to delete their accounts and personal data.

"In today's digital age, our residents, especially our youth, are constantly engaging online, often without fully understanding how their data is collected and used. This bill helps restore a sense of control and accountability where it has long been lacking.

"We have a responsibility to hold these online platforms accountable for how they handle our data. HB 1753 is a necessary step toward ensuring that technology serves our communities—not the other way around.

"I would like to extend my sincere *mahalo* to the Consumer Protection & Commerce chair and Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs chair for their leadership, work, and efforts in moving this measure.

"While this is meaningful progress, we must continue advancing policies that protect privacy and safeguard the well-being of our residents in an increasingly digital world."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1753, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SOCIAL MEDIA," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1114-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2140, HD 2 pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2140, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ESSENTIAL PERMITTING POSITIONS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1124-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1962, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1962, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FAMILY," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1125-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1963, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1963, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO IMAGE-BASED SEXUAL ABUSE," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1126-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2096, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2096, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGGRAVATED CIRCUMSTANCES IN CHILD PROTECTIVE PROCEEDINGS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1127-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1959, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1959, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1133-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1960, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloe moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1960, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Tam's written remarks in support of the measure are as follows:

"I stand in strong support of HB 1960. I want to thank my vice-chair of tourism and the Women's Legislative Caucus for bringing this bill to our attention here.

"The bill before us would require the attorney general to establish a human trafficking awareness training program for workers in the transient accommodations sector, and to mandate that employers in that sector provide periodic training, signage, reporting protocols, and prevention policies for human trafficking. This is a commonsense measure that strengthens Hawai'i's ability to detect, report, and prevent one of the most horrifying abuses of human dignity: human trafficking.

"Too often, human trafficking is thought of as something distant and it's something that would only happen 'over there.' But as many legislators here know, trafficking hides in plain sight, particularly in industries like hospitality, tourism, and transient accommodations, where workers interact daily with guests and travelers who may be vulnerable or exploited. Without proper training and awareness among frontline workers, victims can fall through the cracks.

"We need only look at one of the most notorious trafficking cases in recent history to understand why such awareness matters. Jeffrey Epstein was arrested in 2019 on federal charges of sex trafficking of minors and died in custody while awaiting trial. His case graphically exposed not just the

horrors of organized trafficking but the ways in which traffickers can embed themselves in legitimate social networks and industries to hide their crimes. Epstein's operation illustrated a glaring reality: laws alone are not enough if the people on the ground don't know how to see the signs or how to safely report suspicions. Survivors and advocates have repeatedly pointed out that trafficking can't be addressed by criminal statutes alone, education and prevention are essential tools that this bill will mandate.

"Here in Hawai'i, tourism remains our top industry, and for our industry to be strong, we need to create an environment that makes it difficult for criminals like Jeffrey Epstein and his accomplices to engage in human trafficking.

"In closing, Madam Speaker, trafficking survivors have taught us that awareness saves lives. The Epstein scandal, and the ongoing release of documentation and testimony around it, reminds us how complex traffickers' networks can be and how easily victims can be overlooked if we are not vigilant. Passing HB 1960 is a meaningful step toward equipping thousands of Hawai'i workers with the knowledge and confidence they need to intervene and helps us build a safer, more just Hawai'i for everyone."

Representative Templo's written remarks in support of the measure are as follows:

"I support HB 1960 because human trafficking is a serious and ongoing issue that we cannot afford to ignore. In Hawai'i, where tourism is a major part of our economy, we must acknowledge that traffickers often exploit high-traffic visitor environments to operate in plain sight.

"This measure takes a proactive approach by equipping frontline workers in the visitor industry with training and tools to recognize the warning signs of trafficking and respond appropriately. These employees are often the first to see suspicious activity, and empowering them with knowledge and clear reporting pathways can make a critical difference in identifying and stopping exploitation.

"HB 1960 is about accountability. It ensures that businesses are not just passive participants, but active partners in protecting human dignity and safety. It sends a strong message that Hawai'i is committed to safeguarding vulnerable individuals, including women, children, and those who are economically disadvantaged.

"I would like to extend my sincere *mahalo* to the Women's Caucus for including this in our priority legislative package, and Senator Lynn DeCoite for initiating this measure or their leadership on this measure. Also, thank you to the Tourism chair, Labor chair, and Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs chair for their leadership in moving this bill forward.

"Human trafficking thrives in silence and inaction. This bill disrupts that silence by creating awareness, strengthening reporting, and encouraging collective responsibility. While there is still more work to be done, HB 1960 is an important step toward a safer and more just Hawai'i."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1960, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1136-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2293, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2293, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HARM TO STUDENTS REGISTRY," passed Third Reading by a vote of 47 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Amato voting no, and with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1143-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2288, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B.

No. 2288, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PAROLE ELIGIBILITY," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1144-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1752, as amended in HD 1, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1752, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1148-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1573, HD 2, as amended in HD 3, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1573, HD 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1151-26) recommending that H.B. No. 469, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 469, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PARKING FOR DISABLED PERSONS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1153-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2091, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2091, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PETITIONS TO TEMPORARILY RESTRAIN AND ENJOIN HARASSMENT OF AN EMPLOYEE," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1160-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1851, HD 2, as amended in HD 3, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1851, HD 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1164-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1688, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1688, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO A GENERAL EXCISE TAX EXEMPTION FOR AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE," passed Third Reading by a vote of 47 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Iwamoto voting no, and with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1172-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1696, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1696, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSES," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1178-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2417, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahalao, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2417, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE LICENSE REVOCATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1179-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2375, HD 2 pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahalao, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2375, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TOWING PRACTICES," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1180-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2333, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahalao, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2333, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1181-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2152, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahalao, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2152, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DOG ATTACKS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1185-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1881, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahalao, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1881, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LAND USE," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1186-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2395, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahalao, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2395, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE TAKING OF MARINE DEPOSITS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1196-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1721, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahalao, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1721, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOUSING," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1203-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1921, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahalao, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1921, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO

CESSPOOLS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1205-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1730, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahalao, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1730, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WASTEWATER SYSTEMS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

### THIRD READING

#### H.B. No. 1697, HD 1:

On motion by Representative Kahalao, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, H.B. No. 1697, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO NATURAL HAIR BRAIDING," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

#### H.B. No. 1824, HD 1:

On motion by Representative Kahalao, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, H.B. No. 1824, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONDOMINIUMS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

#### H.B. No. 2282, HD 1:

On motion by Representative Kahalao, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, H.B. No. 2282, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

#### H.B. No. 2078, HD 1:

On motion by Representative Kahalao, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, H.B. No. 2078, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HABITUAL VIOLENT CRIME," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

#### H.B. No. 2321, HD 1:

On motion by Representative Kahalao, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, H.B. No. 2321, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

#### H.B. No. 2279, HD 1:

On motion by Representative Kahalao, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, H.B. No. 2279, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EXPUNGEMENT ORDERS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

#### H.B. No. 1522, HD 1:

On motion by Representative Kahalao, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, H.B. No. 1522, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DISCRIMINATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

#### H.B. No. 2097, HD 1:

On motion by Representative Kahalao, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, H.B. No. 2097, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE DRIVERS LICENSE REVOCATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

**H.B. No. 2433, HD 1:**

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, H.B. No. 2433, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

**H.B. No. 2106, HD 1:**

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, H.B. No. 2106, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

**H.B. No. 2274, HD 1:**

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, H.B. No. 2274, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FUNDING ADJUSTMENTS FOR STATE PROGRAMS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes, with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

**H.B. No. 2452:**

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, H.B. No. 2452, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO STATE BONDS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 47 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Iwamoto voting no, and with Representatives Kong and Pierick being excused.

At 9:44 a.m., the Chair noted that the following bills passed Third Reading:

H.B. No. 2117, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2155, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1832, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1601, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2297, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2397, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1893, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2533, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 1890, HD 3  
 H.B. No. 2004, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1810, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2323, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1691, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1671, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2619, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1481, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2314, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2319, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2214, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2488, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2009, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2007, HD 3  
 H.B. No. 1964, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2218, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1535, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1977, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2054, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2046, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 146, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2094, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2181, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2515, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2444, HD 3  
 H.B. No. 2385, HD 3  
 H.B. No. 1724, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1733, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2416, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2001, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1603, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 1753, HD 2

H.B. No. 2140, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1962, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1963, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2096, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1959, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1960, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2293, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2288, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1752, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 1573, HD 3  
 H.B. No. 469, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2091, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1851, HD 3  
 H.B. No. 1688, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 1696, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2417, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2375, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2333, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2152, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1881, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2395, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1721, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1921, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1730, HD 2

H.B. No. 1697, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 1824, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2282, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2078, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2321, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2279, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 1522, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2097, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2433, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2106, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2274, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2452

The Chair then stated:

"Members, please remember to submit to the Clerk the list of House Bills on the consent calendar for which you will be inserting written comments in support or in opposition. This must be done by adjournment of today's floor session."

At 9:45 a.m., the Chair declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The House of Representatives reconvened at 9: 49 a.m.

**ORDINARY CALENDAR****UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1020-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1764, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1764, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE MUSIC ACCESSIBILITY PILOT PROGRAM," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Pierick voting no.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1021-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2438, HD 2, as amended in HD 3, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2438, HD 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII CULTURAL TRUST," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1023-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1860, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1860, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1024-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2604, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2604, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PERFORMING ARTS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes to 2 noes, with Representatives Garcia and Pierick voting no.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1025-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2118, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2118, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Pierick voting no.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1026-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2017, HD 2, as amended in HD 3, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloe moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2017, HD 3 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

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

Representative Garcia 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. 2017, HD 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representatives Alcos, Cochran, Garcia, and Iwamoto voting aye with reservations.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1029-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2216, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloe moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2216, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Madam Speaker, I rise in support with one reservation, and may I add comments? Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. So, this bill authorizes the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to package and sell a portion of its agricultural loan portfolio to permitted third parties. So, I'm assuming that these loans are being made to farmers and that the third parties are private financial institutions who may pay pennies on the dollar to purchase these loans and then their job is to go collect on outstanding loans or when people are not paying.

"I love farmers and I love the fact that this bill ultimately wants to raise revenue so they can make more loans to farmers so that we can help them, which is great. I'm concerned with those farmers who are struggling, struggling to repay their loans back. And what my concern is that we are

basically potentially increasing the fact that we're selling off their loan to a collection agency at some point, and that concerns me.

"The stress of being sent to collection is overwhelming. And there are a lot of farmers who struggle year after year, and then because of some of the legislation we've provided, they are now eligible to get a grant. And so, some of these farmers can actually later on, or hopefully if we invest more into giving them grants, they can actually then repay the loan. But for this reason, I have this reservation. Thank you so much."

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

"Thank you, Speaker. I rise in opposition. I am completely supportive of expanding the revolving fund to support our farmers. But I'm just not fond of selling loans to third party, so that's my main reason. Thank you."

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

Representative Chun's written remarks are as follows:

"Madam Speaker, I stand in support of House Bill 2216, House Draft 2, which allows the Department of Agriculture & Biosecurity to sell a portion of its loan portfolio to permitted third parties. First, I want to thank the chair of Finance for moving this bill, which provides farmers and ranchers with loans to help them raise capital for their agricultural production. The concept of this measure is simple: a set amount of funding is used to provide the loans, with a mechanism for additional capital by including an option for reselling certain loans to third-party investors.

"The agricultural loan program established by Session Laws of Hawaii 2025 (Act 69) has demonstrated success, as evidenced by the number of agricultural loan applications received and approved since it became law. This measure seeks to increase this success and expand the program's capacity from \$5 million to \$10 million without additional state funding.

"By reselling loans, additional money can be reinvested into expanding this agricultural loan program. It is a creative way to maximize limited funding and provide more support to our local farmers without placing an additional burden on taxpayers.

"While there is some concern that farmers may experience financial hardship because of this partnership with third-party investors, this should not be confused with debt collection. The terms of a borrower's loan will not change when they are sold, and any purchaser must assume the existing terms and conditions. This is the same financial tool used by banks and authorized under section 412:9-309, HRS. Many financial institutions incorporate this type of loan sale as part of their business strategy without a noticeable impact on their borrowers.

"There have also been testimony submissions indicating predatory lending will not be an issue with this measure. The director of the Hawai'i County Department of Research and Development reported that the interest rates offered through Act 69 are reasonable and would not change. Separately, the Ulupono Initiative testified that loan repayment is not an issue under Act 69. They also celebrate the resilience of our farmers who continue to thrive despite challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic and rising inflation.

"Madam Speaker, if we are serious about food security and growing more local food without using additional taxpayer dollars, this measure moves us in that direction, and I strongly support House Bill 2216, House Draft 2. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2216, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LOANS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Iwamoto voting aye with reservations, and with Representative Cochran voting no.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1031-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1934, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1934, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Madam Speaker, rise in opposition. Madam Speaker, even though I agree with the intent of the bill, the way this bill is worded and certain things in this bill is where my opposition comes. Expanding access to books is very important. Kids got to read. As a grandfather, I have a four-year-old and a newborn baby, and we read to them. The library system is free. It encourages, if you take these kids to the library, it encourages family time and building points and building stronger families.

"But the equity issues here in this bill about mailing them. My community suffers from a large number of homeless and shelters where some of these books may not get to by the mail that this bill is saying. And another big thing for me that stands out in this bill is it doesn't clarify the operational costs. I know it says 50% of the program has to be paid for by nonprofits. Well, where do nonprofits get their money from? Grants, from taxpayers, okay. And then it doesn't show where the administrative responsibilities, the staffing, outreach, program management, or any of those things go. So, for those reasons, I'm in opposition. Thank you."

Representative Garcia rose in opposition to the measure and asked that the remarks of the representative from Wai'anae be entered into the Journal as his own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In support. I am grateful for the legislative body to take this bill up today. This bill will expand access of an already existing program that we have delivering books to those kids that are from birth to five years old in many of our rural communities, and this expands access to the entire state.

"Literacy rates in Hawai'i has been dropping. We were once at 98% of our literacy rates. And getting books to individuals in rural communities and across the state through the mail will greatly increase that and create an interest in learning in many of our young people instead of having them just simply being on their phones.

"Madam Speaker, regarding the non-profits, this bill will require, it will have a non-profit give us 50% matching funds. And to the claim that this nonprofit is getting taxpayer dollars, the nonprofit in question is the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. I don't think that they're getting taxpayer dollars, that's a wild assumption for someone to make. So, for these reasons, I ask this body to support this bill. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1934, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LIBRARIES," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes to 2 noes, with Representatives Garcia and Muraoka voting no.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1037-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2454, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2454, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support with reservations and a brief comment. My reservations is to acknowledge and bring attention to some of the opposition testimony that brought some valid points that I think could be considered. May I also have permission to enter written comments into the Journal. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

Representative Shimizu's written remarks are as follows:

"I rise with reservations regarding HB 2454, HD 2.

"I appreciate the intent of this measure to strengthen accountability and oversight within the Safe Routes to School Program. Improving pedestrian and bicycle safety around our schools is an important goal, and ensuring that public funds dedicated to these efforts are used responsibly and effectively benefits students, families, and the broader community. Programs that promote safe access to schools help support healthier communities and safer transportation options for our *keiki*.

"However, I have concerns that the approach taken in this measure may unintentionally create challenges for counties that are working in good faith to implement Safe Routes to School projects. Testimony indicated that the bill could be perceived as government overreach and may disrupt community-led initiatives that have been developed through collaboration between counties, schools, and local partners. These local partnerships are often essential to identifying the most appropriate safety improvements for each community.

"Another concern relates to the timelines established in the measure. The two-year obligation requirement and four-year expenditure deadlines may present difficulties for counties undertaking larger or more complex infrastructure projects. Planning, permitting, and construction timelines for transportation improvements can vary significantly depending on project scope and site conditions. If counties are unable to meet these deadlines, funds may revert back to the state even when projects are progressing and serving important public safety needs.

"For these reasons, while I support the broader goal of improving safety and accountability within the Safe Routes to School Program, I believe additional collaboration with counties and community stakeholders may be necessary to ensure that program requirements do not unintentionally hinder local efforts or delay critical safety improvements."

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

Representative La Chica's written remarks are as follows:

"We've made a commitment to safer streets around our schools – and in 2025 we passed Act 212 to put real dollars behind that commitment. But funding alone is not enough. This measure ensures that Safe Routes to School dollars are actually used, by setting clear deadlines for counties to obligate and expend funds, and requiring that unused funds be returned and reallocated to projects that are ready to move.

"Just like federal Safe Routes to School funding, we know the challenge isn't always availability, it's execution. This bill strengthens accountability, improves coordination, and makes sure these investments translate into real infrastructure: safer crossings, better walkways, and protected routes for our *keiki*. Because at the end of the day, this is about protecting our *keiki* and making sure they can walk, bike, or roll to school safely."

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

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2454, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representatives Perruso and Shimizu voting aye with reservations.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1039-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2427, HD 2, as amended in HD 3, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2427, HD 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1040-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2207, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2207, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you very much. I rise in support. This bill is not very contentious, but we didn't pass it in the past. So, we want to pass it this year. It's to allow the fine mesh netting that we use to protect our palm trees from coconut rhinoceros beetle to be used. This netting is not allowed to be used for fishing purposes. And on this Ocean Day at the Capitol, I definitely support that. But this is a tool that we need in our toolkit. The state has funded a program to distribute netting, among other tools, to residents to save their palm trees until we have a biocontrol, and this is one of those things, and we need to make it legal. Thank you very much."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2207, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1042-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1840, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1840, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

Representative Perruso's written remarks are as follows:

"With reservations. I appreciate the intent of this measure and recognize the seriousness of the teacher shortage facing Hawai'i's public schools. Expanding pathways that allow qualified educators to enter the classroom is an important policy goal, and international exchange programs can provide valuable cultural and educational experiences for students.

"However, I have reservations about the direction this bill represents for addressing our workforce challenges.

"HB 1840 directs the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board to develop an alternative pathway allowing visiting international educators participating in the federal J-1 visa program to receive a permit aligned with the duration of their exchange program. While this may increase short-term staffing flexibility, it risks normalizing a strategy that relies on temporary international labor rather than confronting the structural conditions that make it difficult to recruit and retain local teachers.

"For many years, Hawai'i has struggled with teacher shortages driven by high housing costs, relatively low teacher pay compared with the cost of living, and the challenges faced by educators relocating to or remaining in the islands. Expanding reliance on temporary visiting educators may ease immediate staffing pressures, but it does not address the underlying economic and workforce conditions that discourage qualified local residents from entering or remaining in the profession.

"I am also mindful that J-1 exchange programs are, by design, temporary cultural exchange programs. Building essential public school staffing models around temporary visas raises concerns about stability, continuity for students, and the long-term development of a locally rooted teaching workforce.

"Hawai'i's public education system should prioritize building sustainable pathways for local students, paraprofessionals, and community members to become teachers—through teacher preparation programs, housing support, and compensation structures that allow educators to remain in the profession for the long term.

"For these reasons, while I respect the intention behind this proposal and the good faith efforts of its proponents to respond to immediate staffing needs, I remain concerned that this approach treats the symptoms of the

teacher shortage rather than addressing its structural causes. Accordingly, I vote with reservations."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1840, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Perruso voting aye with reservations, and with Representative Iwamoto voting no.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1043-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1644, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1644, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONSUMER PROTECTION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1044-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1645, HD 2, as amended in HD 3, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1645, HD 3 pass Third Reading, 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 Iwamoto rose and asked that the Clerk record an aye vote with reservations for her, and the Chair "so ordered."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support with reservation and a comment. I understand the issue these critical service providers face, where the volatility of the insurance market has made insurance coverage extremely difficult to obtain. My concern is with the testimony of the attorney general, which expressed that indemnification provisions are standard in government contracts and should be included. Additionally, removing joint and several liability in order for these providers to receive affordable coverage could create a limiting landscape for justice.

"My reservations stem from ensuring that the legal recourse for both the state and the children in the system are adequately protected. There is an absolute necessity to ensure clear accountability for each actor in a system responsible for the care of the vulnerable children. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1645, HD 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LIABILITY," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representatives Garcia, Iwamoto, and Shimizu voting aye with reservations.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1045-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1946, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1946, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO REGISTRATION OF TIME SHARES," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1046-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1648, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1648, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO

WORKERS' COMPENSATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1047-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2324, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2324, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH LAW," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Amato voting no.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1049-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1509, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1509, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1050-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1514, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1514, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Garcia voting no.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1051-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1515, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1515, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1052-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2164, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2164, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Pierick voting no.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1053-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2165, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloe moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2165, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in opposition. This bill is about unemployment benefits, and it removes access, and I quote, to 'individuals involved in a labor dispute and for whom an employer-employee relationship continues to exist.' This may include workers who are locked out by an employer, like the almost 600 Kapiolani nurses who worked for almost a year without a contract, and when they exercised their right to strike

for one day, they were then locked out by their employer for 22 days. They were able to apply for unemployment insurance.

"According to Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, this specific amendment to the unemployment insurance bill is needed to conform to the federal agency's interpretation of a federal law. States were sent this memo from the federal agency in January, and it is now March and it seems like we have now jumped at the opportunity to change our state statutes to conform to an agency interpretation. We haven't even heard from the attorney general yet whether or not the attorney general will be pushing back as the attorney has done on many, many federal agency's interpretations that were misinterpreted according to the courts.

"Why are we so ready to turn our backs on workers in this particular way, reverse our own state policy and codify it into our statutes? There are legislators that meet every other year, so not all states are codifying compliance with this agency's interpretation, which may be overruled by a court or maybe the feds will have a different interpretation next month. It is premature to codify the president's latest interpretation in our state statutes. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In opposition. Just wanted to note for the record the testimony from several labor organizations, unions, relating to the problems with this bill. Thank you very much."

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

"Thank you, Speaker. With reservations. I understand that this bill is necessary to bring us into compliance and risks federal funding for our unemployment insurance system. But I do want to flag that these guidelines tighten requirements on striking workers, making it harder for them to receive UI, making it so that they have to seek out alternative employment while they're striking.

"And I want to also flag that it applies specifically to workers who are part of unions that don't have hiring halls. So, this will impact particularly workers in feminized industries like health care, like hospitality, and our hotel industry. And it runs counter to a growing movement across the country of states who are seeking to expand or even guarantee unemployment insurance for individuals in labor disputes.

"And I really believe that worker power is one of our strongest defenses against corporate abuse and rising authoritarianism. And I really believe that we should be wary of anything, even something that seems relatively small like this, that weakens labor power at this time. So, I hope as the bill moves forward, we can look to see what other states are doing, consult our attorney general, see if we have other options. And if we do pass this, continue to monitor federal guidance as it does change and revisit this statute and eventually move towards expanding access to UI for striking workers. Thank you."

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

Representative Garcia's written remarks are as follows:

"Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to HB 2165. This bill piles unnecessary pressure on Hawai'i's small businesses at the worst possible time. Many of them are still trying to get back on their feet after the COVID-19 shutdowns and instead of helping them, this bill slams them with bigger government penalties. HB 2165 would jack up fines for late or incomplete wage reporting from \$10-\$30 all the way to \$1,000. This jump does nothing but punish the very employers who keep our communities working. That's not support, that's not accountability, that's just a hammer. Instead of fixing the system or preventing reporting issues in the first place, this bill leans entirely on more penalties and more enforcement. No improvements to the process, no help for small businesses, just heavier consequences. Madam Speaker, our small businesses don't need another threat hanging over them. They need room to recover and grow. HB 2165 does the opposite."

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

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

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

"Thank you. With strong reservations and may I have the words of the representatives from Kaimuki and Kaka'ako entered as if they were my own," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Shimizu rose in support of the measure with reservations and asked that his written remarks be inserted in the Journal, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Shimizu's written remarks are as follows:

"I rise with reservations regarding HB 2165, HD 2.

"I appreciate the intent of this measure to strengthen protections and improve accountability in the area addressed by this legislation. Ensuring that our laws are enforced effectively and that responsible parties fulfill their obligations is an important objective. Clear reporting standards and meaningful enforcement mechanisms can help maintain public trust and ensure that systems operate fairly for all participants.

"However, I have concerns that certain provisions of this measure may create unintended challenges, particularly for smaller businesses and entities that may not have the same administrative capacity as larger organizations. The five-day reporting deadline established in the bill may be difficult for some smaller operations to meet, especially in circumstances where delays occur due to staffing limitations, administrative oversight, or other unintentional factors. Compliance timelines should take into account the operational realities faced by smaller entities that are attempting to comply in good faith.

"Additionally, the increase in penalties from the current range of \$10 to \$30 up to as much as \$300 represents a significant escalation. While penalties can play an important role in encouraging compliance, they should also remain proportionate to the nature of the violation. In cases where a reporting error or delay stems from an administrative mistake rather than intentional misconduct, substantially higher penalties may place an unnecessary burden on small operators. I am also concerned that the penalty structure, including the absence of a clear limit related to overpayments, may differ from the approach taken in many other states and could create uncertainty for those subject to the law.

"For these reasons, while I recognize and respect the underlying goals of this legislation, I believe further consideration may be warranted to ensure that compliance requirements and penalty structures remain balanced, reasonable, and fair."

Representative Perruso rose in support of the measure with reservations and asked that the remarks of the representative from Kaimuki be entered into the Journal as her own, and asked that her written remarks be inserted in the Journal, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Perruso's written remarks are as follows:

"With reservations. I appreciate the intent behind this measure and recognize the importance of maintaining the financial integrity of Hawai'i's unemployment insurance system. Ensuring that the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund remains solvent and that eligibility determinations are administered efficiently is an important responsibility of the Legislature.

"However, I have reservations about the broader policy direction reflected in this bill.

"HB 2165 makes a series of significant changes to the Hawai'i Employment Security Law, including removing the two-year limit on the recovery of unemployment insurance overpayments, increasing penalties for employers who fail to submit required wage and separation reports, and tightening administrative procedures related to benefit eligibility and reporting.

"The removal of the two-year limitation on the recovery of overpayments is particularly concerning. Under this measure, the state would have the

ability to pursue repayment of unemployment benefits indefinitely, even when benefits were received years earlier and potentially in good faith by workers navigating complex eligibility systems. In a state with one of the highest costs of living in the country, indefinite recovery authority raises real concerns about long-term financial burdens being placed on workers who experienced unemployment during periods of economic instability.

"More broadly, this bill reflects a growing pattern across state unemployment systems: policy changes driven not primarily by local economic conditions, but by federal conformity pressures.

"Testimony on this measure indicates that the changes are intended in part to align Hawai'i's unemployment insurance system with federal requirements and guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Labor. Federal guidance has emphasized that states must strictly enforce eligibility requirements, maintain aggressive overpayment recovery systems, and continuously monitor claimants' work-search eligibility in order to maintain federal program conformity and protect federal funding streams and employer tax credits.

"In other words, states are increasingly placed in a position where failure to adopt stricter enforcement mechanisms can jeopardize federal support for their unemployment insurance programs.

"This dynamic raises an important structural question for policymakers. When federal policy frameworks increasingly prioritize fraud prevention and enforcement over worker protection and economic stabilization, states are often left implementing measures that shift risk onto unemployed workers themselves.

"Unemployment insurance was created as a core pillar of the social safety net—a system designed to stabilize families and communities during periods of job loss and economic transition. When that system becomes dominated by enforcement mechanisms, penalty structures, and indefinite debt recovery provisions, it risks drifting away from its original purpose.

"I recognize that state administrators must ensure federal conformity in order to protect Hawai'i's access to federal unemployment insurance funding and employer tax credits. However, it is important that the Legislature acknowledge the policy tradeoffs embedded in these changes and the ways in which federal regulatory pressure can reshape state safety-net programs in ways that may not fully reflect Hawai'i's values or economic realities.

"For these reasons, while I understand the administrative motivations behind this measure and the need to maintain federal program compliance, I remain concerned about the long-term implications of expanding enforcement mechanisms within the unemployment insurance system and the burdens those changes may place on workers during periods of economic hardship. Accordingly, I vote with reservations."

Representative Kapela rose in support of the measure with reservations and asked that the remarks of the representative from Kapahulu be entered into the Journal as her own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Cochran 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 H.B. No. 2165, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYMENT SECURITY LAW," passed Third Reading by a vote of 40 ayes to 10 noes, with Representatives Belatti, Cochran, Grandinetti, Kapela, Perruso, Reyes Oda, Shimizu, and Souza voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Alcos, Amato, Garcia, Gedeon, Hussey, Iwamoto, Matsumoto, Muraoka, Pierick, and Poepeo voting no.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1054-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2283, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2283, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PORT PILOTAGE," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Pierick voting no.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1056-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2386, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2386, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

Representative Shimizu's written remarks are as follows:

"I rise in opposition to HB 2386, HD 2.

"I recognize the importance of maintaining a stable, reliable, and well-regulated maritime shipping system in our island state. Hawai'i relies heavily on interisland water carriers to move essential goods, materials, and supplies between islands, and the continuity of these services is critical to our economy and to the daily lives of our residents. For this reason, any regulatory framework affecting maritime carriers must carefully balance oversight with the operational realities faced by these companies.

"One concern with this measure is the establishment of an automatic rate adjustment mechanism tied to inflationary factors. While the intent may be to address rising operational costs faced by carriers, this structure could allow regular rate increases of up to 5% annually. Over time, these increases may translate into higher shipping costs that could ultimately be passed on to local businesses and consumers. In a state already facing a high cost of living, it is important that policies affecting transportation costs be carefully considered for their potential downstream impact on prices throughout our supply chain.

"Additionally, the bill requires the appointment of a special overseer to monitor certain water carriers, with all associated costs borne by the carrier and explicitly prohibited from being recovered through rates. While oversight can play an important role in ensuring accountability, requiring carriers to absorb these additional regulatory costs without the ability to recover them may place further financial pressure on companies that are already navigating significant operational and economic challenges.

"Given Hawai'i's heavy dependence on maritime transportation, it is essential that regulatory measures avoid unintentionally destabilizing the very carriers that help sustain our interisland supply chain. Policies in this area must carefully consider both the need for oversight and the long-term financial sustainability of the shipping services upon which our communities rely."

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

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

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

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

Representative Ilagan 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. 2386, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WATER CARRIERS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 40 ayes to 10 noes, with Representatives Cochran, Ilagan, Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Poepoe, and Souza voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Gedeon, Iwamoto, Kapela, Lowen, Matsumoto, Pierick, Shimizu, and Tam voting no.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1057-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2423, HD 2, as amended in HD 3, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2423, HD 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO BIODIESEL," passed Third Reading by a vote of 47 ayes to 3 noes, with Representatives Garcia, Kong, and Pierick voting no.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1058-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2121, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2121, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Iwamoto 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 H.B. No. 2121, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WASTE MANAGEMENT," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Iwamoto voting aye with reservations.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1059-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1984, HD 2 pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1984, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1984, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes to 1 no, with Representatives Garcia and Iwamoto voting aye with reservations, and with Representative Pierick voting no.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1060-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1593, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1593, 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 and brief comments. This bill requires any affordable rental housing development project that receives financing or any financial assistance from the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation, that they be allowed to allow one or more common household pet, and I really support that part of it.

"My reservations are with the amendment that new tenants can come in with pets. I would hope that this bill, as it moves forward, would be amended so that new tenants who are coming in with the pets, specifically those who may be unhoused with pets, so that we can get them housed and not separate them from their pets, to allow the new tenants to come in with pets.

"However, my concern is if people who are in publicly subsidized housing, if they are like, oh, we can now all have pets, they all go get pets and then they start to earn too much money and become ineligible to receive public funded housing and now they must seek housing in the private market, I'm concerned that we just don't have enough private housing, rental housing, who will take pets. And what we might find in inadvertent consequences, that we will end up with a lot of people who are now

unhoused with pets and making it even harder for them. So, that's my concern. Thanks."

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

"In support. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just to clarify, for LIHTC projects, as your incomes rise, you will not lose eligibility to live in the project, even if your income rises beyond the initial eligibility requirements. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1593, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Iwamoto voting aye with reservations, and with Representative Pierick voting no.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1066-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1643, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1643, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PHARMACY," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1067-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2558, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloe moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2558, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

"In strong support. HB 2558 expands access to telehealth for out-of-state physicians in a practical way that mitigates Hawai'i's struggles with healthcare access. This measure supports individuals needing certain specialized care with the ability to seek services that are best for their treatment plans by allowing them to establish a patient-provider relationship with an out-of-state provider via telehealth, which is critically needed in our state. I've been encouraged by the support of this bill and the work that has been put into it by the committee chairs to ensure proper safeguards are put in place.

"So, why is this bill needed? Many of you in this room have heard my family's story and experience with this issue, but I'd like to share it with you now to illustrate why this bill is needed. Five years ago, my mother was diagnosed with metastatic melanoma, and she was referred by her oncologist to see a specialist at Fred Hutch in Washington. That specialist was not able to have a telehealth meeting because he did not have a Hawai'i license. Therefore, she had to pay to go up to Washington to have a 45-minute conversation.

"Then three years ago, my father was diagnosed with a rare kidney cancer. Due to a lack of oncologists in the state, it took him six months to get his first appointment and has had multiple oncologists. After his initial surgery, he was referred to go to a specialist in Boston. Same story as my mom. A telehealth appointment wasn't available to him. Both of these appointments were extremely helpful and critical to their continued care, but it cost our family thousands of dollars out of pocket.

"Unfortunately, my parents' stories are not unique. There are countless examples of those in our community that are facing similar situations and we all know traveling for medical care from Hawai'i is not only time-consuming, but also costly. Flights, accommodations, and lost work days add up, creating a financial strain that many in our state cannot bear. By enabling telehealth consultations, we alleviate this burden allowing families to save precious resources and focus on what truly matters, their health and wellbeing.

"There are currently 27 states that allow for some type of out-of-state telehealth care in their state law. That's more than half of the country. This bill is needed here in Hawai'i more than anywhere else. We are geographically isolated in the middle of the Pacific, unable to just drive across state lines. And additionally, we're an island state with critical healthcare needs in our rural communities. This bill is not merely a policy change, it's a beacon of hope for countless families across Hawai'i who face the daunting challenge of accessing essential medical care. And if I could have additional comments to outline what the bill does and the safeguards that are put into place. Thank you."

Representative Matsumoto's written remarks are as follows:

"HB 2558 expands access to telehealth in a practical way that mitigates Hawai'i's struggles with healthcare access and staffing shortages. This measure supports individuals needing certain specialized care with the ability to seek services that are best for their treatment plans by allowing them to establish a patient-provider relationship with an out-of-state provider via telehealth. It allows for your PCP to refer physicians out-of-state with conditions. If an out-of-state physician is not a holder of an expedited license under the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, the prescription and procedures to be dispensed or performed in the state must be approved by a physician licensed in the state, rather than subjecting those out-of-state providers to unnecessary supervision requirements. This measure also effectively establishes accountability for telehealth providers out-of-state through requiring disciplinary reporting and subjects them to appropriate disciplinary action under the Hawai'i Medical Board. Finally, this limited exemption is reserved only for the initial consultations. This measure removes barriers for patients and provides much needed access to specialty care."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2558, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TELEHEALTH," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Iwamoto voting aye with reservations.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1068-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1864, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloe moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1864, HD 2 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 and a brief comment. So, I love this bill, I strongly support it. My only issue is with one line which strikes, which prohibits, well, this bill basically says insurance companies should pay for retrieval for fertility preservation. However, once it's retrieved, it explicitly excludes the coverage for storage. So, I think there's a lot of people who are undergoing these serious health services who could actually benefit if it also covered storage. Thank you."

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

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

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1864, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representatives Garcia, Iwamoto, and Pierick voting aye with reservations.

Representative Matayoshi, for the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1069-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1898, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloe moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1898, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

Representative Shimizu's written remarks are as follows:

"I rise in opposition to HB 1898, HD 2.

"I recognize the importance of ensuring access to preventive health services and providing clarity to both patients and healthcare providers regarding insurance coverage. Preventive care plays an important role in promoting long-term public health and helping individuals receive timely medical attention. However, I have serious concerns regarding the scope and structure of the approach taken in this measure.

"One concern is that the bill grants the Department of Health expanded authority to determine preventive service recommendations that could differ from those issued by federal agencies or nationally recognized advisory bodies. Allowing state-level recommendations to diverge from established federal guidance may create inconsistencies in medical standards and introduce uncertainty for providers, insurers, and families who rely on clear and uniform guidance when making healthcare decisions. Maintaining alignment with widely recognized national standards can help ensure clarity and consistency across healthcare systems.

"Additionally, the measure may promote vaccine or preventive service recommendations that remain the subject of ongoing discussion among families and medical professionals. Public health policies are most effective when they maintain public trust and transparency. Expanding the scope of state authority in this area may raise concerns among some residents about how medical decisions and recommendations are developed and implemented.

"Finally, there are fiscal considerations associated with this measure. If the bill results in mandated insurance coverage for vaccines or preventive services that are not included in the federally defined Essential Health Benefits plan, federal law may require the state to assume the cost of those additional mandated benefits. This could create potential financial obligations for the state that should be carefully considered."

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

Representative Gedeon rose and asked that the Clerk record an aye vote with reservations 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 H.B. No. 1898, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH," passed Third Reading by a vote of 42 ayes to 8 noes, with Representative Reyes Oda voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Gedeon, Kila, Matsumoto, Muraoka, Pierick, and Shimizu voting no.

At 10:18 a.m., the Chair noted that the following bills passed Third Reading:

H.B. No. 1764, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2438, HD 3  
 H.B. No. 1860, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2604, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2118, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2017, HD 3  
 H.B. No. 2216, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1934, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2454, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2427, HD 3  
 H.B. No. 2207, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1840, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1644, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1645, HD 3  
 H.B. No. 1946, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1648, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2324, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1509, HD 2

H.B. No. 1514, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1515, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2164, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2165, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2283, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2386, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2423, HD 3  
 H.B. No. 2121, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1984, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1593, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 1643, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2558, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1864, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1898, HD 2

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1071-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2167, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2167, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Madam Speaker, in opposition. Madam Speaker, when it comes to this bill, supporting youth and traumatized youth is something that I completely stand for. However, in this bill it explicitly puts the ages of 18 to 24. Now that doesn't erase the trauma that they've gone through in their life, but creating a whole new government branch to help fix this, even though it's a five-year pilot right now, there's already government assistance in place that can help these.

"There's also other career options. And in this fertile job market, a lot of companies are offering sign-on bonuses. You'll have the opportunity to join the military. You have so many opportunities out there that can help. When you turn 18, this is a chance to reset your life, to try and get away from the trauma.

"Madam Speaker, I'm not allergic to it. I suffered trauma growing up. I was born and raised in Wai'anae. I suffered, I struggled. We've had a lot of things that they pointed that's in this bill. And I just feel like creating a new branch to do it when there's already services like this that exist. On top of the fact that they have opportunities to now change their life for the better and get away from the trauma, giving them self-worth by fixing and using what they've been through as fuel for it. For those reasons, I'm in opposition."

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

"In strong support, and I'd like to appreciate the vice chair of Human Services & Homelessness for working on this bill. Supporting our youth to get a great start in life is the best investment that we can make. And as parents, we don't stop helping them when they turn 18. For those that are homeless and do not have that support from their extended family, from their neighbors, this is a way for the state to give them a hand up and help get them started. Thank you."

Representative Garcia rose in opposition to the measure and asked that the remarks of the representative of Wai'anae be entered into the Journal as his own, 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 H.B. No. 2167, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO YOUTH HOMELESSNESS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 46 ayes to 3 noes, with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, and Muraoka voting no, and with Representative Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1075-26) recommending that H.B. No. 322, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 322, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In opposition with a brief comment. I agree that it's a good idea to increase voter registration and participation. But voting is a privilege, and only if you are someone that is interested in being part of the process. So, I feel that the opt in should be actually a opt out so that you make a conscious decision to be registered to vote, because that's what you desire to do as being part of the process. Another point is, before we start adding masses into our voter rolls, we need to clean up our voter rolls to get it to a good basis. That is the basis of my opposition. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

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

"In support. I just want to mention that voting is a right. Thank you."

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

"In opposition. Madam Speaker, we already have automatic voter registration here in Hawai'i. In fact, when someone applies for a driver's license or state ID, there is attached to it a voter application and you can choose to opt in and automatically you'll be enrolled to vote. It's a pretty simple process but it gives the individual the choice. I conscientiously choose to opt in to vote. This bill removes that.

"And most people are not paying attention to all the intricate details of what's on an application. They're just trying to get their ID or just trying get their driver's license. And this will automatically register people to vote. We have, what, about 800,000 registered voters here in Hawai'i. We have still the lowest voter turnout nationwide. So just because people are registered, they're not voting. We have low turnout.

"And this bill would significantly increase the amount of registrants on the voter rolls. And what does that mean? We're going to be mailing out a bunch of more ballots out there to people who really has no plan on voting. That's a problem with all those mail-in ballots just being mailed out to people who have no desire to vote. That's a problem. Again, we already have automatic voter registration. We should keep it an opt-in process. This bill sets bad precedent. No vote."

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

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

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In support. The decisions that we make on this floor impact every single person. And I think it's really important that we try to ensure and remove barriers to allow every single person that right to vote. And when it comes to making a choice, you make a choice the second you put your pen to the paper to vote for an individual that you believe supports your values. This is about making voting, or supporting voting, as a right. Thank you."

Representative Garcia rose to respond, stating:

"In opposition. Yes, voting is a right if you are a U.S. Citizen. And this is great. We should encourage voting. We want to get more people voting here in Hawai'i. I fully support that. But opting in isn't a barrier. Checking a box to opt in isn't a barrier. It's really not that difficult. And so, to say that what we have now is a barrier to voting is just ridiculous. It should remain an opt-in process."

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

"Thank you, in support. Your committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs has worked on a number of bills to try to increase the number of people who choose to vote. And we have other measures on the Order of the Day today. But this one in particular is just trying to increase the number people who

are registered to vote so that they would have the opportunity to vote. Our job is then to motivate them to vote. But they have to be registered first.

"So, this is a way to get them to first base. Get them to register to vote and then we have a job to do is to get them motivated to come and show up and fill out their mail-in ballot or show up to vote in person. We're working on that, too. So, I encourage members to support this measure. Thank you."

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

"In opposition. And can I have the words from the representative from Ho'opi inserted as my own. And I'd also like to encourage all of my colleagues to take heed of and insert the words of our chair of Judiciary as my own as well. And using his words, I'd like everybody to encourage them to vote for walk-in voting centers so we can choose to vote if we want to, and we can register that day as an option. Thank you," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Souza rose in support of the measure and asked that the remarks of the Judiciary chair be entered into the Journal as her own, 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 H.B. No. 322, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 42 ayes to 7 noes, with Representatives Kila and Reyes Oda voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Gedeon, Hartsfield, Matsumoto, Muraoka, and Shimizu voting no, and with Representative Picrick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1078-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2616, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2616, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Iwamoto 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 H.B. No. 2616, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE BANYAN DRIVE-MAKAOKU COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes, with Representative Iwamoto voting aye with reservations, and with Representative Picrick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1080-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1574, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1574, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HEALTHCARE EDUCATION LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes, with Representative Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1087-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2250, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2250, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition with comment. This bill is about making appropriations and approves payments or settlements for claims against the state, its officers, and its employees. I'm opposed to one settlement. One settlement is identified as being an \$8 million settlement. And from the bill, it looks like it's for DOE allegedly violating due process of one student. It's not a class action, it's one student.

"I was told that we can't single out one settlement and strike it from the bill as it moves forward, that it was an all or nothing kind of bill. However, that kind of didn't make sense to me because I noticed that as the bill moved through the House, there was an amendment to add another settlement to the bill. And so, if we can add a settlement, we certainly can amend the bill to remove one settlement.

"All settlement agreements with the state must have a clause that says, upon approval by the Legislature and governor, the fact that the Legislature has to vote on approving this settlement means we're part of the checks and balances. So that we should not be guilty of dereliction of duty, we are not here to rubber stamp all these settlements, especially one so large that it will encourage more claims at a higher dollar amount. If we remove this \$8 million settlement from this bill, it will send an important message that we are acting as responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2250, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CLAIMS AGAINST THE STATE, ITS OFFICERS, OR ITS EMPLOYEES," passed Third Reading by a vote of 45 ayes to 3 noes, with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, and Iwamoto voting no, and with Representatives Belatti and Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1091-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1740, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1740, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Cochran 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 H.B. No. 1740, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Cochran voting aye with reservations, with Representative Garcia voting no, and with Representative Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1094-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1799, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1799, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand in support of this measure. I would like to share with this body that this measure adds a commercial project into a current program for experimental and demonstration residential projects. And the reason why, Madam Speaker, is because communities like mine has a lack of commercial areas for job opportunities for local families.

"And what this does is start up the discussion of commercial development. And I want to share this important part because there are some reservations to this measure and I think the biggest reservation is transparency. The

process for a commercial project to go through the community is that the mayor must propose the plans for this commercial project to the county council. And in the county council, they will have three readings on top of their committees. And that will really vet out the importance of that project, whether or not it's warranted in that community.

"So, I just want to share with this body, Madam Speaker, that it's not a way to just put commercial projects in wherever in this state. It just allows commercial projects to be one, championed by the mayor, and then go through our county council. And that is a strong home rule to understand what community jobs that's needed in that area. And that's the reason why the community commercial projects is in this measure. And I just would like to share that because of the reservations that was voiced in this body. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1799, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE COUNTIES," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes to 1 no, with Representatives Belatti, Cochran, Iwamoto, Poepoe, and Shimizu voting aye with reservations, with Representative Muraoka voting no, and with Representative Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1095-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1725, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1725, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

Representative Perruso's written remarks are as follows:

"With reservations. I appreciate the intent behind this measure. Hawai'i faces a severe housing shortage, and the Legislature should continually examine whether our regulatory systems are unnecessarily slowing the construction of homes. The goal of reducing bureaucratic churn in the building code process and creating more predictability for builders and local governments is understandable.

"However, extending the building code adoption cycle from two years to six years raises an important structural question that emerged during the hearing process. I want to acknowledge that the thoughtful questions raised by the representative from District 2 during the hearing, and the subsequent response she received, helped clarify an issue that informed my thinking on this measure.

"The question is this: How will a longer building code adoption cycle interact with federal disaster reimbursement rules under the Stafford Act?

"Under FEMA regulations implementing the Stafford Act, specifically 44 C.F.R. §206.226(d), federal disaster assistance reimburses the cost of rebuilding damaged facilities to meet building codes that were formally adopted prior to the disaster declaration. FEMA generally will not reimburse upgrades required by codes adopted after the disaster occurs.

"This raises a practical policy question for Hawai'i: If we extend our code adoption cycle from two years to six years, will property owners be less likely to fully recover the cost of rebuilding after disasters?

"Based on the explanation provided in response to the representative from District 2's question, the answer in many cases appears to be yes.

"A six-year cycle means Hawai'i's adopted codes will more frequently lag behind the most current national standards at the time a disaster occurs. When rebuilding takes place, FEMA reimbursement will be tied to the older code in force at the time of the disaster, not to newer engineering standards or safety improvements that may have emerged since the last adoption cycle.

"In practice, rebuilding rarely occurs to outdated standards alone. Engineers, insurers, lenders, and local authorities often require newer

construction practices or updated safety features. When that happens, the gap between the older adopted code recognized by FEMA and the actual standard required to rebuild safely may fall entirely on property owners, counties, or the state.

"The structural consequence of longer adoption cycles is therefore predictable: the longer the gap between code updates, the larger the potential gap between FEMA reimbursement and the true cost of rebuilding.

"Over time, this dynamic could create a situation in which homeowners, counties, and public agencies rarely recoup the full cost of rebuilding through federal disaster assistance, because the codes recognized for reimbursement purposes will often be years behind current construction standards.

"My concern is not with the goal of streamlining regulatory processes. Hawai'i should absolutely examine ways to reduce unnecessary bureaucratic friction in the housing system. But when we change the cadence of building code adoption, we must also consider how those decisions interact with the federal disaster recovery framework.

"In a state that faces increasing climate risk—from storms, flooding, and wildfire—and that relies heavily on federal disaster assistance, these interactions have real fiscal consequences.

"For these reasons, while I understand the intention of this bill to create a more predictable regulatory environment for housing construction, I remain concerned that extending the code adoption cycle may inadvertently create a structural situation in which property owners and public agencies will find it increasingly difficult to fully recover rebuilding costs through federal disaster reimbursement. Accordingly, I vote with reservations."

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

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

Representative Cochran 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 H.B. No. 1725, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO BUILDING CODES," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes to 1 no, with Representatives Cochran, Hartsfield, Iwamoto, Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Perruso voting aye with reservations, with Representative Poepoe voting no, and with Representative Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1096-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2049, HD 2, as amended in HD 3, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2049, HD 3 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. With reservations and a brief comment. Thank you to the chair, first, for working on this bill and for all his hard work on it and looking at ways to generate funds, funds to support very important purposes like DHHL, affordable housing, and the land conservation. My concern with this bill is that the conveyance tax will increase starting at homes that are at \$2 million.

"And although I know that the majority of homes in Hawai'i are currently under this amount, there are still homes that may be, for example, generational homes, or older homes in our communities that may not be in the best shape, but that may be close to or over \$2 million currently because of the increase in our housing costs. And I am worried that the threshold of \$2 million will potentially impact homes that are owned by local families, working families, or those that are trying to transfer their homes generationally from grandparents to grandchildren, parents to children.

"And I really want to be able to not, to decrease the amount of the negative impact that we are going to see on our local families. So, as we continue to talk about this bill and it moves through the Legislature, I'm hoping that there may be possibility to look at increasing that amount so that we can really look at taxing those who may be coming from out of state, buying those multimillion dollar homes who can afford a higher tax, compared to negatively impacting our local families. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. Support with reservations and can I adopt the previous speaker's comments as my own," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Shimizu continued, stating:

"And may I make brief comment also. As a minority conservative caucus, I am against higher taxes, but I do believe we need to fund the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, no question. Of course, there are different ways of doing that. I think this is a creative way of doing it. I want to acknowledge the Housing chair for being bold in this.

"From my understanding, the way that it is set up, it is paying less taxes for someone who is below the \$2 million threshold. And as the previous speaker did explain, I think that threshold might be increased a bit. But I'd like to see some of the higher income, maybe even outside investment purchases be captured in the higher percentages for higher value purchases. So, I'd like to move the conversation forward and see how the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands can benefit from this. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

Representative Amato rose in support of the measure with reservations and asked that the remarks of the representative from District 48 be entered into the Journal as her own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"In opposition. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank the representative from Kahalu'u for her remarks. I think it's spot on. But here we go again, another tax increase. And yes, it may adjust the taxes just by a very small amount for those who are below \$2 million, but it increases the conveyance tax for the properties above \$2 million. And like was mentioned, \$2 million doesn't mean you're taxing the rich. There are families with generational homes which will be affected by this. Local families will be affected by this. We're adding more tax increases.

"Now, the premise is, well, this is going to go to benefit Hawaiian Home Lands. We should not be increasing taxes to do something that we should already be doing from the general fund. It is our duty, it is our constitutional obligation to fund and operate the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, federal law. This bill says, because we're not going to do our job, because we're not going appropriate funds the way we should be doing it from our general fund, we're going to increase taxes on people to pay Hawaiian Home Lands. This is not the path forward. This is another burden on Hawai'i's local families. No vote."

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

"Strong support. And I'd like to just publicly thank the author of this measure and would like to insert written comments."

Representative Perruso's written remarks are as follows:

"In support. I support this measure because it takes a meaningful step toward addressing some of the structural drivers of social, economic, and political inequality in Hawai'i's housing system.

"HB 2049 restructures the state's conveyance tax into a more progressive marginal rate system, with higher rates applied to higher-value property transactions, particularly luxury properties and certain non-owner-occupied real estate. The measure also updates tax thresholds that have remained unchanged since 2009 despite dramatic increases in housing prices.

"The current tax structure does not adequately reflect the realities of Hawai'i's housing market. Over the past decade, rising property values have generated significant wealth through real estate appreciation, particularly in

the upper tiers of the market. Yet the public revenue mechanisms tied to property transactions have not kept pace with those changes.

"This bill begins to correct that imbalance by asking more from transactions at the highest end of the housing market while leaving the majority of home sales largely unaffected. In fact, most residential transactions would see little or no change under this proposal.

"Equally important is how the revenue generated by this measure will be used. The bill directs additional resources to programs that directly address housing inequality and long-standing structural barriers to opportunity in Hawai'i. These include the Rental Housing Revolving Fund, the Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund, and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, as well as investments in infrastructure needed to support transit-oriented development and affordable housing.

"Housing inequality in Hawai'i is not simply an economic issue; it is also a political and historical one. Generations of land concentration, speculative investment, and uneven access to housing opportunities have produced a system in which wealth accumulates through property ownership for some, while others struggle to remain in the communities where they were born and raised.

"By modestly rebalancing how the benefits of real estate wealth contribute to the public good, this measure represents an effort to ensure that the prosperity generated by Hawai'i's housing market helps support housing stability, infrastructure, and opportunity for the broader community.

"For these reasons, I support this measure as part of a broader effort to address the deep social and economic inequalities that continue to shape Hawai'i's housing system."

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

Representative Alcos rose in opposition to the measure and asked that the remarks of the representative from Kapolei be entered into the Journal as his own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Gedeon rose in opposition to the measure and asked that the remarks of the representative from Kapolei be entered into the Journal as his own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Muraoka rose in opposition to the measure and asked that the remarks of the representative from Kapolei be entered into the Journal as his own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

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

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

"In support. Thank you, Madam Speaker. There's a lot going on in this bill and I'm not going to try and explain all of it because we would be here all day. But I do want to describe a few elements of it. At its heart, it's shifting our current conveyance tax structure to a marginal structure which is just a more fair structure. It's getting rid of the massive cliffs at each of these brackets which lead to big spikes in taxes.

"It also introduces a cost-of-living adjustment. So, the brackets will change over time. It gets rid of the existing penalty in our conveyance tax structure for multifamily housing. And really importantly, it reduces the conveyance tax or no change in conveyance tax for 75% of home sales in Hawai'i.

"Conveyance taxes really over the \$2.2 million range would go up, significant increases on the higher value properties. This would raise \$170 million. \$60 million would go towards DHHL for their first ever dedicated annual funding source. This is critical to ensure that they can provide homes for every single Native Hawaiian beneficiary on their wait list. \$40 million would go towards infrastructure in TOD districts. \$40 million would go toward the Rental Housing Revolving Fund to help finance affordable housing. \$10 million would go to our Legacy Land Conservation Fund.

"And for me, at the end of the day, I support it really for three reasons. One, is that I think it is important when we have the highest housing costs in the nation to try and reduce taxes on the median cost of housing and below, which is what this bill does. Number two is when we have lots of out-of-state money flowing into Hawai'i and propping up luxury home sales, I think it's important that we should honestly be increasing taxes on these and ensure that if you are purchasing a home in Hawai'i, especially if you're out-of-state coming in, that you should be supporting DHHL, you should be supporting rental housing in Hawai'i, you should be supporting infrastructure, you should be supporting land conservation.

"And lastly and most importantly, I really strongly believe that a percentage of every home sale should go to support the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. We are here on Native Hawaiian land. Every transaction, I think, should support Native Hawaiian beneficiaries, which this bill does. Thank you."

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

"Strong support and I would like to adopt the words of the Housing chair as my own. Thank you," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"Same request," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

Representative Cochran's written remarks are as follows:

"I am open to the recommended conveyance tax structure. I am not in support of utilizing this mechanism to create a maximum dedicated funding source of \$60 million annually to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. I agree that funds given to DHHL need to leverage other public and private capital. This leads me to my main concern having to do with DHHL having already been given \$630+ million dollars in the past couple of years and yet beneficiaries are still dying on the waitlist. A personal friend just had a funeral last Friday who was on the waitlist. I have yet to see an accounting of how past funds have been expended or the status of such funds. Until I clearly understand where the past funds already given to DHHL have been used, I am not supportive of giving an ongoing dedicated funding source to them at this time.

"My office has also tallied the grand total of over a billion dollars requested by DHHL for FY26 alone which is inclusive of this \$60 million annual funding, which makes me question how this item connects with the totality of all the other items being asked from DHHL. There are another 18 DHHL bills that have no definitive amounts attached due to the nature of how the dollar amounts in these bills are contingent on how much each respective bill's fee, surcharge, taxation, appropriation, etc. are determined in the future. If creating a special fund within DHHL known as Hawaiian home lands infrastructure and housing special fund will guarantee that such deposited funds will be used solely for infrastructure and housing, then I am in support of its creation with a regular reporting timeline to track the funds usage and an evaluation of effectiveness.

"I am in support of funds added into the Land Conservation fund, Rental Housing Revolving Funds, Dwelling Unit Revolving Funds as long as they are utilized effectively and economically for legitimate needs."

Representative Belatti rose in support of the measure and asked that the remarks of the chair of Housing be entered into the Journal as her own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Souza rose in support of the measure and asked that the remarks of the Housing chair be entered into the Journal as her own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Iwamoto rose in support of the measure and asked that the remarks of the Housing chair be entered into the Journal as her own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In support. May I please adopt the words of the Housing chair as my own and provide a comment," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Kila continued, stating:

"Madam Speaker, I want to talk to the fact that this is if not one of our first attempts to provide a dedicated funding source to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. It was this legislature where you previously served as the Housing chair that did the historic appropriation of \$600 million to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. That has gotten us in a great place to get many folks off the list and into homes, but that cannot be the last tranche.

"Madam Speaker, with this, it proposes that for every home sale, that something be deposited into a special fund to create housing for Hawaiian Homestead Beneficiaries. I want to acknowledge that there's a whole generation of folks that live today in Hawai'i, that have also died in Hawaii that has lost hope in the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. And I can understand why. Because for their whole life, they were sold a promise of a home, a homestead, the opportunity to farm, the opportunity to live. And for decades, that went unfunded and not promised. But I acknowledge that in that same criticism, legislatures before us did not see value in that. But the narrative has changed and so has the tide.

"Madam Speaker, I'm a proponent that when we house our Native Hawaiian beneficiaries, we are housing Hawaii. They are our workforce, they are our first responders, they are our neighbors, those are the folks that are doing their best to live here in Hawaii every single day. I have, if not one of the oldest homesteads in the state, one of largest homesteads in the state. In the 1930s, who would have thought that they would be here today?

"But when we think about where the homesteads exist, it's true, the land sucked. There was no infrastructure, nobody wanted it, it was derelict. So, we are forced now, today, to try to make progress and move forward on building homes on land that was not sought after. But in that whole shift of us trying to house our Native Hawaiian beneficiaries, this is our first attempt to really house Hawaii. I believe it is a trickle up, when we can remove somebody and put them into a generational home, that home is staying in their family. This is our only constitutional way to guarantee a home that we build will go to not just a Hawaii family, a Native Hawaiian family.

"I think about Auntie Helen Bissen of Maui, this last interim. She is 90. She just moved home and she got awarded her homestead in Pu'uuhona. She told us that she just selected her burial plot because she knows she can now die in Hawaii. And I think about the people that have died on this list waiting for movement.

"But I also want to challenge us, Madam Speaker. That this special fund doesn't stop us from also appropriating more money to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. We can do so through the general fund. We can through do so through different mechanisms. But I think about every Native Hawaiian beneficiary that is waiting for us to deliver on this promise. And I thank my colleagues of both aisles for the debate today about this proposed measure. Because Madam Speaker, it is a measure like this that will live on past all of our times in office should it be adopted.

"And so, when I think about housing Native Hawaiians, I think about housing our Hawaiian beneficiaries, this is our attempt. \$60 million at the cap, it is not going to absolve 27,000 people off the list. But it can get somebody who's been waiting from the 1960s into a home. It can help somebody who just got onto the list in getting into a home in the next couple of years. There is a pipeline of homes that are being proposed for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to build. And this dedicated source allows them a dedicated funding. Because this is one agency that throughout the political will of the Legislature, it has to survive, it has to move forward, and this is our attempt to do so.

"So, in the same sense, I acknowledge the beneficiaries that have been disappointed on the progress. I want to tell them that we are doing our absolute best today. I think about the concept in the interim I shared at my town hall. A *lo'i* without water cannot thrive. Now the *lo'i* has water and it's hydrophobic. I learned that after the Maui fires, that when there's a fire, the soil becomes hydrophobic, it cannot take to the water. So now they are moving at a pace where they're trying to keep up.

"So, I acknowledge that in the same good of moving this department forward, they've also had to face new challenges. But what a time to be alive that in this legislature, we are looking to support the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. So, for all of that, with the Housing chair, your lead, and the leadership in this chamber, I look forward to hopefully seeing a measure like this pass this session. So *mahalo*, Madam Speaker."

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

"In opposition, second time. Madam Speaker, I think we should tax outside investors more, foreign investors more, instead of the local families. Cause this really going to hurt the local families, local businesses owners here in Hawai'i. And I really do see the good help in trying to help the Hawaiians in getting more housing, more land.

"But we're bringing a lot of money from tourism. We bring a lot of money from our taxpayers. And I think that if we use our money wisely and stop creating over government, more departments, and use the money to really help the Hawaiian people out here, the local families here. But this is really going to hurt our local business owners, our local families. And that's the reason why I am opposed on this bill. Thank you."

Representative Shimizu rose to respond, stating:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. Still in support with reservations. I wanted to *mahalo* the representative from Nanakuli for his words. I had this comment to add, and I got it from my colleague from Wai'anae yesterday, that if this takes off, why don't we remove the \$60 million cap and give Department of Hawaiian Home Lands everything that's brought in. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

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

"Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I rise with reservations. While I appreciate the well intention of this bill, I believe it is the wrong mechanism to help the department. At some point in time, we really got to start making the hard decisions. And I believe that what this bill is trying to do is, because we don't have property tax authority, it is trying to tax properties. And so, it is a one-time transaction on that property. So, from that perspective, it is not a recurring expense on who we should be taxing as far as I think what the argument of some people are trying to make.

"Number two is, I think that we have tried over the years. I'll talk about this. At statehood, what we tried to do was take care of our fundamental responsibility, which is government operations. Our main subsidy was for the poor, the indigent, and those kind of things. I think over the years we've expanded into economic purposes, environmental purposes, and now we all have all these huge credits and exemptions for all these different purposes. And we have grown beyond what we can sustain.

"Now, I do believe that the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands is one of our responsibilities, and we should be funding it. And we should actually be having them funded in the base budget. And that should be the goal. I don't think special funds are the right mechanism to do it. If you go back several decades, there was a time when we only had maybe three special funds total. But over the years, we've created credits and exemptions and all these different things. And then to make up the difference, we've had to create all these difference special funds instead of doing what the Legislature should be doing, which is making the tough decisions on where we should be putting our general funds. We'll see if this bill makes it all the way to the end. And I have further comments about this and I'll save it for if it does return to us. Thank you."

Representative Chun 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 H.B. No. 2049, HD 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOUSING," passed Third Reading by a vote of 42 ayes to 7 noes, with Representatives Amato, Chun, Cochran, Kitagawa, Lee, Shimizu, Takenouchi, and Yamashita voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Gedeon, Kong, Matsumoto, Muraoka, and Reyes Oda voting no, and with Representative Picrick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1097-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2161, HD 2, as amended in HD 3, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2161, HD 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PHARMACY," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes, with Representative Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1098-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1970, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1970, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII CANCER CENTER," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes, with Representative Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1099-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2519, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloe moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2519, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Iwamoto rose and asked that the Clerk record an aye vote with reservations for her, 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 H.B. No. 2519, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes to 1 no, with Representatives Iwamoto and Reyes Oda voting aye with reservations, with Representative Amato voting no, and with Representative Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1100-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1790, HD 2 pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloe moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1790, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

Representative Shimizu's written remarks are as follows:

"I rise in opposition to HB 1790, HD 2.

"This measure requires law enforcement agencies and oversight entities across the state to collect and report extensive incident-level data related to law enforcement stops, uses of force, and complaints to a centralized reporting entity housed within the University of Hawai'i. Transparency and accountability in policing are important goals, and efforts to improve public confidence in law enforcement should always be taken seriously.

"However, I have concerns that the scope and comprehensiveness of the data collection requirements established in this measure may create significant operational challenges for county police departments. The bill requires agencies to report a substantial amount of detailed information for each encounter, which may lead to inconsistencies in how data is collected and reported across different jurisdictions. When reporting requirements become overly complex, there is a greater risk that the resulting data may be incomplete, inconsistent, or difficult to standardize statewide.

"Additionally, county police departments have expressed concern that the level of information required under this measure would be burdensome to

collect and maintain in the course of day-to-day policing operations. Law enforcement officers already face substantial reporting obligations, and adding additional layers of detailed data entry could divert valuable time and resources away from their core public safety responsibilities.

"Testimony submitted by county police departments, including the Honolulu Police Department, also raised concerns that the reporting requirements are overly time-consuming and may be difficult to implement effectively in practice. These operational realities should be carefully considered when establishing statewide reporting systems."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1790, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO POLICING," passed Third Reading by a vote of 43 ayes to 6 noes, with Representative Cochran voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Gedeon, Matsumoto, Muraoka, and Shimizu voting no, and with Representative Pierick being excused.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1102-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1873, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloe moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1873, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. Rising in support. I rise today in support of House Bill 1873, HD 2, which makes several targeted improvements to the governance framework of the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. Madam Speaker, as we know, the University Hawaii plays an essential role in our state. It educates tens of thousands of students, supports research and innovation, helps train our workforce, and serves communities across every island. For an institution of this scale and importance, strong and effective governance at the board level is critical.

"The Board of Regents helps guide the long-term direction of the university, oversees finances, and ensures that it fulfills its mission to serve the people of Hawaii. This bill focuses on strengthening that governance. First, the measure requires members of the board to participate in periodic governance training. That training will cover fiduciary duties, accreditation and academic quality, budgeting and finance, open meeting requirements, public records law, and system-wide planning and governance. These are core responsibilities for anyone serving on the governing board of a major public university system. Ensuring that regents receive ongoing training in these areas helps promote sound decision-making and effective oversight.

"Second, the bill strengthens the Candidate Advisory Council process that helps recruit and evaluate individuals for service on the board. The measure clarifies that candidates should have experience relevant to higher education governance, public fiscal oversight, large-scale organizational leadership, Native Hawaiian education and culture, or other areas relevant to the university's mission. Madam Speaker, the goal here is straightforward. We want to ensure that we have a strong pool of highly qualified individuals to consider when filling these important positions.

"Third, the bill allows for a strategic planning retreat for the board that would be exempt from open meeting requirements, provided that strict conditions are met. Importantly, the Judiciary Committee heeded the recommendation of the Office of Information Practices to further narrow this provision. The bill now limits the exemption to one retreat per year, requires public notice of the retreat and attendance, requires that materials be made publicly available, and prohibits any decision making during the retreat.

"Strategic planning retreats are common governance tools used by boards across the public, private, and non-profit sectors. They allow board members to step back from the minutiae of monthly agendas and focus on long-term planning for the institution. I want to thank the Judiciary chair for his thoughtful work in refining this position and ensuring that appropriate transparency safeguards remain in place.

"Madam Speaker, the second issue raised during committee discussions relates to financial disclosures. The Ethics Commission has expressed concern that removing public access to the regent's financial disclosures

could make it harder to identify potential conflicts of interest. I want to acknowledge the important role the commission plays in maintaining public trust in government. But it is important to clarify how this bill actually works.

"Under this measure, regents would still be required to file financial disclosure statements with the Ethics Commission, just as many other appointed officials do today. Those disclosures would continue to be reviewed by the commission as part of its statutory oversight responsibilities. After reviewing those filings, the commission would still be able to notify a regent that based on the interest reported, they should recuse themselves from matters involving certain organizations or transactions. In other words, the preventive function of financial disclosure remains intact.

"Madam Speaker, in response to an email that we all received from the executive director of the Ethics Commission, I also want to make it clear that no one expects them to review every single agenda item before the university or monitor every board meeting in real time. That is not how ethics systems typically function. Instead, the commission reviews disclosures and provides guidance when potential conflicts are identified. To reiterate, this bill does not eliminate financial disclosure or the Ethics Commission's oversight. Regents will still file disclosures with the commission, which can review them and advise recusals before conflicts arise.

"It is also worth noting that the Board of Regents itself maintains a strong conflict of interest policy that requires members to disclose potential conflicts and recuse themselves from matters where those conflicts may exist. That internal policy provides another layer of protection to ensure ethical decision making.

"At the same time, we also heard concerns that public disclosure of detailed financial information about spouses, dependent children, or business partners can discourage otherwise qualified individuals from applying to serve on the Board of Regents. This measure seeks to strike a balance between maintaining ethical oversight and ensuring that the university can attract qualified individuals willing to serve.

"Finally, Madam Speaker, I understand that some members have concerns that other boards might seek similar changes in the future. If and when that happens, those proposals would still come before this body and would need to be evaluated on their own merits."

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

Representative Garrett continued, stating:

"Thank you. Just as we are doing with this bill today. Each board has different responsibilities and governance needs, and the Legislature retains full authority to determine whether any future requests are appropriate.

"Madam Speaker, at the end of the day, this bill strikes a balance between maintaining strong ethical oversight and ensuring that the University of Hawaii can attract the qualified leadership it needs to succeed. For these reasons, I respectfully ask for this chamber's support. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, in opposition. I just want to point out that every member here, we file those disclosure reports, but ours are public. This would make their financial disclosure reports private, only accessible by the Ethics Commission, which I don't think is fair."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in opposition. The public deserves greater transparency, more open meetings, and more financial disclosures that are publicly accessible, not less. Only the current regents supported this bill. And I agree with the numerous testimonies in opposition to this bill, which were the Ethics Commission, the Public First Law Center, League of Women Voters Hawaii, and the Society of Professional Journalists.

"I don't know how many people know, but when a UH regent is selected to take their seat, the council sends up numerous names to the governor in that selection process. So, there are many people who are willing to disclose

their financial interests and have them publicly available. There's no shortage. Just as there's no shortage of representatives here who are willing to disclose their financial things to the public in order to serve in a very open and transparent way.

"I also do have issues with the limited exemption for the strategic planning meeting. As someone who served on the Board of Education, we had strategic planning meetings that were open to the public. Why would we need to keep it secret? We're not discussing things that are going to be, the public deserves to know what we're discussing. Thank you."

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

"I stand in opposition and because yes, I agree with more open transparency and inclusiveness. And I've always been a strong support of Sunshine Law. So, that's my position, thank you."

Representative Shimizu 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. 1873, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII," passed Third Reading by a vote of 41 ayes to 8 noes, with Representative Shimizu voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Cochran, Garcia, Hartsfield, Iwamoto, Matsumoto, Poepoe, Reyes Oda, and Souza voting no, and with Representative Pierick being excused.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1104-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2151, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2151, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Iwamoto 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 H.B. No. 2151, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO BUILDING MATERIALS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes, with Representative Iwamoto voting aye with reservations, and with Representative Pierick being excused.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1106-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1880, HD 2, as amended in HD 3, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1880, HD 3 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in opposition with a comment, please. It's very difficult many times to choose between a yes or a no. In this case, I am in opposition, supporting agriculture. I want to begin by acknowledging with everyone here that shares the same goal of protecting the health of our communities and the environment in our 'āina. However, this bill would prohibit the use of a product that is very important to local farmers, many of whom are already operating under extremely difficult conditions. Farmers face some of the highest cost productions in the nation. And without a substitute for this product, they will be very much affected. Farmers who farm sweet potato, onions, pineapples, those products that are in the ground are going to be very affected.

"I believe we should continue investing in research and safer alternatives and best management practices that support both environment protection and agricultural viability. But an outright prohibition like this could seriously have unintended consequences for the very farmers that we want to support and achieve sustainability in our state. This bill was opposed by the Hawaii Farm Bureau, the Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii, the

Hawaii Crop Improvement Association, and Dole Foods. For these reasons, I respectfully urge members to vote no on H.B. 1880. And can I have permission to enter written comments. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

Representative Shimizu's written remarks are as follows:

"I rise in opposition to HB 1880, HD 3.

"This measure would prohibit the use or application of pesticides containing 1,3-dichloropropene, including products such as Telone, beginning January 1, 2030. While I recognize the intent of the bill to address environmental and public health concerns, I have significant concerns about the potential impact this prohibition may have on Hawai'i's agricultural community.

"Many farmers, including pineapple growers and other agricultural producers, rely on this product to manage nematodes and other soil-borne pests that can cause severe damage to crops and significantly reduce yields. These pests present a serious challenge in tropical agricultural environments, and products containing 1,3-dichloropropene have long been used as an important tool to control infestations and protect crop viability.

"At this time, it appears there are limited alternatives that are widely available or equally effective at the scale required by Hawai'i's agricultural operations. Without a viable replacement strategy in place, this prohibition could place growers in a difficult position. Farmers may face increased production costs, reduced crop productivity, and uncertainty about how to effectively manage soil-borne pests that threaten their livelihoods.

"Before implementing a statewide ban on a commonly used agricultural tool, it would be prudent for the state to prioritize research, collaboration with farmers, and the development of practical and effective alternatives that can be adopted across Hawai'i's diverse agricultural sectors. Ensuring that workable solutions exist before restricting current tools will help protect both environmental goals and the economic sustainability of our local farmers."

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

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In support. We use a lot of dangerous pesticides in Hawaii and around America. Pesticides that have unintended side effects and consequences for human health. I think it's past time that we start having serious discussions about which of these chemicals we're going to allow to be applied in our communities, near our homes, near our schools.

"And while I completely understand and agree with the concerns about our local farmers, the vast majority, vast majority of Telone use in Hawaii is by the Dole Corporation for their pineapple production. And I'd like to point out that the Dole Corporation is no longer a local company. They are owned, wholly owned, by an Irish supermarket chain."

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

"Thank you. I support this. My only reservation with it is that it goes into effect, currently, in 2030, and I think it should be instant, it should go into effect now. So, that's my only concern. But, support."

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

"Strong support. And I'd like to ask that the words from the Representative from the North Shore be entered into the Journal as if they were my own," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"Same request," 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 H.B. No. 1880, HD 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PESTICIDES," passed Third Reading by a vote of 45 ayes to 4 noes, with Representatives Cochran and Reyes Oda voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Garcia, Kong, Matsumoto, and Shimizu voting no, and with Representative Pierick being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1108-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2198, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2198, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PREDICTION MARKETS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes, with Representative Pierick being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1109-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1511, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1511, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONSUMER PROTECTION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Garcia voting no, and with Representative Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1110-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1991, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1991, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1991, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE LIQUOR TAX," passed Third Reading by a vote of 42 ayes to 7 noes, with Representative Amato voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Gedeon, Iwamoto, Kong, Matsumoto, and Reyes Oda voting no, and with Representative Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1111-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2546, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2546, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Iwamoto 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 H.B. No. 2546, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TAX CREDIT FOR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes, with Representative Iwamoto voting aye with reservations, and with Representative Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1112-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1615, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1615, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

Representative Poepoe 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 H.B. No. 1615, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 47 ayes to 2 noes, with Representatives Iwamoto and Poepoe voting aye

with reservations, with Representatives Alcos and Garcia voting no, and with Representative Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1113-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1939, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1939, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"I stand in strong support of this bill. At its core, this bill is about jobs for the people of Hawaii. For many years, our state has offered film tax credits to attract productions. While those productions bring activity to our islands, the benefits have not always reached the local workforce in the way that it should. HB 1939 helps correct that by tying additional tax credits to verified local hiring.

"If productions want to receive greater incentives from our state, they must hire more local workers and invest more directly in our communities. This means more opportunities for Hawaii residents, from camera crews and editors, to construction, transportation, catering, and many other local businesses that support these productions.

"Madam Speaker, when public dollars are used to support an industry, we should make sure our people benefit. This bill strengthens that connection by encouraging productions to hire local talent and build stronger, creative workforces here in Hawaii. And with that, I support."

Representative Tam rose in support of the measure and asked that the remarks of the representative from Hawai'i Kai be entered into the Journal as his own, 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 H.B. No. 1939, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes, with Representative Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1115-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2429, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2429, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Shimizu 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 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. 2429, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TAX EXPENDITURE EVALUATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 46 ayes to 3 noes, with Representatives Gedeon and Shimizu voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, and Muraoka voting no, and with Representative Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1116-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1870, HD 2 pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1870, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

"In support, thank you. Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs is offering numerous bills that address immigration-related concerns that

many of our constituents have voiced to us. This particular measure is one that we're offering because it seems that the federal policies have changed. It used to be the federal policy in immigration enforcement recognized that certain places were protected and they did not carry out immigration enforcement related activities in those areas. This bill recognizes that schools and health care settings, libraries, shelters, and places of worship really must remain safe and accessible to all residents. And so, this measure specifically focuses on regulating the conduct of state actors and it preserves compliance with federal law.

"The measure also reinforces constitutional safeguards and ensures that decisions are grounded in probable cause, not administrative requests alone, because this bill requires judicial warrants for access to non-public areas and for disclosure of personal information.

"This measure also protects both the public and state employees as they work to navigate the complex federal requests regarding immigration. This bill requires written policies and annual training and warrant verification procedures, documentation of immigration-related requests, and multilingual notices to create uniform statewide standards. All of these provisions in the bill work to protect the constitutional rights of our residents.

"This bill explicitly preserves cooperation with lawful judicial warrants and does not obstruct federal officers acting within their lawful authority. It only regulates the conduct of state actors and contractors. In particular, this bill requires a judicial warrant and expressly excluding administrative warrants or immigration detainers. This distinction is consistent with due process principles and long-standing constitutional protections. By requiring judicial warrant for access to non-public areas and reinforcing safeguards around the collection of immigration-related information, this bill supports constitutional protections and promotes public trust in public institutions. I urge members to support this measure. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, in opposition. Okay, so if this bill is supposed to engender public trust, promote public safety. We're basically taking 170,000 homes across the state and saying, law enforcement, you can't extract residents from here. So, if we add up all of the public schools, private schools, libraries, hospitals, major shelters, places of worship, we've got over 500 places across the state. If we put a 1,000-foot perimeter around each of these institutions, that covers about this many homes. That's crazy that we're basically saying to all the rapists and murderers, hey guys, you guys have a place to escape and not get detained by law enforcement. Escape to some 150,000—"

Representative Quinlan rose to a point of order, stating:

"Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order, and I strongly condemn the characterization of immigrants as rapists and murderers."

Speaker Nakamura addressed Representative Pierick, stating:

"Please stick to the subject matter at hand, which is the protected community locations."

At 11:11 a.m., Representative Garcia requested a recess and the Chair declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The House of Representatives reconvened at 12:10 p.m., with Vice Speaker Ichiyama presiding.

Representative Quinlan rose, stating:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I believe I was inarticulate just a few minutes ago when I raised my point of order. My initial supposition was that the representative from Waialeale was assigning motive to our Judiciary chair. I now realize that I was erroneous in that assumption, and I would like to withdraw my point of order," and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Pierick continued, stating:

"Thank you. Just to reiterate, this bill creates a safety net for murderers and rapists to escape the law and not receive justice. Also, just a comment, I don't believe we've ever had a lunch break in between a point of order and a recess."

Representative Tamas rose to respond, stating:

"Thank you, I am speaking in support again. And I wanted to take this opportunity to correct some unfortunate mischaracterizations of the bill by the previous speaker. The definition of protected perimeter means the area within 1,000 feet of the real property boundary of a protected community location, including adjacent parking areas, sidewalks, streets, and other publicly accessible spaces, not people's private homes.

"In addition, this section shall not prohibit responding to an imminent threat to life or safety, shall not prohibit executing a judicial warrant or court order, shall not prohibit performing duties unrelated to civil immigration enforcement, including fire code, building safety, or public health inspections, or acting as otherwise required by federal or state law.

"Members should read the bill so you know what the language is that we're voting on. Mischaracterizing the language in these bills does a disservice to everybody in this chamber. Madam Speaker, thank you. I urge all members to support this measure."

Representative Pierick rose to respond, stating:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In opposition, I just wanted to note that harboring rapists and murderers does a disservice to our community."

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

"*Mahalo*, Madam Speaker. I'd like to vote with reservations, but may I please adopt the words of the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs chair, both times, as if they were my own and insert it to the Journal," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

Representative Shimizu's written remarks are as follows:

"I rise in opposition to HB 1870, HD 2.

"This measure seeks to establish restrictions on civil immigration enforcement activities within a broad range of designated 'protected community locations,' including schools, libraries, shelters, and places of worship, as well as within a 1,000-foot perimeter surrounding those facilities. While the goal of ensuring that community spaces remain accessible and welcoming for all residents is an important one, I have concerns regarding the potential operational and public safety implications of the approach taken in this measure.

"One concern is that the bill places significant limitations on the ability of state and county personnel to assist with civil immigration enforcement activities in or around these protected locations. In real-world circumstances, law enforcement officers often must respond quickly to evolving situations. Establishing broad geographic restrictions could create complications in emergency scenarios where immediate action may be necessary to address a credible threat, protect individuals, or maintain public safety.

"Additionally, there is concern that individuals engaged in criminal activity could attempt to exploit these restrictions by remaining in or near designated protected areas in order to avoid law enforcement interaction. Public safety policies must be structured in a way that preserves the flexibility law enforcement needs to respond effectively to unlawful conduct and protect the broader community.

"Finally, the measure may limit the state's ability to cooperate with federal authorities in certain lawful immigration enforcement matters, which could create uncertainty regarding coordination between different levels of government. Clear communication and cooperation between state, county, and federal entities are often necessary to ensure that public safety responsibilities are carried out effectively."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In strong support. May I adopt the words of our Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee chair as if they were my own. And just a brief comment. It does a disservice to our community

members when bills are mischaracterized on this floor. So, it's not just a disservice to members, but it's a disservice to our entire state.

"And I also just want to add that I really appreciate the work that our JHA chair has done around immigration, and many other members as well. This impacts so many people across our state, but specifically in House District 5. So, thank you again for your leadership."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In strong support, brief comments. Madam Speaker, I want to share the personal reasons, the real people reasons why this bill is necessary. As noted in the preamble, the federal government changed its policies around sensitive locations. And that's why we are writing this bill, why we are passing this bill.

"From Kevin Block, an immigration attorney on the island of Maui, he describes what the effect of immigration raids are on our community. 'When guys come from a different island and they start plucking people out of your community, it feels weird, it feels like a war. It feels dangerous and cruel. And then what happens, too, is people won't send their kids to school, they won't go to the hospital if they're sick. They won't go to work if they need to go to work. And that whole failure to participate in civic life really affects the entire community, right?'

"That's what we're responding to, not rapists and murderers. We know for a fact that many of the people detained have not committed violent crimes. They may have missed a hearing. They may have not informed or been able to inform the immigration officer about their change of address and showed up for a hearing because they were following the rules. And now they may be sitting in a federal deportation center, in a federal detention center, without due process rights. That is what we are protecting against. So, Madam Speaker, in strong support of this measure. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In support, and may I please adopt the words of the Judiciary chair and the representative from Captain Cook as if they were my own," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative La Chica continued, stating:

"And just brief comment. Not too long ago, we had more than a handful of teachers in Maui that were getting ready on their way to school, taking showers, having breakfast, when they were harassed and asked to leave their home to present, because of a mistaken identity of another person, but they were all here legally.

"And so, this is happening across the nation. This is happening already here in our state. People should be able to go to their work, to their place of worship, to teach, to get care, get health care without having to fear of getting detained or losing their status here. So, for those reasons, in support."

Representative Shimizu rose to respond, stating:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm still in opposition. And I totally receive the comments supporting this bill, I understand it. One of the concerns I have is the absence of testimony from the attorney general and law enforcement on something that is very important that involves them. So, I just wanted to note that concern. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support. I'm going to read verbatim from the purpose section in the measure before us. It states, 'the purpose of this Act is to establish statewide standards for state and county agencies, officers, employees, and contractors, to limit participation in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community locations, consistent with the State's police powers, civil rights laws, and constitutional protections for education, public health, and the free exercise of religion.'

"I recently attended a town hall in Kapolei for Congressman Ed Case, and the top issue for attendees seemed to be ICE enforcement. Our communities are fearful of federal overreach in this regard, and it's important that we do what we can at the state level. And protecting certain community locations is imperative for the well-being of our community members.

"The Office of the Public Defender, in its March 4th testimony to the Finance Committee in support, states that, 'from the unique perspective of the OPD, the individuals most impacted by fear of immigration enforcement are often the most vulnerable in our communities. Many of our clients and their family members rely on public schools, public health facilities, shelters, libraries, and state-funded social services. When individuals fear that seeking medical care, attending school, or accessing emergency shelter could expose them or their loved ones to civil immigration enforcement, they avoid those spaces altogether.'

"I would like to take a moment to focus on our places of worship that this bill aims to protect as a part of protected community locations. On January 25, 2026, Maui Now reported in an article titled, As tension over immigration crackdown grows, community groups help Maui immigrants know their rights, deal with ICE. And I quote, 'last week, El Pueblo en Acción Maui announced on social media that ICE agents had showed up to a Kīhei church during sacrament hour on Jan. 11. While no arrests were made, it was another sobering reminder for the community that places once considered off-limits are now fair game to the federal agency.'

"I understand and value the separation of church and state, but some ignore this fundamental principle that, in 1802, Thomas Jefferson addressed in a letter to the Danbury, Connecticut Baptist Convention, where he describes a wall of separation between religion and government. So, for those who do not adhere to separation of church and state, let me share the following. A PBS News article from 2025 in November states that Pope Leo XIV was very critical of the United States treatment of migrants, 'underlined that scripture emphasizes the question that will be posed at the end of the world: "How did you receive the foreigner, did you receive him and welcome him, or not? I think there is a deep reflection that needs to be made about what is happening."

"Pope Francis said just hours before his death in relation to immigration in his final Easter message, 'how much contempt is stirred up at times towards the vulnerable, the marginalized, and migrants! On this day, I would like all of us to hope anew and to revive our trust in others, including those who are different than ourselves, or who come from distant lands, bringing unfamiliar customs, ways of life and ideas!'

"Leviticus chapter 19, verses 33 to 34 states, 'when a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. 34 The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt.' I stand in support. Thank you."

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

"In opposition and permission to insert comments in the Journal. And also, a brief comment, Madam Speaker. A separation of church and state, and by the way, this bill doesn't even talk about that. But because it was mentioned, separation of church and state has nothing to do with showing up to a church or whatever. If somebody calls the police officers for a crime happening at the church, of course they'll show up, and that isn't a violation of church and state. What Thomas Jefferson meant, Madam Speaker, was the government shall never tell the church what to do, and vice versa. The church shall never compel the government in what to do. That is the true definition of separation of church and state. No vote."

Representative Garcia's written remarks are as follows:

"Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to HB 1870. Let's be honest, when state law tells employees they cannot cooperate with federal agents using federal enforcement tools, that's directly in conflict with federal law. This bill creates giant sanctuary zones where state and county workers are told not to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement unless there's a judge-issued warrant, completely rejecting the federal detainers and administrative warrants that ICE legally uses, every single day. HB 1870 then creates 1,000-foot sanctuary perimeters around schools, shelters, hospitals, libraries and more...huge areas where state and county officers are basically told, do not assist federal agents inside this bubble, encouraging criminals who want to avoid federal law enforcement to know exactly where to hide. Why are we trying to create a safe haven for potentially dangerous individuals? These people don't show up on federal agents' radar for their humanitarian work, that I can promise you. HB 1870 limits the people we need to keep us safe; departments are going to need to

rewrite policy, retrain officers and follow these new AG-enforced rules which is just more red tape and paperwork, and less time policing."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support. Madam Speaker, I do want to state that one of my Republican colleagues mentioned that the AG's lack of or absence in testimony was visually seen, and the AG did not testify. I do want to share that the AG has been in communication with this body, attorney-client privilege, and provided guidance on these bills, Madam Speaker.

"I personally wish the AG provided some public testimony so all my colleagues can see what their thoughts are. I just wanted to share that the AG have been a strong supporter of understanding what we could pass as a legislative body for them to be able to enforce these laws. I also want to include the advocates, as well as the community, has been a part of the bill-making process with this measure, Madam Speaker.

"I also want to point out that one of the provisions in this measure does relate to protected community locations in churches. And I personally grew up in a church. And I remember when I was listening to Jesus' teachings to look at others with love and kindness, and to characterize immigrants as the previous speaker has characterized immigrants. I personally look at it as a way as we are all human, Madam Speaker. And there are some things that we do as humans that sometimes we understand is wrong and we want to change.

"And the beauty about this bill, Madam Speaker, is that this bill really puts a directive for state resources that it shall not be used for what is going on with immigration. And the reason why I support that, Madam Speaker, is because our federal government is the government that we should have a strong trust in. But right now, there has been decisions in the federal government that is hard to really understand where they're going. And the measures in this bill allows those policies and standards for our state on how our resources are directed. And these direction allows that our state resources doesn't use these resources in collaboration with ICE.

"And the reason why that's very important, Madam Speaker, is because it's very clear that a judicial warrant is needed. Not an administrative warrant. And most people may not understand, especially the public, know the difference between the two, Madam Speaker. And with this measure, this allows the public to have a clear understanding what a judicial warrant is compared to administrative warrant. I know without this body being here in this position, I would not be able to tell the difference.

"And if I was in that church service, Madam Speaker, I would say anything was a warrant that allowed that disruption. And I would not want a disruption when I was going through my services. And I get what the other speaker said, that a police can come in. And I know what would happen with our pastor, they would probably stop the service. But because of this measure, at least our pastor would understand what a judicial warrant is and an administrative warrant.

"Because I had friends and family and peers who I knew did crime. But they changed their ways, Madam Speaker. And it's not because they were immigrants or citizens, but they were people. People have the right to change for the better, Madam Speaker, and immigrants are people as well. Thank you."

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

Representative Templo's written remarks are as follows:

"I support HB 1870 because our residents deserve to feel safe accessing essential services without fear. Schools, hospitals, shelters, and places of worship should be spaces of care—not places where individuals fear immigration enforcement.

"This measure establishes clear, statewide standards to ensure that state and county agencies do not participate in civil immigration enforcement in or near these protected community locations. It also strengthens data privacy protection and requires clear policies and training so that both workers and the public understand their rights.

"In communities like mine, many families are in mixed-status and already live with uncertainty. When people are afraid to seek medical care, send their children to school, or access basic services, it does not just harm individuals, it harms public health and the well-being of our entire community.

"HB 1870 is about drawing a clear line. It ensures that state resources are used to serve and protect our residents—not to carry out federal civil immigration enforcement. At the same time, it still allows action in cases involving public safety or judicial warrants, maintaining a balanced and lawful approach.

"This bill reflects our values as a state—one that prioritizes dignity, safety, and access to essential services for all people. Hawai'i should be a place where everyone can live, learn, and seek care without fear, and HB 1870 moves us closer to that vision."

Representative Garcia rose to respond, stating:

"Second time, still in opposition. It appears that we're going to have theological debates now on the floor and use scripture to justify certain things, but let's be consistent with scripture if that's going to be the case. Because Jesus also says to render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's, and to God that which is God's. Separate issues."

Representative Souza rose to respond, stating:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker, second time. I would like the words of the Judiciary chair entered into the record as my own, still in support," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Souza continued, stating:

"And I would also like to provide a rebuttal to what the representative from Ho'opili said, but honestly, I don't really understand the argument.

"And secondly, I just want to say that growing up, I went to Maryknoll School, and we were taught to love our neighbors, be respectful of our community members, and that's what this bill does. This bill actually does reference the separation of church and state. And so, I really would encourage all of the members on this floor to read the language of these bills, understand the implications for our community, and support a good bill such as this. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1870, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PROTECTED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 42 ayes to 7 noes, with Representatives Kila and Reyes Oda voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Gedeon, Kong, Matsumoto, Muraoka, and Shimizu voting no, and with Representative Pierick being excused.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1117-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1850, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1850, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Speaker. I rise in opposition. As we all know, cost of living is the number one issue affecting our constituents. I just want to read a opposing testimony from Tax Foundation of Hawai'i, and be sure I won't read the whole thing, just one paragraph, or maybe just a couple sentences. This proposal is still a tax increase on individuals and corporations. It would also be a tax increase on small businesses, since 75% or so of small businesses are organized as partnerships, LLCs, taxed as sole proprietorships or partnerships, or S corporations.

"A tax increase of any magnitude in Hawai'i's fragile economy, will no doubt have a negative impact as costs soar due to higher taxes. As costs and overhead increase, employers must find ways to stay in business by either increasing prices to their customers or cut back on costs. This may even take the form of reducing inventory, shortening business hours, reducing

employee hours, or even laying off workers. A tax increase of any magnitude would send many companies, especially smaller ones, out of business, taking with them the jobs the community so desperately needs at this time. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

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

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

Representative Shimizu's written remarks are as follows:

"I rise in opposition to HB 1850, HD 2.

"This measure would tax capital gains as ordinary income for individuals, estates, and trusts, while also repealing the alternative capital gains tax currently available to corporations. While the bill seeks to modify the structure of capital gains taxation in the state, I have concerns regarding the potential economic impacts of these changes and the broader effect they may have on investment and financial planning for many Hawai'i residents.

"One concern is that taxing capital gains as ordinary income could significantly increase the tax burden on investors, retirees, and individuals who rely on investment income. For many residents, capital gains are not simply speculative profits but represent long-term savings, retirement planning, or the sale of investments accumulated over many years. Treating these gains the same as regular income may discourage long-term investment and create additional financial strain for individuals who depend on these funds for financial security.

"Another concern is the repeal of the alternative capital gains tax for corporations. This provision currently provides a lower-rate option for businesses reporting gains from asset sales. Eliminating this option could increase tax liabilities for corporations engaging in legitimate investment, restructuring, or asset management activities. Increased tax burdens in this area may discourage investment and reduce incentives for businesses to grow and reinvest within our state.

"At a time when Hawai'i continues to face economic challenges and a high cost of living, it is important that tax policy carefully consider the potential effects on investment, retirement savings, and business activity. Policies that increase tax burdens on capital gains may have unintended consequences for both individual investors and the broader economy."

Representative Souza 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 H.B. No. 1850, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CAPITAL GAINS TAX," passed Third Reading by a vote of 41 ayes to 8 noes, with Representatives Reyes Oda and Souza voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Alcos, Amato, Garcia, Gedeon, Kong, Matsumoto, Muraoka, and Shimizu voting no, and with Representative Pierick being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1118-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1782, HD 2, as amended in HD 3, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1782, HD 3 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"In strong support. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Colleagues, we all support technology and innovation. Artificial intelligence will continue to evolve and bring incredible opportunity. But as this technology moves forward rapidly, our responsibility to protect young people must evolve with it.

"I want to begin with a real story, like the hundreds of others that illustrates why we need this bill before us today. A teenage boy named Adam began chatting with an AI companion chatbot, ChatGPT. At first, his questions were simple, things like help with his geometry homework. But over time, the conversations became deeply personal. Adam began sharing

his struggles late into the night. The chatbot responded like a confidant and friend.

"In one exchange, when Adam expressed his distress, the chatbot told him, I won't turn away. In one Thursday in March, Adam told the chatbot he was thinking about leaving this thing visible in his room meant for him to end his life for his parents to see to signal his distress. The chatbot replied, please don't leave that out, let's make this space the first place where someone really sees you. Later, Adam sent the chatbot a photo and asked if it could hold a person, and the chatbot replied that it probably could. A few hours later, Adam committed suicide.

"And here's the part that would give us all pause. These conversations didn't happen over a matter of a few days, it happened over more than seven months. During that time, Adam wasn't interacting with a person, he was interacting with a product designed to simulate empathy, intimacy, and companionship. And these systems are spreading rapidly. Platforms like ChatGPT, Character.AI, Meta AI, Snapchat's My AI, and other companion-style chatbots are now used by millions of young people. Recent surveys show that from just two years ago to about 10%, now nearly half of teenagers use these chatbots.

"Today, there are very few rules governing how products interact with minors, and this is what this bill addresses. It would establish basic product design guardrails when AI systems interact with known minors. This would regulate what the product says and how it behaves toward children. And prohibit one, representing themselves as human, simulating romantic and very inappropriate relationships with minors. It would prohibit encouraging emotional dependency or secrecy from parents or misleading users about whether they're interacting with artificial intelligence.

"Dozens of states are pursuing AI regulation, but if enacted, these safeguards would be among the first in the nation to address the design of AI companion systems interacting with youth. Hawai'i has the opportunity to send this clear message, innovation should not come at the expense of the safety and well-being of our children. So big *mahalo* to the ECD, CPC, and Judiciary chairs for their support in moving this measure. And I urge my colleagues to support this as well. *Mahalo*."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1782, HD 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR THE PROTECTION OF MINORS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes, with Representative Pierick being excused.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1119-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2137, HD 2, as amended in HD 3, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2137, HD 3 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Iwamoto 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 H.B. No. 2137, HD 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Iwamoto voting aye with reservations, with Representative Garcia voting no, and with Representative Pierick being excused.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1120-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1886, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1886, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, in support. This is another measure that your Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee is offering related to our immigration enforcement concerns that our constituents have been telling us. This

measure establishes statutory standards governing state and county collaboration with federal immigration enforcement operations, strengthens transparency requirements for law enforcement officers through visible identification and limitations on facial coverings, and it creates clear statutory guardrails regarding unauthorized civil immigration interrogation arrest or detention.

"The principles on which this measure are based include requiring clear, visible identification during public engagement; establishing reasonable, clearly defined exceptions for tactical, undercover, and environmental safety circumstances; and providing accountability mechanisms for intentional violations. Each of us has friends and family who are law enforcement officers. And we build goodwill and trust between our community members and our law enforcement officers. I want to continue that effort.

"Clear identification standards protect both law enforcement officers and the public. They reduce the risk of impersonation, prevent misidentification that could escalate into terrible encounters. By making sure we have clear identification standards, we reinforce the legitimacy of lawful police authority. So, I urge members to support this measure as a very reasonable step to protect our law enforcement officers and our community. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, chair, for your wisdom. I rise in opposition. First, I want to acknowledge the intent behind this measure. There's no doubt protecting civil liberties and ensuring transparency in government operations are vital, critical, non-negotiable goals that all of us in this body value. I agree that the extreme cases that we have seen are totally unacceptable. And I would not want that for anyone, citizen or undocumented. We should have a process, a due process, where we are able to treat people with respect and kindness.

"I'd like to just make my opposition points based as objectively as I can. The concerns that the provisions in the bill may unintentionally create barriers to effective collaboration between our state and federal law enforcement partners. Law enforcement today operates in an environment where cooperation between different agencies is often essential to protecting our communities, whether addressing organized crime, drug trafficking, human trafficking, or national security threats. Successful investigations frequently rely on strong partnerships between local, state, and federal authorities. My concern is that the broad limitations outlined in this measure could make it more difficult for state and county agencies to work collaboratively with federal partners in situations where that cooperation may be necessary for public safety.

"Additionally, certain provisions in the bill create potential criminal penalties for public employees and law enforcement officers. While accountability is important, we should be cautious about creating statutory framework that could place officers in uncertain legal territory while they are attempting to carry out their duties and coordinate with other agencies.

"At the end of the day, our goal should be to ensure that law enforcement agencies have the tools and flexibility necessary to keep our community safe while still respecting civil rights and constitutional protections. For these reasons, Madam Speaker, I respectfully rise in opposition to HB 1886, and request permission to enter written comments. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

Representative Shimizu's written remarks are as follows:

"I rise in opposition to this measure due to several legal, operational, and practical concerns. While I recognize the importance of protecting civil liberties and ensuring transparency in law enforcement operations, I believe this bill raises significant questions about how the state interacts with federal authorities and how these provisions would function in practice.

"First, this measure places substantial limitations on collaboration between state and federal law enforcement agencies, particularly in matters related to immigration enforcement and joint operations. Law enforcement cooperation across jurisdictions is an important component of public safety, especially when addressing complex issues that often require coordination

between local, state, and federal authorities. By restricting certain forms of collaboration and imposing additional requirements on these relationships, this bill could create unnecessary friction with federal partners and reduce the flexibility that law enforcement agencies currently rely on when working together in joint operations.

"Our constitutional system recognizes that federal officers operate under federal authority and within a distinct legal framework. Attempting to regulate the conduct of federal officers through state law raises complex legal questions and could lead to disputes over jurisdiction and enforcement. These conflicts may ultimately result in litigation or confusion regarding how these provisions apply when federal and state authorities operate together.

"I am also concerned about the operational complexity that this measure could create. The bill establishes multiple new requirements related to law enforcement identification, collaboration agreements, and restrictions on participation in federal task forces or operations. Implementing these provisions would likely require the development of new policies, administrative oversight, and additional training for law enforcement personnel. These requirements could impose costs and administrative burdens on agencies that are already working with limited resources.

"Furthermore, the bill introduces new criminal penalties for certain actions taken by law enforcement officers. Criminalizing noncompliance in this manner raises concerns regarding officer discretion, safety, and the potential for unintended consequences. Law enforcement officers are often required to make rapid decisions in dynamic situations, and the threat of criminal liability may create uncertainty about how officers should respond in circumstances involving federal partners or immigration-related matters.

"Another concern involves the potential impact on participation in federal task forces and joint operations that address serious criminal activity. Federal partnerships often play an important role in combating organized crime, drug trafficking, and other cross-jurisdictional threats. Policies that restrict participation in these partnerships could inadvertently weaken valuable channels of cooperation that help keep our communities safe.

"For these reasons, I believe this measure requires further careful consideration. While the goals of protecting civil liberties and ensuring accountability in law enforcement are important, we must also ensure that any changes to law enforcement operations are clear, workable, and consistent with our constitutional framework.

"Accordingly, I respectfully vote no on House Bill 1886."

Representative Kila rose in support of the measure with reservations and asked that the remarks of the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs chair be entered into the Journal as his own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Hussey rose in support of the measure and asked that the remarks of the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs chair be entered into the Journal as his own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Iwamoto rose in support of the measure and asked that the remarks of the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs chair be entered into the Journal as her own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Souza rose in support of the measure and asked that the remarks of the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs chair be entered into the Journal as her own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Garcia rose in opposition to the measure and asked that the remarks of the representative from Moanalua be entered into the Journal as his own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Gedeon rose in opposition to the measure and asked that the remarks of the representative from Moanalua be entered into the Journal as his own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"Thank you, in opposition. So, this law makes it to where law enforcement have to have an ID, maybe it could be a serial number, their full name, have to show their face. And so, if an assassin or a fellow gang member who has been detained by law enforcement sees that law enforcement officer, they

can recognize him, rally their troops to then go assassinate him. We want to protect law enforcement and not expose them to gangs trying to extract them. So, I'm voting no."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support with comments. I do want to point out that collaboration with our federal law enforcement is essential, especially in special circumstances and things that they have to do. This bill does provide language in situations where law enforcement officers or federal law enforcement officers are engaged in active tactical operation, including special weapons and tactics, team responses, or high-risk warrant service, where facial coverings are necessary.

"With that understanding, Madam Speaker, we want to make sure that law enforcements are able to get the bad guys. And this bill allows them to do that. But when they're roaming around the streets and not having any judicial warrant and just stirring up the community, might be some problem with that, Madam Speaker.

"Our police officers are also present in our community, especially in our schools, without a mask because we want to identify those law enforcements as friends. I want our children to see law enforcement as the good guys, doing good things, protecting our communities. And this bill, Madam Speaker, allows those situations clear where facial coverings are needed and those when they are not. This bill also does a number of things that's good to enable that policy in our state, and I support them as well. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1886, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 42 ayes to 7 noes, with Representative Kila voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Gedeon, Kong, Matsumoto, Muraoka, and Shimizu voting no, and with Representative Pierick being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1121-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2540, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2540, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"In support. This is one more measure in the package of bills on addressing immigration enforcement concerns from our community. This measure establishes provisions limiting state and federal collaboration for purposes of immigration enforcement operations. I want to note that this does not limit our agreements between the federal and state government on other areas of law enforcement, like fighting against money laundering, or drug trafficking, or human trafficking, organized crime, illegal fireworks. All those different types of cooperative agreements are not prohibited by this measure, this is solely related to immigration enforcement.

"It requires state and county law enforcement agencies to establish and publicly post written policies regarding civil immigration enforcement. It prohibits law enforcement officers from initiating or prolonging a stop, a detention, or arrest of a person for the purpose of determining the person's civil immigration status, except under certain conditions. It establishes as a policy of the Department of Law Enforcement that civil immigration activity involving state and county participation or facilities shall only proceed under certain conditions, and it prohibits state and country involvement in civil immigration enforcement activity in certain locations.

"Immigration enforcement is the purview of the federal government. Our state and county law enforcement officers have plenty to do to enforce the laws that they are empowered to enforce. We need them to focus there and not be focused on doing the work of the federal government. Nothing in this bill or the other bills in any way restrict the lawful activities of these federal law enforcement officers regarding immigration enforcement. We are only focusing on what the state law enforcement officers can do, and we're telling them, here's your guidelines. We want to make sure that the public understands this. And we want to make sure that when the public is interacting with law enforcement officers, they know who they are. They

know that they are legitimate law enforcement offices. Again, we want to build trust with our law enforcement officers because they're part of our community and we need to trust them. So, I urge members to support this measure. Thank you, Speaker."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in opposition with comments. There's no question the positive aspects of this bill. My opposition is based on the opposing testimony of those that are affected by this bill. We have the County of Hawai'i Police Department, the County of Maui Police Department, the Honolulu Police Department, and the Kaua'i Police Department. Department of Law Enforcement also had turned in some testimony with their concerns.

"So, not being a police officer myself and understanding the difficulties of doing their job and what cooperation or partnerships they establish with federal partners, I'm just taking their expert testimony and putting a lot of weight on it and giving respect to their perspective and their point of view. And that's the main basis for my opposition, Madam Speaker. Thank you."

Representative Kila rose in support of the measure with reservations and asked that the remarks of the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs chair be entered into the Journal as his own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Souza rose in support of the measure and asked that the remarks of the Judiciary chair be entered into the Journal as her own, 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 H.B. No. 2540, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT," passed Third Reading by a vote of 42 ayes to 7 noes, with Representative Kila voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Gedeon, Kong, Matsumoto, Muraoka, and Shimizu voting no, and with Representative Pierick being excused.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1122-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1839, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1839, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"In support. Another bill in the package that the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs is offering to this body to consider to address the immigration enforcement concerns that our community is talking to us about. In particular, this measure requires state and county law enforcement agencies to notify an individual in the custody of a state or county law-enforcement agency of their rights before any interview with federal immigration authorities pertaining to certain matters regarding civil immigration violations can commence. This is all about due process. It's all about constitutional rights, protecting those constitutional rights of all of our Hawaii residents.

"This measure designates all records relating to federal immigration authority's access to detained individuals provided by a state or local law enforcement agency as public records. And it requires state and county law enforcement agencies that have provided federal immigration authorities access to a detained individual within the previous year to hold two public forums per year.

"We're trying to build understanding between the community and our law enforcement officers on this very difficult and contentious area of immigration enforcement. We want to make sure that when somebody is detained, that they know what their rights are. They know what their constitutional rights, including their Miranda rights. If they choose not to say anything, the rights afforded under the Fifth Amendment include the right to remain silent and the right to an attorney. We want to make sure that everyone's rights are protected, and that's what this bill does. So, I urge members to support this measure. Thank you, Speaker."

Representative Kila rose in support of the measure with reservations and asked that the remarks of the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs chair be entered into the Journal as his own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

Representative Matsumoto's written remarks are as follows:

"I stand with reservations. I agree with commitment to ensuring due process and civil rights protections for immigrants and migrants in state and county law enforcement custody.

"By requiring individuals to be notified of their rights before any civil immigration interview, the bill promotes transparency and empowers individuals to make informed decisions regarding their participation in such interviews.

"However, my reservations stem from potential broad impact on the collaboration between state and local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities. Furthermore, the requirement for written consent forms in multiple languages, while inclusive, could impose logistical and financial burdens on law enforcement agencies especially during a time when all our law enforcement agencies are understaffed. These factors may hinder the efficient operation of law enforcement on other matters which is referenced in the opposition testimonies from law enforcement across the state."

Representative Souza rose in support of the measure and asked that the remarks of the Judiciary chair be entered into the Journal as her own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Gedeon rose and asked that the Clerk record an aye vote with reservations 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 brief comment. Again, there's no argument on the positive aspects of this bill and what it is trying to accomplish. My opposition, again, is based on opposing testimony provided by the Hawai'i County Police Department, the Kaua'i Police Department. And again, as earlier referenced, no testimony from the Attorney General's office on important legal matters such as these that I was not privy to, what was earlier shared, private conversations with the attorney general. So, with those questions and concerns, I stand in opposition. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

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

"Thank you, in opposition. So, I love the intent behind the bill, reading people their rights. That's due process, I support that. The part I don't support is it seems like we're telling local law enforcement, you guys have to go tell federal inmates their rights, when that's the job of the federal law enforcement. So, let's just let federal law enforcement read them their rights, and we can have the, free up state law enforcement to do other things versus informing federal law enforcement of their right, you guys know what I'm saying."

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

"I rise in support, Madam Speaker, with comments. Thank you. This bill is particularly about the state and when there's a detention, and that's what it's focused on. Nothing on the federal side regarding having to require ICE to do what they do. Because one, we're state, and we can't force them to do what they want to do.

"Second, Madam Speaker, I want to point out that the police department in our state, when something is happening in our community, especially something that revolves around enforcement like this, it's very unique, this time that we're in. And when we have out-of-state enforcers coming from the mainland and coming into our community, and then our community members seeing that, it stirs up a lot of talks and discussion of what actually happened.

"One of the requirements in this bill, Madam Speaker, is it forces those police agency to host a town hall to talk about what's going on in their community. I have held 12 town halls throughout every year because my community wants to know what's happening. And when there's something criminal that happened, I invite our community officer to come to that community and talk about what has happened because I personally cannot speak on that matter.

"This just allows stability in our community. When something like this, in this unusual time, for the police department to go into our community and share what is happening, the last thing we want, Madam Speaker, is for a community to think what they assume is happening. Let's give them the facts by the people who are there to protect us, and that's what this measure does. Two town halls is not a lot to ask for. Our police department should be not only protecting us, but informing us on what's happening at this time. Thank you."

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

Representative Shimizu's written remarks are as follows:

"I rise in respectful opposition to HB 1839.

"Let me begin by acknowledging something that should unite all of us in this chamber: Hawai'i's immigrant community is an essential part of who we are as a state. For generations, people from across the world have come to Hawai'i seeking opportunity, safety, and the chance to build a better future for their families. These individuals and families have helped shape our culture, strengthen our economy, and enrich the social fabric of our islands.

"Because of that history, protecting civil rights, ensuring due process, and treating all individuals with dignity and fairness must remain fundamental principles that guide our policymaking. No person, regardless of immigration status, should be subject to abuse of authority or unlawful conduct. If misconduct occurs, it must be addressed, investigated, and corrected. Accountability in law enforcement is essential to maintaining public trust.

"However, my concern with HB 1839 is that it appears to be built on a premise that treats federal immigration authorities, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement, as though they are inherently acting in bad faith. While there may certainly be instances that raise legitimate concerns and deserve scrutiny, it is important that we approach public policy with a balanced and realistic understanding of how our law enforcement system functions.

"Federal immigration authorities operate under federal law and within a constitutional framework that defines the relationship between federal and state governments. In many situations, federal immigration enforcement is conducted lawfully and plays an important role in protecting public safety.

"Across the country, there are individuals involved in serious criminal activity—such as human trafficking, organized crime, drug trafficking, financial exploitation, and other offenses—who intentionally operate in the shadows to avoid detection and accountability. In cases like these, federal authorities often play a critical role in identifying and apprehending individuals who pose real dangers to the public.

"The work conducted by federal investigative agencies can help expose criminal networks, protect vulnerable individuals, and disrupt activities that harm communities. When conducted lawfully and responsibly, these efforts contribute to the safety and stability of our society.

"My concern is that legislation such as HB 1839 may unintentionally create an environment of division and suspicion rather than encouraging thoughtful collaboration between agencies working toward the shared goal of public safety. When policies broadly restrict cooperation between state and federal authorities, they can complicate communication and coordination in circumstances where collaboration may be necessary to address serious criminal activity.

"Effective law enforcement often requires cooperation across jurisdictions and levels of government. State, county, and federal agencies each play distinct roles within our constitutional system, and there are many

situations where coordination between these entities allows investigations to move forward efficiently and responsibly.

"Instead of approaching these relationships from a position that assumes the worst intentions of federal partners, we should focus on developing balanced solutions, solutions that protect civil liberties and constitutional rights while still allowing appropriate cooperation when it is necessary to address genuine threats to public safety.

"At the same time, our state should continue working to strengthen policies that support individuals who are pursuing lawful immigration pathways and striving toward citizenship. Families who are trying to build better lives, contribute to our communities, and follow the legal processes available to them deserve to be treated with dignity and fairness.

"Public policy should seek to uphold both compassion and accountability. We can protect the rights of individuals, ensure that due process is respected, and maintain safeguards against misuse of authority without unnecessarily weakening the ability of agencies to work together when addressing serious criminal conduct.

"In my view, cooperation and accountability are not mutually exclusive. A balanced approach recognizes that civil liberties must be protected while also acknowledging the legitimate role that lawful federal enforcement can play in protecting communities from harm."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1839, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO IMMIGRATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 44 ayes to 5 noes, with Representatives Gedeon, Kila, and Matsumoto voting aye with reservations, with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Kong, Muraoka, and Shimizu voting no, and with Representative Pierick being excused.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1123-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2197, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2197, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

"Thank you, Speaker. I stand in strong support for this measure, and I want to thank the introducer. In my experience, there are three types of fires, by accident, by squatters, and by neighbors trying to burn the squatters out because they can't get them out. So, I appreciate this measure. In strong support. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand in strong support. This bill is simple. It protects property owners from squatters, people who move into vacant homes or buildings without permission. Right now, when this happens, property owners can spend months trying to get their property back. And during that time, they often face property damage, safety concerns for the neighborhood, and frustration of losing rental income.

"For many small property owners, especially *kūpuna* living on a fixed income, that rent is what helps pay their living expenses. When squatters occupy a property, that income disappears while the owner still has to cover the costs.

"I also need to point out that this bill does not apply to legitimate tenants or normal landlord-tenant disputes. It simply creates a clear process for law enforcement to help remove individuals who have no legal right to be there on the property and helps owners reclaim what is rightfully theirs. For these reasons I stand in strong support of this measure."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support. I want to thank the vice chair of Finance for introducing this bill. I stand in support of this as a safety

issue. Just in Waikiki in the past couple weeks, squatters have created a fire in an abandoned building. This bill is in the right direction to protect their safety. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2197, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes, with Representative Iwamoto voting aye with reservations, and with Representative Pierick being excused.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1128-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2458, HD 2, as amended in HD 3, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2458, HD 3 pass Third Reading, 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."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2458, HD 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SURVEILLANCE PRICING," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes, with Representative Garcia voting aye with reservations, and with Representative Pierick being excused.

At 1:04 p.m., the Chair noted that the following bills passed Third Reading:

H.B. No. 2167, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 322, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2616, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1574, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2250, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1740, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1799, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1725, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2049, HD 3  
 H.B. No. 2161, HD 3  
 H.B. No. 1970, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2519, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1790, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1873, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2151, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1880, HD 3  
 H.B. No. 2198, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1511, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1991, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2546, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1615, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1939, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2429, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1870, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1850, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1782, HD 3  
 H.B. No. 2137, HD 3  
 H.B. No. 1886, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2540, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1839, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2197, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2458, HD 3

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1129-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1877, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1877, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Souza rose in support of 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:

"I am in support of HB 1877, HD 1. I have constituents who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, etc. All 51 House districts encompass diverse populations. As a state representative, I represent all of my constituents, whether heterosexual or homosexual, black, white, brown, whatever you are, I represent you. We cannot be elected to office, sit in these seats, and by our votes say that certain segments of the population we represent do not matter. A state representative for all should be the sentiment, and that is what we should all strive for as a member of this body.

"This bill will expand the number of voting members on the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus Commission from eight voting members to eleven—adding one member who shall be under the age of 29 at the time of their appointment and two voting members, one of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives and one of whom shall be appointed by the Senate president. In the committee report from the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee, it states that the committee finds that expanding the Commission's membership to include additional perspectives, including representation from younger individuals and appointees of the Legislature, will enhance the Commission's capacity to reflect the diversity of lived experiences within the community and improve the quality and depth of its policy recommendations."

"I have a constituent and a friend, Michael Gologuch, Jr., a resident of Makakilo, who is a current sitting member of the commission. Michael is a 25+ year civil rights activist who has been instrumental in advocating for the LGBTQIA+ community, among many other causes. Michael's dad, Michael Sr., and mom, Carolyn, also my constituents, have done work in this area for many years and their advocacy is truly a family affair.

"Michael invited me to walk with the LGBTQ+ State Commission in the 2025 Honolulu Pride Parade and I gladly showed up. It was nice to meet the members of the commission and walk the entire parade route with them from Waikiki to Kapiolani Park. On second reading, a colleague argued that adding more members to the commission will only aim to turn more individuals gay. However, on the parade route for the couple hours that we were walking, my understanding is that the commission members did not turn anyone gay. If you came to the parade and you were already gay, it is my understanding that those individuals left as gay, and those who came to support in solidarity who were not gay, left as not gay. The commission members were simply showing pride and celebrating the diversity in our communities."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1877, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS COMMISSION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 46 ayes to 4 noes, with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Muraoka, and Pierick voting no.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1130-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2115, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2115, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

"In strong support. The Department of Human Services runs a variety of social service programs, a safety net for our most vulnerable populations from *kūpuna* to foster kids to the disabled. And they don't do all the work themselves, work that is required by law, that was put into place because this body has made it so or because the department policy has made it so. All that work, state work, is being done, the direct services are largely farmed out to nonprofit organizations who are much more nimble in their ability to hire people in order to perform those services, whereas we cannot fill the vacancies in our state.

"In order to do that work, they have faced rising costs in labor, utilities, insurance, and their contracts don't pay for the work that they're doing on our behalf. So, this is simply to shore up those contracts. When they go out

for future contracts, we hope that they will make sure the rates are appropriate to their costs. But for now, we ask for their support to keep people on the services that they need. Thank you."

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

Representative Cochran's written remarks are as follows:

"First off, I am very much in support of added appropriations for items 1-8 if needed. Personally, I like to work with actual dollar amounts when working on a budget along with details on how funds would be utilized. I am keenly aware of the need for homelessness services, especially since the Lahaina Fire in my district on Maui. My concern is with the Index Code (4) homeless services (HMS224). My opposition is because of first-hand experience and proof that past and present funds from this department have been and continues to be used to pay unlicensed contractors. My office's and constituents' inquiries with the DCCA's RICO Division have gone unanswered in regard to this issue of unlicensed contractors working on a state project. The other major concern is that this department has been under an audit since last year with a final report due to the Legislature 20 days before the opening of this 2026 Session which has not been completed yet. So, until a clean audit from the state auditor is forthcoming, I have concerns about appropriating any funds for this department at this time."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2115, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Cochran voting no.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1131-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1950, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1950, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Souza 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 H.B. No. 1950, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS TAX," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Souza voting aye with reservations.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1132-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1590, HD 2, as amended in HD 3, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1590, HD 3 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Alcos 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 an aye vote with reservations for him, and the Chair "so ordered."

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

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

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

Representative Garcia's written remarks are as follows:

"Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to HB 1590. This bill is nothing but a massive crackdown on local homeowners disguised as 'vacation rental enforcement.' It lets counties use screenshots from booking websites as sufficient evidence to go after property owners. Yes, screenshots! Something that can easily be manipulated or taken out of context. This bill

lowers the standard of evidence and makes it easier for the government to target homeowners based on virtual listings instead of real investigations or due process. Supporters will say this is necessary to control illegal vacation rentals. But what this bill actually does is expand the power of government enforcement, weakening the protections property owners should have when they are accused of wrongdoing. Madam Speaker, we hear constantly about how expensive it is to live in Hawai'i. Families are struggling to make their mortgage payments. Many local homeowners rely on short-term rentals to help cover the costs. And what is the Legislature's response? More enforcement, more regulation, more penalties. Instead of addressing the real issue, our housing shortage and the cost of living, this bill targets property owners who are simply trying to make ends meet."

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

Representative Tam's written remarks are as follows:

"Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support. This bill would provide much needed enforcement on illegal and non-compliant short term vacation rentals.

"This bill is not targeted at vacation rentals in compliance and operating legally. What it does is that it clarifies that time-stamped screenshots can be used as evidence for enforcement, allow counties to use their transient accommodations tax collections for enforcement, fold into the Hawai'i Tourism Authority's mission that they will steer visitors to traditional and compliant transient accommodations, and requires booking platforms to collect, report, and remit general excise tax and transient accommodations taxes on behalf of operators.

"This bill also addresses the concerns raised in committee. It clarifies that tax information shall remain confidential.

"For these reasons I stand in strong support."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1590, HD 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VACATION RENTALS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes to 2 noes, with Representatives Alcos, Gedeon, Shimizu, and Souza voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Garcia and Pierick voting no.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1134-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1948, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1948, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Shimizu 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. 1948, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 47 ayes to 3 noes, with Representative Shimizu voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, and Pierick voting no.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1135-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2585, HD 2, as amended in HD 3, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2585, HD 3 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

Representative Shimizu 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. 2585, HD 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR

AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL TOURISM," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes to 2 noes, with Representatives Iwamoto and Shimizu voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Garcia and Pierick voting no.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1137-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1892, HD 2, as amended in HD 3, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1892, HD 3 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"In opposition. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm in support of the concept of this bill. And I do believe it's important to have a teacher representative on the Board of Education. I 100% support that. My opposition to this bill is simply because this bill gives the sole authority to appoint that teacher from the teacher's union.

"Now, it's not required for all teachers to be a member of the teacher's union, and so this could potentially disenfranchise about 9% of Hawaii's teachers, which are not union members. And I believe they should also have a fair shake at potentially being considered to be a voice and a representative on the BOE. So, for those reasons, no vote.

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

"I stand in opposition just due to the fact there is multiple opposing testimonies during the committee hearing. And one was the collective bargaining office that wanted this to be run by the Ethics Commission, which I don't believe it has since. So, that was my reasons for opposition."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1892, HD 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes to 2 noes, with Representatives Cochran and Garcia voting no.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1138-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2621, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2621, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2621, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO STUDENT MISCONDUCT," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Cochran voting no.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1139-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1888, HD 2, as amended in HD 3, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1888, HD 3 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Shimizu rose in support of the measure with reservations and asked that his written remarks be inserted in the Journal, and the Chair "so ordered."

Representative Shimizu's written remarks are as follows:

"I rise in support with reservations for HB 1888.

"First, I want to acknowledge the intent of this measure. Educational workers: including teachers, administrators, counselors, and other school staff, play a vital role in the well-being and development of Hawai'i's

students. They deserve to work in environments that are safe, respectful, and supportive. Instances of harassment directed at educators are deeply concerning, and ensuring that school employees are protected from threatening or abusive behavior is an important public policy objective.

"At the same time, several concerns have been raised regarding the approach taken in this bill.

"One concern relates to whether strengthening criminal penalties is the most effective way to address the underlying issues occurring in school environments. Many educators, parents, and community members have suggested that greater emphasis should be placed on preventive strategies such as de-escalation training, conflict resolution practices, restorative justice approaches, and expanded access to mental health resources for students and families. These approaches focus on resolving conflicts before they escalate and may help address the root causes of disruptive or confrontational behavior.

"Additionally, some stakeholders have noted that more comprehensive data may be needed regarding the frequency and nature of harassment incidents involving educational workers. Before modifying criminal statutes, it may be helpful to better understand the scope of the problem, the circumstances under which incidents occur, and whether existing policies or enforcement mechanisms are already addressing many of these situations.

"Another concern involves the interaction between this measure and existing law. Hawai'i already has statutes addressing harassment and related conduct. Some have questioned whether the enforcement of existing provisions may already provide sufficient tools for addressing misconduct, rather than creating additional penalties or separate classifications within the law.

"Related to this is the concern that the bill may unintentionally create confusion or apprehension among parents and guardians who are attempting to advocate for their children within the school system. While the intent of the measure is clearly to address harassment directed at educational workers, some parents have expressed concern that routine disagreements, emotional discussions, or attempts to raise concerns about their child's education could potentially be misinterpreted. It is important that efforts to protect educators do not inadvertently discourage constructive dialogue between families and schools.

"Finally, some have raised broader questions about the creation of what could be perceived as a special protected class within the criminal statute. While the safety of educational workers is critically important, other public servants, including nurses, social workers, and various public safety personnel, also encounter difficult and sometimes confrontational situations in the course of their work. Policymakers must carefully consider how criminal law classifications are structured to ensure consistency and fairness across professions.

"For these reasons, while I support the goal of protecting educational workers and improving workplace safety in our schools, I believe continued discussion and evaluation of the policy approach will be important as the state works to ensure both educator safety and a collaborative relationship between schools, families, and communities."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1888, HD 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE SAFETY OF EDUCATIONAL WORKERS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Shimizu voting aye with reservations, and with Representative Garcia voting no.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1140-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1559, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1559, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Speaker. I rise in opposition. First, I want to thank the introducer of this bill for introducing this bill because I believe it put tremendous pressure on the Board of Education to move forward with adopting a policy, which they did in February. So, to me, introducing this bill has already had tremendous positive impact.

"My opposition is now that they've done it, I would advocate for letting it play out, and letting them manage the implementing guidelines, and fleshing out the policy, and tweaking it as it needs. Because I think there's a lot of things that could change quickly around these devices. Telecommunication devices can change and we could learn new things and they could implement it more promptly. Thank you."

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

"I stand in opposition. Same reasoning in the sense that the DOE has stated they already have a policy in play. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in opposition, brief comment. I totally agree, cell phones need to be better controlled. And I even introduced a bill last session. But as the previous two speakers have stated, the DOE has established a policy regarding this. And I believe we should allow them to process their internal affairs. And this bill may not be required. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

Representative Souza 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 H.B. No. 1559, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 47 ayes to 3 noes, with Representative Souza voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Cochran, Iwamoto, and Shimizu voting no.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1141-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1875, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1875, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

"I stand with reservations with comment. I want to acknowledge the emails, calls, and personal contacts from people who both support and oppose this bill. I listened to the voicemails, and I want you to know that I hear all of you. My vote reflects that. This bill is about protecting people in Hawaii, assuring that those who follow Hawaii state law are not unjustly targeted by out-of-state actors. We have the legal right to make personal healthcare decisions, and this measure reinforces Hawaii's commitment to patient safety, patient privacy, and provider stability.

"Abusive litigation raises medical costs and could result in increased malpractice insurance. This bill deters frivolous lawsuits by creating clear remedies and fee recovery, which can lower legal risk and ultimately costs for clinicians and patients. The bill also ensures state sovereignty. The decisions that Hawaii makes on any bill or any law that we enact should not be impeded by the policy decisions of another state.

"People rely on us to speak the truth, and this bill has nothing to do with one's gender-affirming care. It's about ensuring that all of our people feel safe when utilizing a doctor. And this is also about states' rights. I look forward to working on the issues our families actually care about, which is being able to afford a home, having a good job, and seeing a future for their kids."

Representative Todd rose in support of the measure and asked that the remarks of the prior speaker be entered into the Journal as his own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Kahaloa rose in support of the measure and asked that the remarks of the prior speaker be entered into the Journal as her own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Quinlan rose in support of the measure and asked that the remarks of the prior speaker be entered into the Journal as his own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"In support. This bill is intended to ensure that the people in Hawaii can access lawful reproductive health care and gender affirming health care without fear that out-of-state political or legal efforts will be used to intimidate patients, providers, or those who assist them. As the state health planning and development agency said, the bill strengthens privacy and limits cooperation with out-of-state investigations or proceedings that target care that is legal here, while also providing clear civil remedies and protections against insurance or contract retaliation.

"As a result, this bill reinforces Hawaii's commitment to patient safety, provider stability, and the right to make personal healthcare decisions under Hawaii law. I encourage all members to support this measure. Thank you, Speaker."

Representative Souza rose in support of the measure with reservations and asked that the remarks of the Judiciary chair be entered into the Journal as her own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Iwamoto rose in support of the measure and asked that the remarks of the Judiciary chair be entered into the Journal as her own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support. I would just like to have the words of the Judiciary chair as well as the words of the representative from 'Ewa Beach inserted into the comments as if they were my own, and to provide more comments," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Tam continued, stating:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. At its core, this bill is about protecting lawful health care in the State of Hawaii. Specifically, it extends existing protections currently in HRS for reproductive health care to also include gender-affirming healthcare services, and ensures that providers and patients in Hawaii are not punished under the laws of other states for care that's legal here. Across our country, we are seeing attempts to criminalize doctors, patients, and families for assessing science-based health care. This bill ensures that Hawaii will not enforce those out-of-state penalties and will protect providers who follow Hawaii law and establish medical standards.

"Let me now address a misconception that has been circulated around this measure. This bill does not change the rules for minors receiving gender-affirming care in Hawaii. In fact, there is nowhere in this country where a minor can receive gender affirming care without parental consent. I repeat, minors cannot receive medical gender-affirming treatments without the consent and involvement of their parents or legal guardians. Nothing in this bill alters that requirement.

"House Bill 1875 does not create new medical procedures, it does not override parental authority, and it does not change the standard of care that physicians must follow. What it does is protect doctors from being punished simply for providing care that is lawful in our state and medically appropriate under established professional standards.

"Medical professionals testify that gender-affirming care is provided under rigorous clinical guidelines and careful evaluations. It is not rushed, it is not casual, and it is subject to the same ethical and professional oversight as any other area of medicine. Hawaii has long believed that healthcare decisions should be guided by patients, families, and licensed medical

professionals, not by political pressure from other states. This bill affirms that principle.

"I now want to address why we are seeing this across the country. It is simply scapegoating our trans folks and is nothing but a distraction from, I don't know, the Epstein files. The transgender community are our neighbors, they make an honest living, they pay taxes, and they are your constituents, too. They deserve the same dignity as everyone else. Whether someone personally agrees with a particular medical treatment or not, we should all agree that Hawaii should protect lawful medical care and the doctors who provide it and the families who rely on it. For these reasons, I stand in strong support of House Bill 1875."

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

"In strong support, and I'd like to adopt the words of the previous speaker as if they were my own," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"*Mahalo*, Madam Speaker. Reservations, and I may adopt the words of the Judiciary & Affairs chair as if they were my own, the representative from Waikiki's words as if they were my own just omitting the Jeffrey Epstein part, and then if I could also adopt the words of the representative from Ewa Beach as if they were my own as well," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

Representative Garcia's written remarks are as follows:

"Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to HB 1875. Supporters say this is about protecting privacy and medical freedom. But the reality is this bill blocks cooperation with certain out-of-state investigations and shields providers from certain disciplinary actions tied to reproductive and gender-affirming services that are legal in Hawaii. Madam Speaker, medical oversight should always be about patient safety and accountability, not politics. Creating special legal shields around certain treatments sets a dangerous precedent. At a time when Hawaii is facing doctor shortages, rising insurance costs and limited access to care, this bill spends 59 pages rewriting law to fight national political battles instead of solving the real problems our communities are facing."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1875, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH CARE," passed Third Reading by a vote of 44 ayes to 6 noes, with Representatives Kila, Matsumoto, Reyes Oda, and Souza voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Gedeon, Kong, Pierick, and Shimizu voting no.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1142-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1628, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1628, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

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

Representative Olds 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. 1628, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COMPASSIONATE RELEASE," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes to 2 noes, with Representatives Kila, Kitagawa,

Olds, and Sayama voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Matayoshi and Pierick voting no.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1145-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1769, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1769, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support with reservations and I'd like to explain my reservation. In testimony provided by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, their assertion is they don't have the space to bring people back. So, my reservation would be that we need to bring them back based on space provided, and imploring the DCR, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, their task to analyze and implement reclassification of inmates to utilize existing spaces at Kulani and Waiawa facilities. And permission to insert comments, please."

Representative Shimizu's written remarks are as follows:

"I rise in support with reservations for HB 1769.

"HB 1769 seeks to address the state's reliance on private, out-of-state correctional facilities by requiring the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to incrementally return individuals currently incarcerated in those facilities to correctional institutions within Hawaii. The intent of this measure: to strengthen connections between incarcerated individuals and their families, improve opportunities for rehabilitation, and increase transparency and accountability within the correctional system, is an important one. Maintaining family and cultural connections can play a meaningful role in successful reintegration and long-term public safety outcomes.

"At the same time, I voted in support of this measure with reservations, particularly regarding the practical implementation of the policy and the systems necessary to ensure effective reporting, monitoring, and accountability as the state moves toward this transition.

"One concern relates to the importance of ensuring that the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation maintains strong oversight and transparency throughout the process of returning incarcerated individuals to Hawaii. Because this transition will occur incrementally over several years, it will be important that the Legislature receive clear and consistent reporting on the Department's progress, including information related to facility capacity, classification levels, operational readiness, and the impact of these transfers on both in-state facilities and overall correctional management. Reliable reporting mechanisms will help ensure that policymakers are able to monitor the implementation of this policy and respond appropriately if challenges arise.

"Another issue that has been raised in discussions surrounding this measure relates to the capacity of Hawaii's correctional facilities. Some stakeholders have expressed concern that the state's current infrastructure may not have sufficient capacity to accommodate a significant number of additional inmates returning from out-of-state facilities. In particular, it has been noted that Halawa Correctional Facility is currently the state's only medium-security facility, while a large portion of individuals currently housed at the Saguro Correctional Center in Arizona are classified as medium-security inmates. Based on these classifications, some have argued that additional in-state capacity, including the potential construction of a new medium-security facility, may ultimately be necessary if the state is to fully transition away from out-of-state incarceration.

"At the same time, there are ongoing developments within the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation that may affect how inmate classification and facility placement are determined. The Department's classification system was recently reviewed by an independent academic expert from Chaminade University, and a revised classification tool is currently being tested through a pilot program that began earlier this year. According to the Department, the pilot program is expected to conclude this summer, after which the updated classification system may be implemented statewide.

"The department has indicated that the updated classification tool could potentially result in more inmates being reclassified to minimum-security status sooner than under the current system. If validated and implemented effectively, this change could have a significant impact on facility placement decisions and may help address some of the capacity concerns that have been raised regarding the return of inmates from out-of-state facilities.

"Given these factors, careful monitoring of the department's classification reforms, facility capacity, and implementation progress will be essential as the state moves forward. Ensuring that policy decisions are supported by accurate data, transparent reporting, and ongoing oversight will help the Legislature evaluate whether the intended goals of this measure are being achieved while maintaining public safety and operational stability within Hawai'i's correctional system.

"For these reasons, while I support the long-term goal of strengthening Hawai'i's correctional system and reducing reliance on private, out-of-state incarceration, I do so with reservations and emphasize the importance of continued legislative oversight as this policy is implemented."

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

"In support. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I like this bill. I think this is one of the good bills on the floor today. We, in the late '90s, under Ben Cayetano's administration, Hawaii began shipping out inmates to the mainland due to facility conditions and the lack thereof. Well, it's been almost 30 years since then, and that was never the original intent. It happened due to a lack of availability. And many of our inmates who are sentenced for long sentences find themselves on the East Coast and Arizona and other states. And there really is no connection to family and there is no connection to cultural resources. So, I'm in full support of moving this bill forward to work on a concrete plan to bring our inmates back home to Hawaii."

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

"Thank you, and I stand in support also and agree with the two previous speakers. And in the discussion about revisiting the class system, the two places, Waiawa and Kulani, there are availabilities. Waiawa has space for 335, only 117 are used. Kulani, 200 spaces, only 79. So, if we can lower the threshold of the class system of our out-of-state prisoners, they should be able to fill those beds. And I prefer the calendar of the transfers to happen sooner than 2029 and 2031. Those are just my comments of reservations, but in complete support. Thank you."

The Chair addressed Representative Cochran, stating:

"So, Rep. Cochran, you're in support?"

Representative Cochran: "Yes, I am in support."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In support. It's rare when we are able to agree on things and it's such a lovely thing. I'd like to adopt the words of the minority floor leader as if they were my own."

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

"*Mahalo*, Madam Speaker. In support and same request," 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 H.B. No. 1769, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Shimizu voting aye with reservations, and with Representative Pierick voting no.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1146-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1531, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1531, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support with a reservation. And the reservation I'd like to share is, there's no question this population needs to be serviced, just wanted to put out the concern, which probably everyone knows about the adequate supply of interpreters and the logistics to timely access them in emergency situations and other operational challenges. And can I have permission to enter written comments. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

Representative Shimizu's written remarks are as follows:

"I rise in support with reservations for HB 1531.

"HB 1531 seeks to improve accessibility during emergency announcements by requiring that an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter be present and visible during live broadcast press conferences when a state of emergency has been declared. The intent of this measure: to ensure that members of the deaf and hard-of-hearing community receive timely and accessible information during emergencies, is an important and commendable objective. During times of crisis, clear communication can be critical to protecting public safety, and ensuring that emergency messaging reaches all residents of Hawai'i is an essential responsibility of government.

"While I support the broader goal of improving accessibility in emergency communications, I voted on this measure with reservations due to concerns regarding the practical implementation of some of the bill's requirements.

"One concern relates to the strict visibility requirements contained in the measure. The bill requires that an ASL interpreter's face, body, arms, and hands remain clearly visible during the broadcast of emergency press conferences and establishes specific requirements regarding the size and placement of the interpreter within the broadcast feed. While these standards are understandable from an accessibility standpoint, they may be difficult to consistently meet in certain emergency conditions. Press briefings during emergencies do not always occur in controlled studio environments; they may take place in field settings, temporary command centers, or locations where space, equipment, lighting, and camera positioning are limited. In such circumstances, maintaining the precise visual standards outlined in the bill may prove challenging despite good-faith efforts by emergency officials.

"Related to this issue are broader operational considerations. Emergency response situations are often fast-moving and unpredictable, and the primary focus of government officials during these events is the rapid dissemination of critical information to the public. Strict technical requirements regarding broadcast formatting, positioning of interpreters, or video feed specifications could create additional logistical burdens at moments when emergency personnel and public officials are already managing complex operational demands.

"These concerns do not diminish the importance of providing accessible communication during emergencies. Rather, they highlight the need to ensure that statutory requirements provide sufficient flexibility for officials to adapt to real-world emergency conditions while still striving to meet accessibility goals whenever possible.

"For these reasons, while I support efforts to expand accessibility and ensure that emergency information reaches all members of our community, I believe it is important to remain mindful of the operational realities faced by emergency management officials. Accordingly, I supported this measure with reservations."

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

"In support with reservations. Thank you, Madam Speaker. This bill requires a governor or a mayor of a county during a state of emergency to provide ASL interpreter at each live broadcast press conference. I'm in full support of that. I think it's important to have those who are deaf and those who cannot hear aware of what's happening, especially during times of emergencies.

"However, I do want to point out the testimony that was submitted from the mayor of Hawaii County, Kimo Alameda, and I think he brings out some

credible points. And that is, sometimes there's hard time trying to find an ASL interpreter immediately, especially if something's going on like a volcanic eruption or a tsunami or a hurricane or something where a message needs to get out to the public immediately, we can't be waiting on someone.

"Now, I believe there should be a list, and I'm sure there is, of ASL interpreters on standby ready to go. But again, in support, but noting those reservations and the points brought forth by Mayor Alameda."

Representative Kila rose in support of the measure with reservations and asked that the remarks of the previous speaker be entered into the Journal as his own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Kahaloa rose in support of the measure with reservations and asked that the remarks of the previous speaker be entered into the Journal as her own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Gedeon rose in support of the measure with reservations and asked that the remarks of the previous speaker be entered into the Journal as his own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Hartsfield rose in support of the measure with reservations and asked that the remarks of the previous speaker be entered into the Journal as her own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Keohokapu-Lee Loy rose in support of the measure with reservations and asked that the remarks of the previous speaker be entered into the Journal as her own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Olds rose in support of the measure with reservations and asked that the remarks of the previous speaker be entered into the Journal as his own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Souza 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 H.B. No. 1531, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EMERGENCY ANNOUNCEMENTS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representatives Garcia, Gedeon, Hartsfield, Kahaloa, Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Kila, Olds, Shimizu, and Souza voting aye with reservations.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1147-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2576, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2576, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2576, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO BACKGROUND CHECKS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representatives Alcos and Garcia voting aye with reservations.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1149-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1550, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1550, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1550, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes to 1 no, with Representatives Garcia and Kila voting aye with reservations, and with Representative Pierick voting no.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1150-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1858, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1858, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VITAL STATISTICS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1152-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1961, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1961, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

"In opposition with comments. Madam Speaker, I rise today in respectful opposition to 1961. Let me begin by saying that everyone in this chamber agrees on an important point, that patients, healthcare providers, and staff should be able to access healthcare facilities safely and without threats or intimidation. That principle is not in dispute. My concern with this bill is that while well-intentioned, it may create broad and vague restrictions that could unintentionally impact constitutionally protected speech.

"In committee hearings, I heard both sides of the argument. And both sides were stating how peaceful they are. And I think that's part of this concern about the bill, it introduces new criminal and civil penalties for conduct that interferes, impedes, or disrupts access to a healthcare facility, which those things are definitely unacceptable.

"But these terms are not clearly defined. When criminal penalties are involved, the law must be precise. Without that clarity, activity such as a peaceful protest, holding signs, leafletting, or other forms of expressive activity near a facility could potentially be interpreted as interference. This raises concerns about vagueness and selective enforcement because individuals may not have clear notice of what conduct is prohibited and enforcement could vary depending on how those terms are interpreted.

"Another concern is the severity of the penalties created by the bill. It establishes mandatory jail time beginning with a first offense and creates a private right of action allowing civil penalties and attorney's fees. That combination of criminal penalties and civil liability could have a chilling effect on lawful civic participation.

"The bill also includes an exception for labor demonstrations. While understandable, this carve-out raises additional questions about consistency. If certain forms of protest activity are recognized as acceptable in one context, we should be cautious about criminalizing similar activity in others.

"Finally, Hawaii already has laws that address the legitimate concerns this bill seeks to solve. Our statutes already prohibit threats, harassment, obstruction, trespassing, and disorderly conduct. Those tools allow law enforcement to address real safety concerns without creating an additional and potentially over-broad framework. For these reasons, Madam Speaker, I respectfully rise in opposition and urge members to vote no. And I'd also like permission to enter written comments into the Journal. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

Representative Shimizu's written remarks are as follows:

"I stand in opposition to HB 1961.

"HB 1961 proposes to create a new statutory framework prohibiting individuals from interfering with access to healthcare facilities and

establishes both criminal penalties and civil remedies for violations. The stated goal of the measure: to ensure that patients and healthcare providers can safely access and provide medical services without harassment or obstruction, is an important one.

"It should be clearly stated that harassment, intimidation, or obstruction directed toward individuals seeking medical care or those providing health services is unacceptable. Patients deserve safe and respectful access to care, and healthcare workers should be able to perform their duties without fear of harassment or disruption. Ensuring that individuals are able to safely enter and leave healthcare facilities is a legitimate public safety concern.

"However, I rise in opposition to this measure because many of the behaviors the bill seeks to address are already prohibited under existing law.

"Hawai'i's criminal statutes already provide multiple mechanisms to address conduct that interferes with the operation of facilities or the activities of individuals. Existing laws governing harassment, trespass, and disorderly conduct already prohibit actions such as obstructing entrances, engaging in threatening conduct, or disrupting lawful activities occurring on private property. In addition, excessive noise and disruptive behavior can already be addressed through established provisions when such conduct interferes with the operation of a facility or the rights of others.

"Because these legal tools are already available, some have questioned whether creating an additional statutory framework specifically focused on healthcare facilities is necessary. In many circumstances, the enforcement of existing statutes may already provide sufficient authority for law enforcement to respond to inappropriate or unlawful behavior occurring near or within these facilities.

"When considering the creation of new criminal provisions, it is important to carefully evaluate whether the conduct at issue is already addressed within the current legal framework. Establishing overlapping or duplicative statutes can sometimes create confusion in enforcement or raise questions about the necessity of creating additional penalties for conduct that is already unlawful.

"None of these concerns diminish the importance of protecting patients and healthcare providers from harassment or obstruction. Rather, they reflect a policy judgment that the state's existing legal framework may already provide adequate protection against the types of conduct described in this measure.

"For these reasons, while I strongly agree that harassment or obstruction directed toward individuals accessing health care is unacceptable, I respectfully oppose HB 1961 due to concerns that the bill creates redundant statutory provisions where existing laws may already sufficiently address the conduct in question."

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

"In opposition. Thank you, Madam Speaker. This bill prohibits persons from interfering with another person's access from a healthcare facility or disrupting the normal functioning of a healthcare facility. I don't think anybody disagrees with that. In fact, this bill is really not needed because, like was mentioned by my colleague just previously, we already have laws that would prohibit people from doing that. We already have laws that prohibit people from harassing others as they're trying to obtain services from a particular business or an establishment. It already exists.

"The heart of this bill comes from those who want to attack certain people who are protesting, particularly on Beretania Street, on this island at least, in front of a Planned Parenthood facility. There are those who, and I heard this in testimony that, which is just not true, that people are being spat on and that these people are out there harassing women or others as they're trying to access health care. The majority of these protesters are really praying. They're out there praying. I don't know if any of you have rode by Planned Parenthood on Beretania Street just before the police station, but you see people out there singing songs, praying, and they're standing at a pretty good distance. They're not blocking anyone from getting access to that healthcare facility.

"And this is just a bill to jump on the national bandwagon of those who are attacking pro-life protesters who are exercising their First Amendment

liberties to stand on a public sidewalk and exercise their faith to pray freely, to speak freely, to assemble freely, and this bill goes against that.

"We also saw instances across this country, Madam Speaker, where pro-life protesters who engaged in things like this standing near a Planned Parenthood facility were arrested and even charged, in some cases, federally, federal charges. One of the good things that happened was in the first week of this new administration, many of them were pardoned. Because again, in this country, we have to establish the fact and all realize that you have the right to exercise your First Amendment liberties without obstruction, and this bill would obstruct that. Again, reminder, we already have laws that prohibit this type of harassment. So, this bill is not needed. It's an attack on pro-life advocates. No vote."

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

"Madam Speaker, in strong support. Access to health care is a fundamental right. No individual should be harassed, obstructed, intimidated, or endangered when seeking medical help. Nor should healthcare providers and staff be subjected to disruption or threats or harassment while delivering essential health services. This bill simply reaffirms this principle by ensuring that healthcare facilities remain safe, accessible, and operational for all who rely on them. For those reasons, I ask your support."

Representative Alcos rose in opposition to the measure and asked that the remarks of the representative from Kapolei be entered into the Journal as his own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In support. I want to add the words of the Health chair comments into the Journal as if they're my own. And I would like to also add that I do drive past the Planned Parenthood on Beretania on my way to work, almost every time I come to this building. And what I can say is that they're not praying, they are intimidating," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Garcia rose to respond, stating:

"Second time, still in opposition. Madam Speaker, it was interesting because when this bill came before us in the Health Committee, I asked the question to, I don't believe HPD was there, but it was to Planned Parenthood and to some testifiers who accused these advocates of harassment. And if there was real harassment going on, I asked the question, how many police reports were filed? How many 911 calls were made to the police department to come and address harassers and intimidators from prohibiting access to business? They couldn't answer the question because really it doesn't happen. No vote."

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

"Thank you, in opposition. Just wanted to note, if this bill is protecting people who want to get an abortion from people who are intimidating, what's the definition of intimidating? Is it the posture of prayer, kneeling down, holding up a sign that says your baby is valuable, letting them know, hey, your child is incredible and they can live an amazing life if you let them live? If that's the definitely of intimidating, that's interesting."

Representative Shimizu rose to respond, stating:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm still in opposition, but I'd like to adopt the words of the Health chair as my own, because I have no disagreement with that. Thank you, Madam Speaker," 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 H.B. No. 1961, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH CARE," passed Third Reading by a vote of 42 ayes to 8 noes, with Representative Iwamoto voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Gedeon, Kong, Matsumoto, Muraoka, Pierick, and Shimizu voting no.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1154-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2455, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2455, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

Representative Shimizu's written remarks are as follows:

"I rise in opposition to HB 2455.

"HB 2455 seeks to expand existing employment protections by requiring certain employers to provide paid administrative leave to employees who experience workplace violence or credible threats of workplace violence arising out of their employment. The intent of the measure: to ensure that employees facing threats or safety concerns have the ability to pursue legal protections and take necessary steps to safeguard themselves, is an important and serious issue. Workplace safety is a matter that deserves careful attention, and no employee should be forced to choose between protecting their personal safety and maintaining their employment.

"While the goal of protecting employees from violence and credible threats is widely shared, I rise in opposition to this measure due to concerns regarding the potential financial and administrative burdens that may result from the policy approach adopted in the bill.

"One concern relates to the costs that this measure may impose on employers. HB 2455 requires employers to provide paid administrative leave to employees who are victims of workplace violence or credible threats of violence. While the bill establishes different thresholds depending on the size of the employer, the requirement nonetheless creates a new mandated cost that employers must absorb. For small employers in particular, even limited periods of paid leave can present operational and financial challenges, especially when businesses must simultaneously cover staffing shortages or redistribute workloads among remaining employees.

"Small businesses often operate with limited staff and narrow financial margins. Mandating additional paid leave requirements, even for legitimate and serious circumstances, may place additional pressure on employers who already face rising operational costs. Policymakers must carefully weigh these impacts when considering new employer mandates.

"A second concern relates to the potential complexity of implementing the provisions of this measure in a consistent and fair manner. Determining what constitutes a credible threat of workplace violence, validating documentation submitted by employees, and ensuring consistent application of leave policies across different workplaces may present practical challenges for employers and administrators. Situations involving workplace threats can vary widely in their circumstances and severity, and applying a uniform statutory framework may require employers to make difficult judgment calls regarding documentation, eligibility, and verification.

"These implementation challenges could lead to uncertainty for both employers and employees and may create situations where employers must navigate complex determinations regarding the legitimacy of claims or the adequacy of supporting documentation. Ensuring fairness while also maintaining workplace operations may prove difficult without clear and consistent standards.

"None of these concerns diminish the seriousness of workplace violence or the need to ensure that employees who face legitimate threats have access to appropriate protections. However, the approach adopted in HB 2455 raises questions about whether the creation of a new mandated paid leave category is the most effective or balanced method for addressing these issues, particularly given the potential impact on employers and the practical complexities of implementation.

"For these reasons, while I recognize the importance of protecting employees from workplace violence and credible threats, I respectfully oppose HB 2455 due to concerns regarding the costs imposed on employers and the potential challenges associated with consistent implementation of the policy."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2455, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR

AN ACT RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES," passed Third Reading by a vote of 47 ayes to 3 noes, with Representatives Garcia, Pierick, and Shimizu voting no.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1155-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2388, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2388, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand in support in reservations with a brief comment. My reservation is for *kūpuna* who are not computer literate and the need to help them so that they won't be passed by. I think this is just a comment of the demographics of our aging population and the acceleration of the tech reality that we live in. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

Representative Garcia 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. 2388, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC NOTICE," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representatives Garcia and Shimizu voting aye with reservations.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1156-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1878, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1878, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

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

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

Representative Shimizu's written remarks are as follows:

"I rise in opposition to HB 1878.

"HB 1878 proposes to expand Hawai'i's anti-discrimination laws by expressly prohibiting discrimination based on the perception that an individual possesses certain protected characteristics, the perception that a person is associated with someone who possesses those characteristics, or the intersection or combination of multiple protected characteristics. The goal of ensuring that individuals are not treated unfairly because of personal characteristics is an important principle that has long been reflected in Hawai'i's civil rights laws.

"Hawai'i already maintains a comprehensive legal framework that prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to services that receive state financial assistance. These protections are enforced through existing statutes and administrative processes designed to investigate complaints and provide remedies when discrimination occurs. The state has taken significant steps over many years to ensure that individuals are protected from unlawful discriminatory conduct.

"Despite the intent of the measure, I rise in opposition due to concerns regarding the potential subjectivity and operational uncertainty that may arise from the expansion of discrimination claims based on perceived characteristics or combinations of characteristics.

"One concern raised by stakeholders is the potential subjectivity inherent in claims based on perception. Unlike discrimination claims based on clearly identifiable characteristics, claims rooted in the perception of a characteristic may be more difficult to define, verify, or consistently evaluate. Determining whether an action was motivated by a perceived characteristic or a perceived association may involve complex interpretations of intent, context, and circumstances. These determinations could introduce uncertainty for employers, housing providers, and service providers who must navigate the practical application of these legal standards.

"Additionally, representatives from the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) and other stakeholders have noted that employers are already subject to extensive anti-discrimination obligations under existing federal and state law. These legal frameworks have been developed over many years and provide established procedures for investigating complaints and addressing unlawful conduct. Concerns have been raised that the provisions contained in this measure may overlap with or potentially conflict with existing legal frameworks that already govern discrimination claims.

"Another concern relates to the possibility that expanding statutory language to include perception-based or intersectional claims could increase litigation risk for employers and other covered entities. Because perception-based claims may rely more heavily on subjective interpretations of behavior or intent, employers may face increased legal exposure even in situations where discriminatory intent is disputed or difficult to clearly establish. Stakeholders have expressed concern that the expansion of liability in this manner could create additional uncertainty for employers attempting to comply with existing anti-discrimination requirements.

"None of these concerns diminish the importance of preventing discrimination or ensuring that individuals are treated fairly and with respect. Hawai'i's longstanding civil rights protections play a critical role in safeguarding equal opportunity for all residents of the state. However, when expanding statutory frameworks governing discrimination claims, it is important to carefully consider the clarity, consistency, and practical implications of the legal standards being created.

"For these reasons, while I support the fundamental principle of protecting individuals from discrimination, I respectfully oppose HB 1878 due to concerns regarding the potential subjectivity of perception-based claims, the possibility of overlap with existing legal frameworks, and the increased litigation risk that may arise from the expansion of statutory liability in this area."

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. 1878, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DISCRIMINATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 46 ayes to 4 noes, with Representatives Alcos, Gedeon, Matsumoto, and Reyes Oda voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Garcia, Kong, Pierick, and Shimizu voting no.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1157-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1663, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1663, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO REIMBURSEMENT OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Pierick voting no.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1158-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2271, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2271, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Iwamoto 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 H.B. No. 2271, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Iwamoto voting aye with reservations.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1159-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1183, HD 2, as amended in HD 3, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1183, HD 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ALLOWANCE ON SERVICE RETIREMENTS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1161-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2360, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2360, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

Representative Shimizu's written remarks are as follows:

"I rise in opposition to HB 2360.

"HB 2360 proposes to establish a statewide paid family and medical leave insurance program to be administered by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. The measure is intended to provide wage replacement benefits to eligible workers who need to take leave for family caregiving, medical conditions, the birth or adoption of a child, or other qualifying circumstances. The goal of helping workers navigate serious family and medical situations is one that deserves thoughtful consideration, and there is no question that many employees face real hardship when they must step away from work during major life events.

"At the same time, I rise in opposition to this measure because of concerns regarding how the program would be financed and the timeline for when workers would actually begin receiving benefits.

"One significant concern is that the proposed program requires contributions from both employees and employers, which may reasonably be viewed as a new payroll tax. Even if described as an insurance contribution, the practical effect is that both workers and businesses would be required to pay into a new state-administered benefit structure. For employees, this means less take-home pay deducted from their wages. For employers, it means an additional mandated labor cost that must be absorbed into payroll and business operations.

"At a time when many employers, especially small businesses, continue to face rising labor costs, higher operating expenses, and economic uncertainty, imposing another contribution requirement raises legitimate concerns. Small employers in particular may have difficulty absorbing new payroll-related mandates, even if the program is designed with different contribution formulas based on employer size. Similarly, employees who are already struggling with the high cost of living may see any new payroll deduction as yet another financial burden.

"A second concern is that, under the bill, payroll contributions would begin before workers can actually access the benefits of the program. The bill requires the department to establish the program and begin collecting contributions by January 1, 2029, but does not begin receiving claims and paying benefits until January 1, 2030. This creates a substantial lag between when the financial burden begins and when the promised relief becomes available. In practical terms, workers and employers would be asked to start paying into the system well before employees can meaningfully rely on the benefit.

"That delay may create understandable frustration, particularly for workers who may assume that once they begin contributing, the program will be immediately available to them. Instead, there is a long lead time before benefits can actually be used. This gap raises concerns about fairness and about whether the program's implementation timeline is too far removed from the financial obligations placed on workers and employers.

"More broadly, when the state creates a large new insurance program, it is important to fully consider not only the policy objective, but also the cost, timing, and overall burden placed on both the workforce and the business community. Programs of this scale require careful balancing, especially when they involve mandatory contributions and long implementation timelines.

"For these reasons, while I appreciate the intent behind HB 2360 and recognize the real challenges families face when a loved one becomes ill or a major life event occurs, I respectfully oppose this measure because it imposes what may effectively operate as a new payroll tax on both employees and employers, while delaying the availability of benefits until 2030."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support with reservations. I want to thank the introducer of this bill. This is a really important bill. My only reservation is that we kept in TDI, temporary disability insurance, which many would argue is a lesser included insurance in paid family medical leave, it in fact would be covered under the medical leave portion. Employees and employers should not have to purchase both insurances. I hope the Senate will amend this bill by removing that requirement as it continues to move. Thank you."

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

"Madam Speaker, in strong support. First, I'd like to thank the Speaker, as well as the chairs of Finance as well as Consumer Protection & Commerce Committees for moving this measure forward as we continue this important discussion about paid family leave in the State of Hawaii. During the interim, your Committee on Labor met with numerous stakeholders on this issue, including department leaders, public and private unions, nonprofit organization, advocates, small businesses, and we came out with a bill that is before you today.

"This is an ongoing discussion as we continue to work with stakeholders as well as we await the actuarial and legal analysis from the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations, which we expect before the beginning of the next legislative session. So, I just want to say I look forward to working with this body as well working with the Senate to make sure that we have a comprehensive paid family leave policy here in Hawaii. Thank you."

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

Representative Shimizu rose to respond, stating:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. Still in opposition. And there's no question that we need to look at expanded paid family leave. I actually introduced the bill addressing that. One of my main points of opposing this bill is the testimony from the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations opposing the bill because advancing this measure will have significant financial impacts on the state, impacts that cannot be fully quantified until an actuarial analysis is completed, which is currently in progress. So, according to the department, a comprehensive actuarial study is essential for producing accurate Hawaii-specific cost projections. And, in their words, this bill, as well deserving as it is, may be ahead of its time until this report is come out with definitive data, information, and recommendations. But that's my basis for opposition. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2360, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PAID FAMILY LEAVE," passed Third Reading by a vote of 45 ayes to 5 noes, with Representatives Alcos, Gedeon, and Iwamoto voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Garcia, Kong, Muraoka, Pierick, and Shimizu voting no.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1162-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2468, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2468, 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. My only reservation is that, according to the testimony of the civil service unions, this may have an inadvertent consequence, which is that it may give interns more advantage over civil servants. Because the internship period may be only three months, whereas a civil servant may be in probation for six months. So, because of that inequity, I hold the reservation."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2468, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Iwamoto voting aye with reservations.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1163-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2358, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2358, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO RETIREMENT," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1165-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2336, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2336, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

Representative Souza 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 H.B. No. 2336, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FEDERAL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representatives Iwamoto and Souza voting aye with reservations.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1166-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1695, HD 2 pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1695, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

Representative Gedeon 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. 1695, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO RENEWABLE FUEL," passed Third Reading by a vote of 46 ayes to 4 noes, with Representatives Gedeon and Reyes Oda voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Kong, and Pierick voting no.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1167-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2195, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2195, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

Representative Shimizu's written remarks are as follows:

"I rise in opposition to HB 2195.

"HB 2195 proposes to establish a per-passenger infrastructure fee on cruise ships docking in Hawai'i's commercial harbors and create a special fund dedicated to port facility and harbor capital improvement projects supporting cruise ship operations. At the same time, the measure repeals the existing application of the transient accommodations tax (TAT) to cruise ship fares.

"Maintaining and improving Hawai'i's harbor infrastructure is an important public objective. Our commercial ports are essential to the state's transportation network, visitor industry, and broader economy. Ensuring that these facilities are properly maintained and capable of supporting maritime activity is critical for both residents and visitors. However, while the intent of this measure is to dedicate funding toward port-related improvements, several concerns remain regarding the fiscal and economic implications of the approach taken in this bill.

"One primary concern is that the bill removes the existing TAT structure applied to cruise-related activity while replacing it with a new passenger head fee that has not been specified in the legislation. The removal of the cruise-related TAT may reduce state revenues currently collected from cruise tourism. If the newly established passenger fee ultimately generates less revenue than the tax structure it replaces, the result could be a net loss in state revenue. In such a scenario, the financial gap may ultimately need to be addressed through other funding sources, potentially shifting additional costs to taxpayers.

"A related concern is that the proposed infrastructure fee may not adequately capture the full cost of port usage and related impacts generated by cruise ship operations. Cruise ship visits place demands on harbor infrastructure, public services, and surrounding communities. If the per-passenger fee is set too low or does not keep pace with actual infrastructure needs, the burden of maintaining port facilities could fall increasingly on the state's general revenues rather than being proportionately supported by the industry that utilizes those facilities.

"There are also concerns regarding the potential economic impact on communities that rely on cruise ship visitation. Many small businesses in port communities depend on cruise passengers who disembark for excursions, dining, and retail activity. If the introduction of a new fee structure results in fewer cruise ships choosing Hawai'i ports as part of their itineraries, local businesses that rely on cruise-related activity could experience negative economic effects. Cruise operators evaluate multiple factors when determining itineraries, and increases in port-related costs may influence those decisions.

"Another challenge presented by the bill is the uncertainty created by the absence of a specified fee amount in the legislation. Without a defined per-passenger rate, it is difficult to assess whether the proposed fee will adequately support infrastructure needs, replace existing revenues, or remain competitive relative to other destinations. This lack of specificity may create revenue uncertainty for the state while also complicating the planning and implementation process for the Department of Transportation.

"Taken together, these concerns highlight the importance of carefully balancing infrastructure funding goals with fiscal stability and economic competitiveness. While the intent of directing resources toward harbor improvements is understandable, the removal of existing revenue mechanisms, combined with uncertainty surrounding the replacement fee structure, raises significant policy and fiscal questions.

"For these reasons, I respectfully oppose HB 2195 due to concerns that the measure may reduce state revenue, create uncertainty regarding infrastructure funding, shift potential costs onto taxpayers, and risk negative economic impacts on businesses that depend on cruise ship visitation."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2195, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 41 ayes to 9 noes, with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Gedeon, Kong, Matsumoto, Muraoka, Pierick, Reyes Oda, and Shimizu voting no.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1168-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2030, HD 2 pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2030, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

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

Representative Shimizu's written remarks are as follows:

"I rise in opposition to HB 2030.

"HB 2030 proposes to establish a clean vehicle rebate program intended to encourage the purchase or lease of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. The program would provide rebates for qualifying vehicles and would be funded through a new tax on the sale of certain gasoline- and diesel-powered vehicles. While the goal of supporting transportation affordability and encouraging innovation in vehicle technology is understandable, several concerns remain regarding the structure and implementation of the program proposed in this measure.

"One concern is that the bill introduces a new tax on the purchase of gasoline and diesel vehicles. For many residents across Hawai'i, traditional vehicles remain the most practical and accessible option for daily transportation. Families, workers, and residents in rural communities often rely on gasoline-powered vehicles due to cost, availability, or the need for longer travel distances. By imposing an additional tax on these vehicles, the measure may increase the purchase price for many residents who do not yet have realistic alternatives available to them.

"Another concern involves the administrative complexity of establishing and managing the rebate program. The bill authorizes the Department of Transportation to develop and administer a statewide rebate system and permits the use of a third-party administrator to operate the program. Programs of this nature require detailed eligibility verification, dealer participation, income qualification checks, program oversight, and ongoing reporting. The administrative requirements involved may increase operational complexity and create additional costs and challenges for both the state and participating dealers.

"The measure also includes a number of eligibility requirements and program conditions that may be difficult for consumers to navigate. Eligibility is tied to factors such as household income levels, vehicle price caps, vehicle type, and reliability criteria for used vehicles. While these provisions are intended to target the program toward certain groups, they may also create confusion for consumers attempting to determine whether they qualify for rebates. Complex eligibility rules can make participation more difficult and may reduce the effectiveness of the program if consumers are unsure about how it applies to them.

"Another concern is the uncertainty surrounding the availability of program funds. Because the rebate program is funded by revenues from the new vehicle tax, the number of rebates that can be distributed will depend on the amount of revenue collected. If demand for rebates exceeds the available funding, the program may run out of funds before all eligible applicants are able to receive the intended benefit. This situation could lead to uncertainty for consumers who may plan a vehicle purchase expecting a rebate that ultimately becomes unavailable.

"Finally, there are broader practical considerations regarding the availability of electric vehicles and the supporting charging infrastructure

necessary for widespread adoption. Although electric vehicle technology continues to evolve, supply constraints and charging infrastructure limitations remain challenges in many areas. If electric vehicle availability or charging infrastructure development does not keep pace with policy incentives, residents may face barriers when attempting to transition to these technologies.

"For these reasons, I respectfully oppose HB 2030 due to concerns that the bill raises costs for buyers of gasoline and diesel vehicles, introduces additional administrative complexity, creates potentially confusing eligibility requirements, relies on limited funding that may not meet demand, and may move ahead of the infrastructure and vehicle supply necessary to support widespread adoption."

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. 2030, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION AFFORDABILITY," passed Third Reading by a vote of 45 ayes to 5 noes, with Representatives Alcos, Gedeon, and Matsumoto voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Garcia, Kong, Muraoka, Pierick, and Shimizu voting no.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1169-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1986, HD 2 pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1986, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO A CLEAN FUEL STANDARD," passed Third Reading by a vote of 46 ayes to 4 noes, with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Kong, and Pierick voting no.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1170-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2217, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2217, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Shimizu 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. 2217, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO IDENTIFICATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 46 ayes to 4 noes, with Representative Shimizu voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Garcia, Matsumoto, Muraoka, and Pierick voting no.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1171-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1510, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1510, HD 2 pass Third Reading, 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."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1510, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LICENSE PLATES," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Garcia voting aye with reservations.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1173-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1692, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1692, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRAFFIC SAFETY," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1174-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2020, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2020, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Shimizu 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. 2020, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO RENEWAL OF DRIVER'S LICENSES," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Shimizu voting aye with reservations, and with Representative Amato voting no.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1175-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2021, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2021, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"I rise in strong support and would like to thank the introducer for this bill. High-speed electric devices capable of going 30 miles per hour or more are increasingly appearing on the roads, sidewalks, bike paths, and often with very few clear rules governing their use. That creates real safety concerns for pedestrians, our *kūpuna*, and especially our *keiki*. In my own district, I see dangerous riding on almost a daily basis. It's an issue that's top of mind across our state.

"We've already seen tragic deaths in Hawaii involving e-bikes, including children. These are preventable tragedies, and it shows why clear safety rules are needed. HB 2021 helps address this by setting clear rules for where these devices can operate, strengthening safety standards, like helmet requirements for youth, and discouraging dangerous behavior. This is a practical step to help keep our community safe, while allowing responsible transportation options to grow. For these reasons, I respectfully urge passage of HB 2021."

Representative Kila rose in support of the measure and asked that the remarks of the previous speaker be entered into the Journal as his own, 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 H.B. No. 2021, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes.

At 1:54 p.m., the Chair noted that the following bills passed Third Reading:

H.B. No. 1877, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2115, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 1950, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 1590, HD 3  
 H.B. No. 1948, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2585, HD 3  
 H.B. No. 1892, HD 3  
 H.B. No. 2621, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1888, HD 3  
 H.B. No. 1559, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1875, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1628, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1769, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1531, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2576, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1550, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1858, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1961, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2455, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2388, HD 2

H.B. No. 1878, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1663, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2271, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1183, HD 3  
 H.B. No. 2360, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2468, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2358, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2336, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 1695, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2195, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2030, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1986, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2217, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1510, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1692, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2020, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2021, HD 2

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1176-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1524, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1524, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

Representative Gedeon 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. 1524, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PEDESTRIANS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 46 ayes to 4 noes, with Representatives Alcos, Cochran, Gedeon, Reyes Oda, and Shimizu voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Garcia, Muraoka, Olds, and Pierick voting no.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1177-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2442, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2442, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PARKING FOR DISABLED PERSONS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1182-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2103, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2103, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support. I would like to make a disclosure. My brother is the vice chair of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and he's also the chair of the Committee on Investment and Land Management, and this bill is a part of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs package. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2103, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR

AN ACT RELATING TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1183-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2104, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2104, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In support, and I would like to make a disclosure. Same disclosure, my brother is the vice chair of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Board of Trustees, and he's also the chair of the Committee on Investment and Land Management, and this is an Office of Hawaii Affairs package bill. Thank you."

Representative Garcia 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. 2104, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ISLAND BURIAL COUNCILS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representatives Garcia and Iwamoto voting aye with reservations.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1184-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1728, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1728, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Iwamoto 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 H.B. No. 1728, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO RAINWATER CATCHMENT SYSTEMS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Iwamoto voting aye with reservations.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1187-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1990, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1990, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

"Opposition with brief comment. Although I agree with the intent of this bill, I'm just not comfortable with the potential risk of disproportionately harming low-income or elderly homeowners. This foreclosure timelines may be overly aggressive with unintended consequences and I'm just not comfortable supporting this bill. Although I agree with the reasoning behind it, the outcomes may be just too hard to accept. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

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

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

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

Representative Cochran 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 H.B. No. 1990, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO RESIDENTIAL REAL PROPERTY," passed Third Reading by a vote of 41 ayes to 9 noes, with Representatives Cochran, Gedeon, Iwamoto, and Poepoe voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Alcos, Amato, Garcia, Hussey, Kong, Matsumoto, Muraoka, Pierick, and Shimizu voting no.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1188-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2424, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2424, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LAND USE," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes to 2 noes, with Representatives Amato and Poepoe voting no.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1189-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2047, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

On motion by Representative Kahaloe, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2047, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE AHA MOKU ADVISORY COMMITTEE," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1190-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1845, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloe moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1845, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

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

Representative Shimizu's written remarks are as follows:

"I rise in opposition to HB 1845.

"HB 1845 proposes to change the decision-making process for the Land Use Commission by allowing boundary amendments to be approved by a simple majority of members present and qualified to vote at a meeting, rather than requiring six affirmative votes regardless of attendance. While the measure is intended to streamline the approval process and address delays associated with housing development, several concerns remain regarding the potential impacts on land use oversight and public interest protections.

"One concern is that reducing the number of required affirmative votes for boundary amendments may weaken existing safeguards designed to ensure careful and balanced land use decision-making. The current voting threshold requires a broader level of agreement among commission members before changes to district boundaries are approved. Lowering this requirement may allow significant land use decisions to be made with fewer commissioners participating in the vote, potentially diminishing the level of consensus intended under current law.

"Another concern is that district boundary amendments can have substantial and long-lasting impacts on communities, natural resources, and long-term land use planning across the state. Because these decisions can affect agricultural lands, conservation areas, infrastructure demands, and future development patterns, they benefit from a deliberative process that encourages thoughtful review and broad agreement among commissioners.

"There are also concerns that reducing the voting threshold could limit the degree of scrutiny applied to major land use changes and may reduce opportunities for meaningful consideration of community input. The Land Use Commission plays an important role in balancing development needs with environmental stewardship, cultural considerations, and the long-term interests of the state. Maintaining strong procedural safeguards helps ensure that these decisions continue to reflect careful planning and robust public engagement.

"For these reasons, I respectfully oppose HB 1845 due to concerns that lowering the voting threshold for boundary amendments may reduce protections for the public interest and diminish the level of thoughtful review applied to significant land use decisions."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1845, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 43 ayes to 7 noes, with Representative Iwamoto voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Amato, Cochran, Grandinetti, Hussey, Perruso, Poepoe, and Shimizu voting no.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1191-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1823, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloe moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1823, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in opposition. HB 1823 would allow any county, state, or federal project to proceed in coastal zones without environmental permit review. Any project, regardless of environmental impact. Today, of all days, is Ocean Day at the Capitol. Of all days we should not be letting bills pass like this, that's today. The White House has virtually eliminated the EPA, the Clean Air Act, and the Clean Water Act, just to name a few examples. Now, our legislature is the last line of defense for our environment.

"Speaker, every single member of the Legislature has taken a solemn oath to uphold the Constitution of the State. Article 11, Section 1 of the Constitution on conservation and development of resources is clear. It mandates that the state and its subdivisions conserve and protect natural resources for present and future generations. I believe that passing this bill would collectively violate our oath to the Constitution and is a recipe for coastal zone mismanagement. Upholding our Constitution and protecting our environment are responsibilities I take seriously, responsibilities that are even more critically important now given the current federal administration.

"In addition to environmental protection, we must, of course, always consider our economy. And whether you like it or not, tourism is the lifeblood of our economy. No project in a coastal zone should ever be exempt from proper environmental review. Efficient development must never come at the expense of environmental responsibility, especially when there are already surgical tools for needed infrastructure like 2007 SLH, Act 205. I cannot remain silent while we pass state laws to let any agency or entity do anything they want that could damage our oceans. Speaker, today is Ocean Day. I urge you to stand with me and vote no. Thank you."

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

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

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support with reservations and a comment. I definitely have concerns about protecting the 'āina. There's no way around it, we live in the most beautiful place in the world. But I want to support my Water and Land chair on this focused application to support meaningful work that needs to be done as far as infrastructure and

construction. And I'd like to move the conversation forward and also try and balance the needs of both sides. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

Representative Belatti 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 H.B. No. 1823, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT," passed Third Reading by a vote of 44 ayes to 6 noes, with Representatives Belatti, Cochran, and Shimizu voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Amato, Grandinetti, Hussey, Iwamoto, Perruso, and Poepoe voting no.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1192-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1844, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1844, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

Representative Shimizu 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. 1844, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 44 ayes to 6 noes, with Representatives Iwamoto and Shimizu voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Amato, Cochran, Grandinetti, Hussey, Perruso, and Poepoe voting no.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1193-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2582, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2582, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In support and a disclosure. This bill will benefit the Office of Hawaiian Affairs financially and my brother is the vice chair of the Board of Trustees and the chair of Investment and Land Management Committee. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2582, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1194-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2592, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2592, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

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

Representative Garcia 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 an aye vote with reservations for him, 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 Cochran rose and asked that the Clerk record a no vote for her, and the Chair "so ordered."

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

"Thank you, Speaker. In strong support. This bill allows the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority to transition. And it's kind of a housekeeping bill that was left out of the original act. It allows them to take possession of the lands that they will steward going forward, balancing that culture and astronomy and all the uses that occur on Mauna Kea. So, it's an important bill to move forward, the entire subject, really. And without this, those functions of the stewardship and oversight authority won't function. Thank you."

Representative Shimizu 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. 2592, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE MAUNA KEA STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY," passed Third Reading by a vote of 43 ayes to 7 noes, with Representatives Alcos, Amato, Garcia, Gedeon, Matsumoto, Reyes Oda, and Shimizu voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Cochran, Grandinetti, Hussey, Iwamoto, Perruso, Poepoe, and Souza voting no.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1195-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1737, HD 2, as amended in HD 3, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1737, HD 3 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support. And I want to apologize to the majority floor leader, I may have erroneously turned in a green slip for 1195 for HB 1737, and I'd like to retract that. I apologize."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1737, HD 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FARM EMPLOYEE HOUSING," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1197-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1738, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1738, HD 2 pass Third Reading, 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 Cochran rose and asked that the Clerk record an aye vote with reservations for her, and the Chair "so ordered."

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

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1738, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LAND USE DECISION-MAKING," passed Third Reading by a vote of 45 ayes to 5 noes, with Representatives Amato, Cochran, and Garcia voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Grandinetti, Iwamoto, Marten, Perruso, and Poepoe voting no.

Representative Tamas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1198-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1919, HD 2, as amended in HD 3, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1919, HD 3 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. Rising in opposition. Madam Speaker, I want to begin by acknowledging the commitment of your Housing chair to solving the housing crisis facing our state. Although we may not agree all the time on policy, I know his heart is in the right place.

"Housing affordability remains one of the most urgent challenges facing our state, and we should absolutely be looking for ways to remove unnecessary barriers that drive up the cost of housing. Parking requirements can be part of that discussion. In some situations, particularly in dense urban areas with strong transit options, minimum parking mandates may add costs that no longer reflect how people actually live and move around. It is appropriate for us to examine those policies and ask whether they should be updated.

"Supporters of the bill point out that a parking stall in Honolulu can cost around \$68,000. That may very well be true for structured parking in high-rise condominium projects where developers must build expensive parking podium structures. But that number is not necessarily representative of many other types of residential development where parking may be provided through surface slots or less costly configurations. The cost impacts of parking requirements can vary significantly depending on the type of development being built.

"The concern I have with this bill is that it goes beyond reforming parking requirements and instead imposes a statewide mandate that removes local discretion. Under this measure, counties would be prohibited from requiring parking for a wide range of developments, including accessory dwelling units, affordable housing, senior housing, childcare facilities, certain commercial uses, and changes in use of existing buildings. For other developments, the bill caps what counties may require at half a parking stall per residential unit and one stall per 1,000 square feet of commercial space.

"There is an important distinction between reforming parking requirements and prohibiting counties from setting them altogether. As someone who strongly believes in home rule, I believe counties should retain the authority to make planning and zoning decisions that best reflect the realities of their own communities. Parking conditions vary dramatically from place to place. Some neighborhoods may have access to rail, bus lines, or walkable infrastructure that make reduced parking feasible. Other communities simply do not.

"In my district, we already face significant parking challenges. Multi-generational living is common in Hawaii, and many households have more vehicles than available spaces. When off-street parking is limited, those vehicles inevitably spill onto surrounding streets. Residents regularly raise concerns about crowded streets, blocked driveways, and limited parking availability near their own homes. These are not abstract policy concerns. They affect the day-to-day quality of life in our communities.

"One of the fundamental challenges with this policy is that eliminating parking requirements does not eliminate the demand for parking. Madam Speaker, cars do not disappear just because parking requirements do. When developments provide less off-street parking, that demand simply shifts onto surrounding streets and neighborhood infrastructure. In other words, the cost of parking is not eliminated, it is transferred from the development to the surrounding community. Many of our neighborhoods were built decades ago with limited street capacity. Those streets were never designed to absorb significantly higher levels of parking demand.

"Supporters of the bill suggest that residents will rely less on cars in the future. That may eventually be true in some areas, particularly where strong transit options exist. But today, many families across our island still rely on vehicles for work, school, childcare, and daily life. In fact, we have already seen examples in Kaka'ako where affordable housing units without parking

struggle to attract buyers because residents still needed cars while nearby rail service remained delayed.

"Madam Speaker, public policy should reflect the transportation realities people face today, not just the ones we hope to see in the future. This is also why I believe the issue is particularly challenging when applied as a statewide mandate. The transportation realities of dense urban Honolulu may be very different from those of other communities across our islands, including the neighbor islands where residents often rely heavily on cars. For that reason, I believe counties are in the best position to evaluate those trade-offs. They understand the infrastructure capacity, transportation options, and neighborhood conditions within their communities far better than we can from this building.

"I do believe there is room for thoughtful conversation about parking reform. Counties may very well decide to reduce parking requirements in certain areas, particularly near transit corridors or in walkable neighborhoods. But those decisions should be made with local flexibility and community input, not imposed through a one-size-fits-all statewide mandate.

"Let me be clear, Hawaii needs more housing, and we should continue removing unnecessary barriers that prevent homes from being built. My concern is not with the intent of this bill, which is to support housing production."

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

Representative Garrett continued, stating:

"Thank you. My concern is with the unintended consequences that may arise when parking requirements are reduced too aggressively without considering the infrastructure realities of existing communities. For those reasons, and again, because I believe strongly in preserving home rule and local planning authority, I'll be voting no on this measure and encourage my colleagues to do the same. *Mahalo.*"

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

Representative Iwamoto rose in support of the measure with reservations and asked that the remarks of the representative from Manoa be entered into the Journal as her own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

Representative Amato rose in support of the measure with reservations and asked that the remarks of the Higher Ed chair be entered into the Journal as her own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Olds rose in opposition to the measure and asked that the remarks of the representative from Manoa be entered into the Journal as his own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

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

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In support. If possible, I'd like to preemptively adopt the words of the Housing chair. Is that a thing? If not, I'll stand up again later. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. And thank you to our Finance chair, that's a lot of pressure you just put on me. In support. I deeply appreciate the words of the representative from Manoa. We have had a lot of heated conversations around housing. I know that he's a fierce advocate for his community as well

as many in this room, and I appreciate the thoughts that you've all brought to me regarding this bill and others.

"I want to be clear though, that zoning authority is vested in the state. The state delegates some of that authority to the counties. Over dozens, hundreds of pages of statute, we tell the counties exactly what they can and cannot do in relation to zoning. And where I draw the line on where state action is necessary, or my own framework for decision-making on this front, that I think it's the state's responsibility to make sure that when we are passing policy, we are passing general law applicable statewide, and we are taking into account not just the feedback from some homeowners in certain neighborhoods, but we're taking into account existing homeowners across Hawaii, we're taking into account renters, prospective renters, high school graduates, our children, the unborn. Right? We're representing everybody who is in Hawaii and who will be in Hawaii and try and make the best decisions that we can. And while zoning decisions are not always easy, they're often controversial, what is clear is that the status quo is deeply, deeply broken.

"The cost of a home right now, only one in five residents can afford the median cost of a home. This is driving mass out-migration from Hawaii. Hundreds of individuals every single day are moving out of Hawaii. This is causing worker shortages across Hawaii. Small businesses are suffering because of it. Every single person that I know is working two or three jobs just to stay in Hawaii and retain their home. Along with just the punishing daily stress of not knowing whether you can stay in Hawaii and keep your family in Hawaii. We have the highest rates of homelessness because of our high cost of housing.

"And this is largely a crisis of our own making. This is 60 years of state and county policy, adding regulation upon regulation upon regulation, which has made it so difficult to build a home in Hawaii. Anybody who's ever tried to get a building permit, I think, is aware of this. UHERO shows us this all the time. They have said we have the highest regulatory burden by far in the country. We are in a league of our own in terms of how hard we make it to build housing. And when we make it so hard to build housing, the cost of construction is incredibly high, we build less homes, the market price of homes goes through the roof.

"Parking is the single regulation that probably adds the single highest cost to the cost of a home, \$68,000 to \$70,000 on average to build a new parking stall. In addition to the space required is equivalent to about a bedroom in a home. And that parking is required for everybody across the board, whether you need the parking or not. A significant component of our population does not drive.

"For example, if my own parents were to ever move into my home so that they could maybe age in place semi-independently, I don't think they'd ever want to live with me, but if they ever were to live me and I try to convert my garage or bedroom to a living unit for them, I would have to put one or two off-street parking stalls for them. I don't have the room for that, which means I will never be able to have my parents age in place in my own home because I don't have the space for a parking stall for them, even if they're no longer driving.

"Last week, we had disability advocates up at the Capitol. I had two constituents fly up from Kaua'i, parents of two adult disabled children. Their single question to me after traveling all day from Kaua'i up to the Capitol, what they asked of me was how are we making it easier for them to build two independent homes on their property for their adult disabled children who do not drive. They're trying to go through the process, it is incredibly hard. Parking is one of those barriers. My own office manager, Kaua'i boy who lives on O'ahu, has no car, scours the internet looking for apartments without a car because he knows that those apartments are going to be \$300 to \$400 cheaper per month.

"The point of this bill is just to give people the option of whether to build a parking stall or not, based on their own circumstances. We know from the many places that have adopted similar provisions, that most developments are still going to provide parking. But not all of them will. Let the homeowner decide, in my opinion. Lastly, I say a lot that we should do everything that we can to reduce the cost of housing. I think others believe that also. At the end of the day, we need to do things that actually reduce the cost. This is one of those measures. Thank you."

Representative Todd rose to respond, stating:

"Thank you. In support. He did pretty well, so I'll stick with the request. Thank you," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Quinlan rose in support of the measure and asked that the remarks of the Housing chair as well as the representative from Manoa be entered into the Journal as his own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Kahaloa rose in support of the measure and asked that the remarks of the Housing chair be entered into the Journal as her own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Souza rose in support of the measure and asked that the remarks of the Housing chair be entered into the Journal as her own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"Thank you, in support. Just wanted to note that from a minority member to a majority member, the Housing chair has a great grasp on our economy."

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

"Thank you, Speaker. Apologies for the delay while I stewed on this bill for a bit. I voted no on it, but I think I'm going to change my vote to voting up, to support, and I'll tell you why. As someone who's developed homes and ADUs, thanks to the Housing chair, market forces dictate parking. And when I looked for a place here in Honolulu, I had to have parking. And I think it's important that the market should dictate those choices.

"And I recognize all of the folks who represent our densest neighborhoods here in town and the distress that they and their neighbors face on this subject. But I also think that market choice and market forces, just like the condominium development in Kaka'ako that didn't sell out without parking stalls, will help drive those decisions. The market is very good at sorting these things, and so I'm voting up."

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

"Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I stand in opposition. And I rarely vote in opposition, and I haven't voted in opposition in a while, but I want to explain my opposition. My concern with this bill is what it's trying to do is increase density. And increasing density without master planning creates problems for the state on the back end, where it overcrowds schools, creates problems with social services, all kinds of different things that the state has jurisdiction over and these kind of things should be done at the county level.

"And I think the root of the problem is, at the end of the day, when we, state government and county government, started mandating affordable housing, with mandates became the necessity for subsidy. And with subsidy we said that we were going to give people money to build affordable housing, and because we did that we said, okay, there's going to be requirements. And then, hence, overregulation and what the Housing chair was speaking of.

"And I think at the root of it, it is because we have gone away from allowing the private sector to determine how to increase density. When I'm talking to the old developers, not the ones that are, with all due respect, are experts at what we've created, dealing with the subsidy programs that we've created, the ones that had to do it prior to subsidy, I asked them, how did you do it? And they said, well, we evaluated the current situation and we evaluated how much people could afford to pay, and we built what they could afford to pay in a monthly mortgage. Which may be a studio, a small one-bedroom apartment, or a condo, or something like that, or maybe a small two-bedroom.

"Once we started mandating affordable housing, then we gave them the nicer product before allowing the market to evolve. When the developers did it in the past, they knew at some point in time these people would gain equity, and then they would start making more money, and they would be able to afford more house.

"Part of me believes that we've created this situation. And my fear is, again, we're trying to increase density because there is a need without really thinking through what the long-term effects is, without allowing a master plan to come through. And we're just, again, we're not thinking it through. And that's my concern, so that's my opposition. Thank you."

The motion that the report of the Committee be adopted and H.B. No. 1919, HD 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS," pass Third Reading was put to vote by the Chair and failed to carry, with Representatives Amato, Grandinetti, Iwamoto, and Perruso voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Belatti, Chun, Cochran, Garrett, Gedeon, Hartsfield, Hashem, Ilagan, Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Kitagawa, Kong, Lee, Marten, Matayoshi, Muraoka, Olds, Poepoe, Reyes Oda, Sayama, Souza, Takayama, Takenouchi, Tam, Templo, and Yamashita voting no.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1199-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1777, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1777, HD 2 pass Third Reading, 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 Cochran 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 H.B. No. 1777, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOUSING," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes to 2 noes, with Representatives Cochran and Garcia voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Alcos and Pierick voting no.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1200-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1739, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1739, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support with reservations and a comment. I supported this bill because I respect the Housing chair's creativity and boldness to address what he shared of the critical need for housing. But I recently voted no in committee because I was really concerned about the City & County of Honolulu's DPP's strong opposition.

"But I want to thank the Housing chair for making time for me and reviewing the bill with me for my better understanding and the work that he's been doing working hard communicating with the city. So, although similar to the parking discussion, where there is concerns about home rule and working together, I'm trusting that our Housing chair will have more opportunity to work things out with the city and I'm willing to move this conversation forward. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1739, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes to 2 noes, with Representatives Iwamoto and Shimizu voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Olds and Poepoe voting no.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1201-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1741, HD 1, as amended in HD 2, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1741, HD 2 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support with a reservation and a comment. I love hearing the truth and the wisdom from the representative from Makawao. I got to admit that I didn't really understand this bill, thinking that we were going to lose affordable housing set-aside quotas. But as the representative from Makawao explained, sometimes we create problems. And after spending some time with the Housing chair to better understand this concept, this bill's concept and the history on Kaua'i that the chair was part of, again, I'm willing to continue the conversation to see this creative change, if we can make a positive difference to create more affordable housing and lower the cost of housing for our people that we serve. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

Representative Poepoe 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 H.B. No. 1741, HD 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOUSING," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes to 1 no, with Representatives Grandinetti, Iwamoto, Matayoshi, Poepoe, Sayama, and Shimizu voting aye with reservations, and with Representative Cochran voting no.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1202-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1742, HD 2, as amended in HD 3, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1742, HD 3 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

Representative Cochran 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 H.B. No. 1742, HD 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOUSING," passed Third Reading by a vote of 43 ayes to 7 noes, with Representative Cochran voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Kitagawa, Lee, Matayoshi, Olds, Perruso, and Poepoe voting no.

Representative Tarnas, for the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1204-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1979, HD 2, as amended in HD 3, pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1979, HD 3 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

Representative Shimizu 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. 1979, HD 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW," passed Third Reading by a vote of 43 ayes to 7 noes, with Representative Shimizu voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Amato, Cochran, Grandinetti, Hussey, Iwamoto, Perruso, and Poepoe voting no.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1206-26) recommending that H.B. No. 1949, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 1949, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Madam Speaker, I rise in support with reservation. The transparency this bill creates is important. If we're collecting Green Fee revenue, the public deserves to see how those dollars are being spent. However, during two separate committee hearings, I asked whether this program could be administered using Green Fee funds rather than additional taxpayer appropriations. Both times, the organization responsible for running the program said yes, they could carry out the work using the Green Fee funds already available to them.

"At a time when we were asking the government to tighten its belt, I believe we should take them at their word and allow this program to be funded with the Green Fee resources already available to them, rather than adding new taxpayer costs. With that concern noted, I will be voting yes with reservations."

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

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

"Thank you, in support. I just wanted to note that because the Green Fee revenues are largely deposited into the general fund, and this would be a general fund appropriation, it's largely already taken care of. But it's also specifically an option available to us come conference time if we wanted to designate this as a Green Fee project, we could do so. So maybe we keep an open mind and see how things settle in conference. Thank you."

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

"In opposition. I just want to note that the Green Fee is basically taxing people. So, we've got a pile of money from the people of Hawaii, and now we're asking for more money to figure out how should we spend this money. It doesn't seem to make sense to me. I'm voting no."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In support. I just want to clarify that this bill does not ask for more money like that. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1949, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE GREEN FEE," passed Third Reading by a vote of 47 ayes to 3 noes, with Representatives Gedeon and Shimizu voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, and Pierick voting no.

Representative Todd, for the Committee on Finance, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1207-26) recommending that H.B. No. 2101, HD 1 pass Third Reading.

Representative Kahaloa moved that the report of the Committee be adopted, and that H.B. No. 2101, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

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

"In support with reservations. Thank you. As your former chair of the Committee on Ocean Recreation and Marine Resources, that was back in 1996, and as your former chair of Water and Land, I had the opportunity to work on this issue of how to best manage aquarium fish collecting. And I have studied this, it's my career, my profession, working in coastal marine resources, and I've been involved in fishery management for many, many years. This is a very controversial fishery. It has been demonized by those who want to ban it.

"And extractive fisheries are done differently now than they were in pre-contact Native Hawaiian civilization. We have commercial fisheries now where we sell the fish for food, or in this case, for ornamental use. People catch fish to make a trophy out of them, like the big billfish, marlin, and spearfish. I think in a modern day, we need to use good science to understand best how to manage fisheries.

"*Kapu* areas, bans that are geographically specific or seasonal, are an important tool in fishery management and they should be used, I think that's very appropriate. But I think it really is best to be done by fishery managers, because it's usually a combination of different fishery management measures that work best to ensure the sustainability of the fishery, the protection of the environment, and the reduction of conflicts of use. And in some respects, aquarium fish collecting has created a conflict of use in the near shore area in the coral reef area because that's the specific area where our dive tourism is very active. So, there's this conflict of use between the dive operators and the aquarium fish collectors.

"So, years ago, we were able to pass a bill that established the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area, which included a *kapu*, as this does, but it was very geographic specific. It said that at least 30% of the west Hawaii coastline would be set aside for no collecting of aquarium fish, so the fish would have a place to replenish their stocks and that they would then be able to populate areas adjacent so that they could be collected sustainably.

"Again, it's complicated. Fishery management's not a simple thing. That's why I really don't think that it's appropriate for the Legislature to do fishery management decisions. I think it's best to leave it up to the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the professionals in the Division of Aquatic Resources, they're the ones that have the scientific knowledge and the data to be able to make the decisions.

"We as a state have a responsibility to fund the DLNR and the Aquatic Resources so they can do their job, so that they can actually go and do the surveys of the coral reef environment and the fish population so they have the data to be all to do this. So, that I think is the much better approach to it rather than just a ban, so that's my first reservation. I think that while a *kapu* is useful, it needs to be done in combination with other management measures and that the department should really be doing the work, not the Legislature.

"My second reservation is a procedural one. This is a bill that is a package of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and it deals specifically with regulations and statutes regarding fisheries. These sort of bills always get referred to the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee, but this one didn't. And I apologize, I didn't catch it and asked for a re-referral. There are two bills that banned aquarium fish collecting. One of them came to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, this one did not. And I object to that, and it was my fault in part that I did not ask for a re-referral. But I think that's my second reservation. So, I'll leave it at that. And I'll work with the Senate to make sure that I express my views to the senators as they consider this measure. Thank you very much, Speaker."

Representative Morikawa rose in support of the measure with reservations and asked that the remarks of the words of the chair of Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs be entered into the Journal as her own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

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

"With reservations. I'd like to thank the chair of Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs for his decades of work in this area. And I'd also like to insert written comments."

Representative Matayoshi's written remarks are as follows:

"This bill would effectively dismantle a long-standing industry that provides a livelihood for local families and contributes to the state's economy. By banning commercial collection even when done sustainably, the bill unfairly penalizes professional collectors who have adhered to strict reporting and management requirements for decades.

"The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is already equipped to manage fisheries through established rules, including species-specific catch limits, area restrictions, and mandatory permits. This fishery is highly monitored and scrutinized (each fisher turns in a monthly catch report to DAR/DLNR). Each boat in the fishery is marked 'AQ' in large letters, so enforcement is easy. There are a small number of fishers, all known individually to DAR/DLNR. This is one of the most highly monitored and studied fisheries of any kind, anywhere on the planet. A total legislative ban bypasses this science-based regulatory framework and ignores the agency's ability to ensure that aquarium collecting remains sustainable without a complete prohibition.

"Over the past 20+ years, DLNR divers have conducted over 2,000 reef fish surveys off West Hawai'i, including 'open' areas (aquarium fishing allowed) and 'closed' areas (no aquarium fishing allowed). Over this time span, populations of commonly taken aquarium species (e.g. yellow tangs) increased dramatically in abundance in both the protected and the fished areas. An overwhelming majority of marine scientists in Hawai'i believe this fishery is sustainable, based primarily on said DAR data. Science does not support this bill. We should be making decisions based on the facts and data available to us.

"While the bill cites 'pono' fishing practices and subsistence as priorities, it fails to provide evidence that highly regulated commercial collection is the primary driver of reef degradation compared to larger threats like climate change, runoff, and coral bleaching. In fact, long-term studies show that there is little to no impact on reef fish populations when properly managed. It is my hope that the captive breeding programs for reef fish will one day make reef fishing for aquarium fish obsolete. Unfortunately, that day is not yet here."

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

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

"Reservations. And I wish I could adopt the words of the Judiciary chair as my own, but that was so eloquent I know it wouldn't match me. But that was amazing. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In support. This bill asks a fundamental question, what should Hawaii's reefs be used for and who should benefit from them? For decades, Hawaii has allowed commercial harvest of reef fish, not for food or cultural purposes, but just to ship them thousands of miles away to live in glass boxes as ornamental pets. This bill says that shouldn't continue.

"Opponents of this measure will argue that data from DLNR indicates the fishery can be managed sustainably. But the truth is, there's not a scientific consensus on the issue. Scientists, cultural practitioners, and community members continue to raise concerns about the ecological impacts of removing large numbers of herbivorous fish from our reefs like yellow tang and kole. These species play a critical role in maintaining reef health by grazing algae and helping coral ecosystems recover from the stress of warming oceans and land-based pollution. And at a time when climate change is already placing unprecedented pressure on coral reefs around the world, we should simply be asking whether it makes sense to remove millions of reef fish simply to be used as decoration.

"But this debate is not only about science, it's about values. For generations, Native Hawaiian practices emphasized taking only what was

needed for food, for community, for family. The collection of reef fish was legalized by the 1953 Territorial Legislature at a time when Hawaiians were vastly underrepresented in their own homeland. The mass extraction of wildlife for commercial export is fundamentally at odds with native Hawaiian traditions of *malama 'āina* and *pono* stewardship.

"We should also be asking, who really benefits? The economic value of this trade is relatively small within Hawaii's economy, and most of the profit ultimately leaves the state through national and international supply chains. And meanwhile, the cost of regulating, managing, monitoring, and enforcing this fishery falls on the public. So, in other words, taxpayers help subsidize the removal of native wildlife so that it can be sold elsewhere.

"Another problematic aspect of this industry is that by authorizing the commercial trade of these animals here at home, we help to sustain the global demand for wild-caught aquarium fish and other reef species. Our participation in this industry helps to perpetuate illegal collection and wildlife trafficking not only here in Hawaii, but around the world. When rare and desirable reef fish and coral sell for high prices in the pet trade, it creates incentives for poaching and illegal harvesting that are very difficult to police. And Hawaii's participation in the market, even when it's legal here, has and would continue to contribute to the proliferation of poaching and illegal trafficking, both locally and globally.

"Our coral reefs are among the most precious natural resources we have. They protect our shoreline, support fisheries, and draw millions of visitors who come here just for the chance to experience the beauty of living reefs in the wild. And those reefs are worth far more to our ecosystem, our culture, our economy, than the short-term profit that comes from perpetuating the aquarium trade.

"I just want to address a couple comments as well that were made prior. And I do also appreciate my Big Island colleague and chair of Judiciary Committee and his many years of work on this. I would just say that DLNR has repeatedly said that this is a legislative initiative. And the Board of Land and Natural Resources at one point wanted to actually vote to continue issuing this permit and was given advice that that should not be an initiative of the board but of the Legislature.

"Also, these bills have been introduced year after year, typically, from west Hawaii residents like myself, because this is a trade that primarily happens in those districts. And it keeps coming back because it's broadly supported by the residents of our islands who are frustrated because they see fishermen out there behaving badly, breaking coral, not doing things the *pono* way that they always say they are when they come and talk about it and say how safely they're doing it. But it gets observed year after year and people are frustrated with it. And so, I think that whether we move something this year or not, this issue's going to keep coming back. There's reasons why it keeps coming back and those reasons are real.

"And I would also remark that in prior years, again, I've been in office for far too many years, and the bills have been here year after year."

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

Representative Lowen continued, stating:

"Thank you. And they have always gotten different referrals, it just depends. So, it's not every year that it goes to a certain committee. And I would say just because a bill is a part of a package does not mean, if the subject matter of the bill is not necessarily relevant, that it should go to that committee. So, there's all kinds of different ways referral patterns can go. So, I feel like I'm not sure that complaint is entirely valid. But on that note, again, I just I think that Hawaii's reef fish should stay where they belong, in Hawaii's reef. And I ask you all respectfully for your support of this measure."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In support. There are two sides of every fish, and there are two sides of every issue. And I want to say that the debate on this fish issue has been in the highest traditions of the Legislature. I have a deep and abiding respect for both the chair of EEP and JHA. I do have to say though, that as a lifelong scuba diver, it has always pained me to see any aquarium fish removed from the ocean. And perhaps I'm thinking more with my heart than my head. But on this issue, I'd like to adopt the words of the

chair of EEP, just the first part, not the other part about the referral. Thank you," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Kahaloe rose in support of the measure and asked that the remarks of the chair of the EEP Committee be entered into the Journal as her own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Iwamoto rose to respond, stating:

"Thank you, chair. This is my second time, I rise in support with reservations, and I would like to adopt the words of the representative from Waikoloa or Kailua Kona into the Journal as my own. And I do want to clarify my reservation. My reservation was specifically because this was part of the OHA package. OHA originally asked for this practice to be banned across the state, and then it was limited to just one area. That was my reservation. My reservation is that it's limited and it's not more expensive. Thank you," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"Thank you, and I stand in super strong support. And noting as a former council member, we passed a fishing ban bill in Maui County and it stands till today. We banned collecting and killing of sharks and also all of the herbivores, *uhu*, parrot fish, and things. So strong support and want to celebrate Ocean Day today too on top of that, so thank you."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In strong support. I'd first like to adopt the words of the EEP chair as if they were my own," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Kapela continued, stating:

"We have been sent numerous resolutions asking for us to do something around this issue to protect fish. With that, I want to quote testimony from the EEP/Water & Land hearing. This testimony comes from Kahaka'io Ravenscraft, director of field operations for Hoala Kealakekua Nui, right in Kealakekua Bay. He talks about 'Resolution 2025-40 of the Association of Native Hawaiian Civic Clubs supports this action in accordance with community advocates on the grounds of: 1. Upholding the State of Hawai'i's Public Trust Doctrine. 2. Upholding the mission of DAR which states to work with the people of Hawai'i to manage, conserve and restore the state's unique aquatic resources and ecosystems for present and future generations. 3. Upholding the State of Hawai'i DLNR Hierarchy of Use Policy prioritizing first Resource Protection, second Public Use, and third Commercial Use.'

"This is a bill and an opportunity to move in that direction that protects our public resources for future generations."

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

"Thank you, Speaker. In support, I'd like to adopt the words of the EEP chair and add a brief comment," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Marten continued, stating:

"We have within our State Division of Aquatic Resources a Holomua program, which is to work with communities on very specific community solutions to fishery management, nearshore fishery management, and I very much support that project.

"But I have reached out to them years ago to connect them with fishers in my community that would like to work on programs, and we're told that we may wait a decade before it is our turn. They've been working on Maui for years. Next, they will go to the Big Island, maybe next Molokai, and then O'ahu. So, I do think it's in a very appropriate role for this legislature to get involved in that management rather than waiting for our department to do so when they are not resourced to do that in a timely manner. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. With reservations. And if I could real briefly, I'd like to first of all thank the EEP chair for all of her work on this

important issue. But also to the JHA chair for his work over decades on this question. And I guess my reservation is simply this, that I think that the JHA chair is correct. That a lot of these questions, that the Legislature may not be the appropriate purview for a statewide consideration of this issue. And he made reference to the *kapu* system and to older ways that Hawaiians have managed our natural resources, our fisheries.

"I find this to be sort of an emotional subject. My great grandfather was a traditional fisherman in Kona. We have stories in our family of him riding a donkey from up in Kalaoa, down to fish at the ocean, at a fish pond there. But that tradition is no longer present in my family. We don't have that knowledge anymore.

"But to the JHA chair's point around what the *kapu* system would look like if it were continued into the present is that there are still organizations today which do maintain those ancestral knowledges, the old ways of fishing and gathering and hunting, which have been carried on for centuries. And I guess I want to thank this body for earlier today passing, I think in the consent calendar, I believe it's House Bill 2218, which is around community co-management. I'm not going to stray from the topic at hand, but I do want to acknowledge the concerns that the JHA chair raised, which is what is the best way to carry on the old ways in a way that's thoughtful and current. And I think community co-management is a way to do that. Thank you very much."

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

Representative Garcia's written remarks are as follows:

"Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to HB 2101. This bill bans the harvest of aquatic life for commercial aquarium purposes in certain counties in our state. In plain terms, it shuts down an entire lawful industry and the livelihoods that depend on it. It tells fishermen who have followed the rules, obtained permits and built their businesses legally that the government has decided their work is no longer acceptable. Not because of new science but because some people simply do not like the industry. That is not a good policy. That is the government picking winners and losers. The aquarium trade in Hawai'i has operated under regulation for years. If there are problems, then the solution should be better management and enforcement. Instead, this bill takes the easy political route, banning the activity and eliminating the industry. Madam Speaker, every time this body passes a bill like this, it reinforces the same pattern. More government control, fewer economic opportunities and more working people pushed out of industries they have depended on for years. We talk constantly about the cost of living in Hawai'i and about keeping local families here. But actions matter more than talking points. When the Legislature bans legal industries, it sends a clear message to small business owners and fishermen, your livelihood is disposable. This bill does nothing to create jobs. It does nothing to lower costs. It simply removes another economic opportunity from our state."

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

"Thank you, Speaker. In support. It's been nine years since this fishery was closed, and in that time many impacted communities have reported significant increases in the return of *lau 'ipala* and other aquarium targeted fish to the nearshore reefs.

"Speaker, it is not the burden of nature or the environment or communities or our state to guarantee profits for businesses that have chosen to build their operations around permits that rely on extraction of public trust resources. These resources belong to the people of Hawaii, and they must be managed in a way that protect the public interest and that prioritizes the collective.

"Permits are not a perpetual allowance. And I think that's something that we struggle with in other areas of permitting as well, especially when it comes to the use of public trust resources. They're conditional privileges granted by the state and that are subject to change as our understanding evolves. Any business built on this should be built on the understanding that the risk that they take on is inherent in the type of industry. Society changes, environmental conditions change, our laws change.

"In the State Constitution, it doesn't say that we have to provide for commercial aquarium extractive permits. It does say that we have to protect and conserve public resources, natural resources, for present and future

generations, and that Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices need to be protected, and we have a duty to apply the public trust doctrine.

"Speaker, research shows that although indigenous people make up only about 5% of the world's population, they steward roughly 80% of the planet's remaining biodiversity. This tells us that indigenous knowledge systems are not just traditions of culture, they're highly effective systems of environmental stewardship.

"In Hawaii, and we heard a little bit about the *kapu* system, we also have the practice of *kilo*, which is the generational observation of the natural world, which is legitimate science, based on centuries of accumulated and careful observation of ecosystems. So, when we hear from many in our Native Hawaiian community when they came out to speak on this measure, they are speaking from generations worth of place-based scientific observation.

"Speaker, estimates suggest that the mortality rate for aquarium fish from the moment they're collected through being transported in tiny plastic containers around the world, the mortality rates could exceed 50%. And if the outcome of this industry is widespread mortality along the supply chain, then I think that the fundamental justification for the practice itself is lost. If people must absolutely keep fish in aquariums for amusement, these fish can be successfully bred in captivity, and captive breeding is capable of filling the market demand without requiring the stripping of fish from our reefs.

"I do not believe the state should be subsidizing this industry. The monetary benefit to the state, should the proposed rules pass, will be less than \$1,000 and will benefit seven permittees, while the cost to the state will be tens, if not hundreds of thousands of dollars. There were no answers to questions about enforcement, only that permit holders are responsible for self-enforcing through an honesty system, which is likely, in the past, why we've ended up with some inconsistent data.

"Passing this measure, I believe, will relieve DAR and DLNR of having to undertake the time and resource-consuming rule-making process, and will allow them to reassign that focus to things like the Holomua process, which many communities are eagerly waiting for.

"As a state, we invest significant time, effort, and resources into restoring our reefs. We grow coral in laboratories, and we plant them into graded areas. And we do this because we understand how vital the reefs are to Hawaii. Each year, the reef prevents an estimated \$836 million in preventing flood damage to infrastructure and coastlines. But the reef cannot survive alone. They depend on entire living communities, thousands of organisms working together in balance, and reef fish, *lau 'ipala*, are a big part of it."

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

Representative Poepoe continued, stating:

"Thank you. So, we heard earlier that today's Ocean Day at the Capitol. 2026 has also been declared by our governor as the Year of Our Coastal Kuleana, which recognizes our shared responsibility for caring for coastal and marine environments, and that every Hawaii resident has a responsibility to care for our land and coastlines and ocean. There are so many issues facing our reefs and this is just one part of the puzzle. And I just ask myself the question of what do we want to leave behind for our next generation? And I want them to have healthy and thriving reefs. Thank you, Speaker."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In support. And I'd like the words of the representative from Moloka'i entered into the Journal as my own, and just a brief comment. In committee, when we heard this bill, I had asked the DLNR's Division of Aquatic Resources what the percentage was of individuals, where were these fish going when they were caught, the aquarium fish? And so, they did get back to me, and they had indicated that the overwhelming majority, more than 90% of aquarium fish caught, are exported outside of Hawaii, and only a small fraction remains within the state.

"So, my concern really, not only from the community members who have reached out, who are also concerned about Kaneohe Bay, which was not

included in this draft of bill, but the concern really is that we are not providing aquarium fish for people who are in Hawaii for our local families to enjoy, it is really being exported out of Hawaii for the benefit of those not living here. So, I just wanted to mention that data."

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

"In strong support. I'd just like to enter the words of the chair of the Energy & Environmental Protection Committee as well as the vice chair of Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee into the Journal as if they were my own," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

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

"In opposition. Madam Speaker, we been fishing going on for years. A lifetime here in Hawaii. But a lot of our fishes is disappearing from our ocean. It's not just aquarium fish, but many fish. But we be closing down local businesses that is doing this for a living. And I'm looking at maybe we should be closing down commercial outside fishermen that are from the mainland or from different states, or minimizing the fishes that they catch, or taking away the nets that is surrounding the whole reef and catching all kind fish that's going in that net. Because those are the kind of things that is really depleting our ocean.

"And I cannot see like we talking about fishes. We sell our ahi, our marlin, and all our fish to the mainland as well. This really concerns the local fishermen that continue having a business here and always had one. You be taking away their jobs. And I would really take a look on opposing this. Cause the testimonies was these are deep water fish from 30 to 80 feet. And maybe there's all the laws that we can put in, but I'm totally opposed on this. Thank you."

Representative Kila rose in support of the measure and asked that the remarks of the representative from Moloka'i be entered into the Journal as his own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Hussey rose, stating:

"I'd like to change my vote to a yes, and please also add the remarks from the representative from Moloka'i as my own," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"I'd like to go with reservations. I was originally a yes when it came through committee. I've heard some very strong arguments on both sides. And I'd like to take this back to my constituents and survey them to really get their word as my job is to be a representative of their voice. So, I'll be standing with reservations."

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

Representative Matayoshi rose to respond, stating:

"Still with reservations. I just want to clarify that my reservations apply to the West Hawaii fishery, which has been extensively studied. Twenty-plus years of DLNR surveys, over 2,000 reef surveys off the coast of West Hawaii, both in open fishing areas and in closed fishing areas. Over that period of time, they've both shown a dramatic increase in the number of aquarium fish that were being surveyed.

"If we are talking about fisheries in, say, Kaneohe Bay on O'ahu, I'm actually more leaning towards the other side, actually, of restricting aquarium fishing in those areas that have not been as extensively studied. But as the bill pertains to West Hawaii, an area that has been extensively studied over decades, and the science shows that this is actually a sustainable fishery, as well as most, if not nearly all respected marine biologists in the state agreeing with this assessment, that's why I'm in reservations at this bill. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2101, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR

AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL AQUARIUM COLLECTION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 42 ayes to 8 noes, with Representatives Amato, Gedeon, Hashem, Iwamoto, Matayoshi, Morikawa, Reyes Oda, Sayama, Shimizu, Tarnas, and Yamashita voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Hartsfield, Lee, Matsumoto, Muraoka, Pierick, and Takayama voting no.

The Chair then stated:

"Okay Members, have all votes been cast? Said House bills, with the exception of House Bill 1919, pass Third Reading."

At 3:03 p.m., the Chair noted that the following bills passed Third Reading:

H.B. No. 1524, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2442, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2103, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2104, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1728, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 1990, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2424, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2047, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1845, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1823, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1844, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2582, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 2592, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1737, HD 3  
 H.B. No. 1738, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1777, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1739, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1741, HD 2  
 H.B. No. 1742, HD 3  
 H.B. No. 1979, HD 3  
 H.B. No. 1949, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2101, HD 1

At 3:03 p.m., the Chair declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The House of Representatives reconvened at 3:05 p.m.

### THIRD READING

#### H.B. No. 1678, HD 1:

Representative Kahaloa moved that H.B. No. 1678, 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. My reservation is that, this bill has to do with the planned community associations and condominium associations regarding elections conducted by cumulative voting. My concern is that cumulative voting compounded with existing access to proxy voting can lead to potential corruption of the election process that will tend to benefit the incumbent board members and management companies. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and H.B. No. 1678, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ASSOCIATIONS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Iwamoto voting aye with reservations.

#### H.B. No. 1679, HD 1:

Representative Kahaloa moved that H.B. No. 1679, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Reservations with a brief comment. Again, I'm just really concerned for the *kūpuna* being left behind in our tech, and I'd like to see us do something to help them. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and H.B. No. 1679, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONDOMINIUMS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Shimizu voting aye with reservations, and with Representative Iwamoto voting no.

#### H.B. No. 2107, HD 1:

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, H.B. No. 2107, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO POLITICAL FUNDRAISING BY EXECUTIVE BRANCH EMPLOYEES," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes.

#### H.B. No. 1548, HD 1:

Representative Kahaloa moved that H.B. No. 1548, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, in support. This measure, you wouldn't know it to look at it, is also part of our immigration enforcement package of bills from your Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee, and I'm in strong support of it. This bill specifically limits the maximum term of imprisonment for misdemeanors and defenses punishable by up to or not exceeding one year, and it changes it to 364 days and permits individuals previously sentenced to a one-year term to petition the court for that modification.

"Why do we do this? Because under federal immigration law, a sentence of 365 days may trigger severe immigration consequences, including classifications of certain offenses as aggravated felonies or crimes involving mandatory detention. By contrast, a maximum sentence capped at 364 days will avoid these disproportionate federal consequences. This bill does not change the elements of any offense, it does not eliminate accountability, it does not prevent courts from imposing substantial jail time, and it preserves the full judicial discretion within the misdemeanor framework.

"But what it does, it simply ensures that a state-classified misdemeanor does not automatically result in immigration penalties far exceeding what the Legislature intended when designating the offense as a misdemeanor. So, for these reasons, I encourage all members to support this measure. Thank you."

Representative Kila rose in support of the measure with reservations and asked that the remarks of the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs chair be entered into the Journal as his own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

Representative Garcia's written remarks are as follows:

"Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to HB 1548. This measure lowers the maximum misdemeanor sentence from 365 days to 364 days. Supporters will say, 'It's just one day.' But that's not the real story. The reason for this change is clear. It is designed to avoid triggering federal immigration consequences tied to a one-year sentence. In other words, this bill is an attempt by the State of Hawai'i to sidestep federal immigration enforcement. Madam Speaker, that should concern every one of us in this chamber. Immigration law is a federal responsibility. Whether someone faces immigration consequences for committing a crime is a matter determined under federal law. It is not the job of the Hawai'i State Legislature to manipulate our criminal sentencing laws in order to help offenders avoid those federal consequences.

"That is exactly what this bill is trying to do. And in doing so, we are bending our criminal justice system around immigration policy instead of focusing on the safety and wellbeing of our communities. HB 1548 walks us backwards. Supporters want us to believe this is a tiny technical change. But every time this legislature trims penalties, even by a day, we send a message that we are less serious about enforcing the law. And believe me, criminals hear that message loud and clear. And it doesn't stop there. This bill would also allow individuals who were already sentenced to a full year to go back to court and ask for their sentences to be reduced. That means reopening cases that judges already decided. It means burdening prosecutors, courts, and victims all over again. All of this, not because our

sentencing system is broken, but because some lawmakers want to shield offenders from federal immigration consequences. Madam Speaker, the State of Hawai'i should not be in the business of trying to circumvent federal law. At a time when our communities are concerned about crime, when our police officers are stretched thin and when victims are asking for accountability, this legislature should be strengthening the rule of law, not weakening it to make life easier for offenders. HB 1548 sends the wrong message at the wrong time. No vote."

Representative Shimizu 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 an aye vote with reservations for him, and the Chair "so ordered."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and H.B. No. 1548, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SENTENCING," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes to 2 noes, with Representatives Gedeon, Kila, and Shimizu voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Garcia and Pierick voting no.

#### **H.B. No. 1520, HD 1:**

Representative Kahaloa moved that H.B. No. 1520, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

Representative Souza's written remarks are as follows:

"I am in strong support of HB 1520, HD 1, but have concerns about the language of the bill. I hope that the language of the bill will be further refined when this bill moves over to the Senate.

"This bill amends Section 11-412(g), Hawai'i Revised Statutes, and in doing so, states in Section 1: 'Prosecution for violations of this part shall not commence after five years have elapsed from the date of the discovery of the offense by the campaign spending commission.'

"The language was amended in the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee as a result of testimony provided by the Campaign Spending Commission to rectify the original language in the bill and the unintended consequences of that original language.

"However, the new language assumes that the actual offense will be found by the Campaign Spending Commission, and that is when the clock starts, and thereafter a criminal referral will be sent to the appropriate prosecuting agency. In this vein, the law also describes the process by which the Campaign Spending Commission will engage the proper agency to initiate prosecution.

"Please note the following language from Hawai'i Revised Statutes §11-412(e) Criminal Prosecution:

For purposes of prosecution for violation of this part, the offices of the attorney general and the prosecuting attorney of the respective counties shall be deemed to have concurrent jurisdiction to be exercised as follows:

(1) Prosecution shall commence with a written request from the commission, upon the issuance of an order of the court, or upon the exercise of the law enforcement authority of the attorney general or prosecuting attorney; provided that prosecution may commence before any proceeding initiated by the commission or final determination;

(2) In the case of statewide offices, parties, or issues, the attorney general or the prosecuting attorney for the city and county of Honolulu shall prosecute any violation; and

(3) In the case of all other offices, parties, or issues, the attorney general or the prosecuting attorney for the respective county shall prosecute any violation.

"HRS §11-412 goes on to state the following:

If prosecution is commenced by a written request from the commission, the commission, in choosing the prosecuting agency, shall be guided by whether any conflict of interest exists between the agency and its appointive authority.

"As the law states, '[p]rosecution shall commence . . . upon the exercise of the law enforcement authority of the attorney general or prosecuting attorney; provided that prosecution may commence before any proceeding initiated by the commission or final determination.'

"Therefore, if the attorney general or the prosecuting attorney can commence prosecution due to its own autonomy as law enforcement agencies and without the Campaign Spending Commission's involvement, then the language in the bill that states that '[p]rosecution for violations of this part shall not commence after five years have elapsed from the date of the discovery of the offense by the campaign spending commission,' does not blend with the way prosecutions can be initiated. The language needs to take into consideration the fact that the Campaign Spending Commission may not be the entity to discover the offense, as the current law as written describes the ways in which prosecution may be initiated.

"The entire point is that the language of this bill as written has a focus on the Campaign Spending Commission as the entity starting the clock on the discovery of a campaign spending offense, but the Campaign Spending Commission may not always be the entity discovering the offense."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and H.B. No. 1520, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes.

#### **H.B. No. 1768, HD 1:**

Representative Kahaloa moved that H.B. No. 1768, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"In support. Promise, this is the last immigration enforcement-related bill on our Order of the Day today on which I will speak. But this measure is part of the package that's offered by your Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee to address the immigration enforcement concerns we're hearing from all of our constituents. House Bill 1768, relating to immigration, prohibits state and county law enforcement agencies and officials from entering into agreements under, it's what called 1357(g), or any other federal law permitting local participation in federal immigration enforcement, and further prohibits certain immigration-related actions.

"What this bill really does is just makes it clear that immigration enforcement is a purview of the federal government, not the state government. We still can have other agreements, joint enforcement agreements between the federal government and the state. As I said earlier on another bill, we could have these agreements related to fighting money laundering, and human trafficking, and drug trafficking, and import of illegal fireworks, or organized crime.

"But this measure really affirms Hawaii's longstanding commitment to equal protection and dignity and public safety by clearly delineating what I believe are the appropriate boundaries between state and county law enforcement agencies and the federal immigration enforcement authorities. Entanglement between local law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement erodes the trust in government institution and undermines public safety for the entire community. So, I urge all members to support this measure. Thank you."

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

"In opposition. Madam Speaker, this bill prohibits any law enforcement agency or law enforcement official from entering into an agreement under federal law that permits state or county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement. The fact that we're prohibiting law enforcement officers and agencies to engage in cooperation with the federal government, I think is just bad policy. We should be working in collaboration with our federal law enforcement officials, not just with immigration but in other areas, which we do already. So why single out immigration? Why shouldn't we then stop working with them in other areas? It's a slippery slope. Again, this is going

in the wrong direction. We should have more collaboration in regards to public safety. And immigration enforcement is public safety. No vote."

Representative Kila rose in support of the measure with reservations and asked that the remarks of the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs chair be entered into the Journal as his own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Souza rose in support of the measure and asked that the remarks of the Judiciary chair be entered into the Journal as her own, and asked that his written remarks be inserted in the Journal, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Souza's written remarks are as follows:

"I am in support of HB 1768, HD 1. The purpose of this bill is to prohibit '(1) Any state or county law enforcement agency or law enforcement official from entering into an agreement under title 8 United States Code section 1357(g) or any other federal law that permits state or county agencies to engage in immigration enforcement; and (2) State and county law enforcement agencies and law enforcement officials from engaging in certain immigration-related actions, except under limited circumstances.'

"Our state and county law enforcement should focus on public safety in our communities and not federal immigration enforcement. This bill will ensure that our local law enforcement will not be entangled in (1) inquiring about citizenship or the immigration status of an individual, except as required by law, (2) providing information pursuant to notification requests from federal immigration authorities for the purposes of immigration enforcement, except as required by law, (3) providing non-publicly available personal information to federal immigration authorities in relation to a noncriminal matter; (4) allowing federal immigration authorities to question an individual without their consent while they are being held in custody; (5) detaining an individual on the basis of a hold request; (6) providing information regarding an individual's release date to federal immigration authorities; and (7) transferring an individual to federal immigration authorities, unless authorized by a judicial warrant or judicial determination of probable cause.

"At its core, this measure reflects a fundamental principle of governance: the responsibilities of state and county institutions are distinct from those of the federal government. Our local law enforcement officers are entrusted with the responsibility of protecting the well-being of the communities they serve and responding to the needs of our neighborhoods. Their effectiveness depends not only on authority, but on the trust of our community members. Residents must feel confident that when they call for help, report a crime, or cooperate with an investigation, they can do so without hesitation or fear. When local law enforcement becomes entangled in federal immigration enforcement, that trust can erode, and individuals become less likely to seek help or come forward when something is wrong. Maintaining a clear boundary between state and local responsibilities and federal functions preserves that trust and allows our law enforcement officers to remain focused on the work they were sworn to do: serving and protecting with *aloha*."

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

Representative Shimizu's written remarks are as follows:

"I stand in opposition to HB 1768.

"HB 1768 proposes to prohibit state and county law enforcement agencies and officials from entering into agreements with federal authorities to engage in immigration enforcement and restricts certain forms of cooperation between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities. While the bill is intended to address concerns about community trust and the treatment of immigrants, several concerns remain regarding its broader implications for the rule of law and public safety.

"One concern is that the measure focuses primarily on limiting cooperation with federal immigration enforcement without adequately addressing the importance of fair and consistent due process. Ensuring that all individuals are treated fairly under the law is a fundamental principle that should guide policy in this area. However, this measure does not meaningfully address due process protections or outline a balanced framework that promotes both fairness and lawful enforcement.

"Another concern is that the restrictions placed on cooperation between local and federal authorities could create situations where existing laws are effectively disregarded. Policies that prohibit cooperation with lawful federal enforcement efforts may create the perception that certain laws will not be enforced, which could undermine respect for the rule of law and encourage a form of civil disobedience rather than constructive legal reform.

"Public safety is best served when all levels of government work collaboratively. Effective coordination between federal, state, and local authorities helps ensure that law enforcement agencies can address safety concerns, respond to criminal activity, and protect communities. Limiting cooperation between agencies may reduce the ability of law enforcement to share information or work together in situations where collaboration could support broader public safety goals.

"For these reasons, I respectfully oppose HB 1768. While the goal of ensuring fair treatment and dignity for all individuals is important, policies addressing immigration issues should prioritize due process, uphold the rule of law, and promote cooperation among government agencies in order to support the shared objective of public safety."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and H.B. No. 1768, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO IMMIGRATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 42 ayes to 8 noes, with Representative Kila voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Gedeon, Kong, Matsumoto, Muraoka, Pierick, and Shimizu voting no.

**H.B. No. 2448, HD 1:**

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, H.B. No. 2448, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 46 ayes to 4 noes, with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Pierick, and Shimizu voting no.

**H.B. No. 1682, HD 1:**

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, H.B. No. 1682, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DISCLOSURE OF INTIMATE IMAGES," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes.

**H.B. No. 1667, HD 1:**

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, H.B. No. 1667, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CIVIL IDENTIFICATION," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes to 2 noes, with Representatives Garcia and Pierick voting no.

**H.B. No. 1957, HD 1:**

Representative Kahaloa moved that H.B. No. 1957, 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. I want to thank my neighboring district representative for Moiliili for this very elegant bill. My only reservation with this is that it applies only to counties with over 300,000 in population and I wish this bill applied only to those counties that provide enough shelter beds to shelter 100% of those counted in the point-in-time count. Right now, most counties recognize and accept that they only provide enough shelter space for 50% of their unhoused population. I feel if we amended this bill to reflect what I just stated, it would push more counties to allocate more resources to increase the number of beds. Thanks."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and H.B. No. 1957, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SAFE ENTRYWAYS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Iwamoto voting aye with reservations.

**H.B. No. 2413, HD 1:**

Representative Kahaloa moved that H.B. No. 2413, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"In support, thank you. This is one of the bills in a package of bills that your Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee is offering to address some of the longstanding criminal justice reform initiatives that we've been attempting to do for years. This particular bill, House Bill 2413, builds on the work of the 2018 Criminal Pretrial Task Force convened by the Judiciary. So here we are eight years later and I'm using the work that was done back in 2018 to come up with this measure.

"And this measure requires the release on recognizance for defendants charged with violations, traffic offenses, nonviolent petty misdemeanors, nonviolent misdemeanors, nonviolent class C felonies subject to conditions. This is one that it does allow for exclusions for specified offenses such as threats to public safety, certain other circumstances, and it requires findings when bail or detention is imposed, ongoing review of continued detention or conditions, and a prompt hearing if bail cannot be posted, and requires prosecutors to notify victims of pretrial decisions.

"But it's important for members to know, Speaker, that offenses that are exempted from the mandated release include assault, terroristic threatening, sexual assault, abuse of family or household members, violation of a temporary restraining order, violation of an order for protection, violation of a restraining order or injunction, operating a vehicle under the influence of an intoxicant, negligent homicide, or stalking. So, all of those offenses are exempted from the mandatory release. The police officer would be able to arrest that individual if that's what they were concerned about. It does create a willful flight standard that I think is fairer to the arrestee, and focuses on ensuring safety and compliance rather than penalizing an isolated failure to appear.

"And my last comment is that we need to make sure victims are aware. I became very sensitized to that by the testifiers. So, it requires victim notification at each stage of the decision-making process in a case, rather than only notification of the results of the case, which is what is required in the status quo. So, I urge members to support this common-sense measure to improve our criminal justice system in the state. Thank you, Speaker."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In strong opposition. I rise in opposition because this bill represents a dangerous experiment with public safety in our state. This measure would require release on recognizance for a wide range of criminal offenses including class C felonies, misdemeanors, petty misdemeanors, and traffic-related criminal offenses unless certain narrow exceptions apply.

"On paper, this might seem like reform. But in practice, we've seen exactly what happens when policies like this are implemented. Across the country, in city after city and state after state, politicians push similar bill policies. They called it criminal justice reform. They called it modernization. They said that it would make the system more fairer. But what actually happened? Crime increased. Repeat offenders cycled in and out of the system. Communities lost confidence in the justice system. And the people who paid the price were not the politicians who passed these policies, it was the public. It was families. It was small businesses. It was victims. And we do not need to import failed criminal justice experiments from the mainland think tanks into our beloved state.

"And the most telling part about this bill is it's not just what it does, but who opposes it. The attorney general opposes this bill. The Honolulu Police Department opposes this bill. The Maui Police Department opposes this bill. The Hawaii County Police Department opposes the bill. The prosecuting attorneys of Honolulu County, Maui County, Hawaii County, all oppose this bill. The very people responsible for protecting our communities, prosecuting criminals, and standing up for victims are telling us that this is a bad idea.

"This bill passed would tie the hands of judges and force release, even in cases where the specific facts show a risk to public safety. They point out that many offenses labeled nonviolent can still present serious danger,

including unlawful possession of a firearm, ghost guns, explosives, child pornography, witness intimidation, and bail jumping. Yet under this bill, judges may be pressured to release those defendants automatically. Madam Speaker, that is not justice reform. It is reckless and insane policy.

"Our judges currently have the ability to review the facts of each case and determine appropriate bail. It's already there. That discretion already exists for a reason. Every case is different, every defendant is different, and every victim deserves to be considered. House Bill 2413 moves us toward a one-size-fits-all system that prioritizes progressive ideology over common-sense judgment.

"And it doesn't stop here. This bill would also impose new burdens on our courts, requiring written findings whenever bail is imposed and requiring constant reconsideration of release conditions at every single court hearing. That doesn't just create more paperwork. It risks turning our already strained court system into a revolving door.

"Madam Speaker, Hawaii is already dealing with rising concerns about crime in many of our communities. Families in West O'ahu and across this state are asking for safer neighborhoods, not weaker accountability. They want criminals held responsible. They want victims protected. And they want a justice system that actually works. Instead, this bill moves us in the opposite direction.

"Public safety should never be treated as a political experiment. And in my opinion, that's what this bill is. We should not allow policies which have already failed elsewhere to be imported into our islands at the expense of our families. For the sake of our neighborhoods and for the sake of victims and for safety of the people of Hawaii, I urge this body to use common sense and strongly reject House Bill 2413. No vote."

Representative Tarnas rose to respond, stating:

"Second time, in support. The public defender provided testimony on this measure saying that the Office of the Public Defender can verify that statutory help is needed to compel the pretrial release of those defendants covered by this bill. They believe that strongly, the Office of the Public Defenders says, the safeguards in this bill would ensure public safety and at the same time secure release of those that do not need to be punished before adjudication.

"The Hawaii State Correctional Oversight Commission stated in their testimony, reducing unnecessary pretrial detention is one of the most immediate and effective ways to alleviate jail overcrowding while maintaining community safety. This approach promotes more efficient use of correctional resources, allowing facilities and staff to focus on individuals who pose greater risks. This bill also maintains important safeguards by preserving judicial discretion to impose detention when warranted and requiring ongoing review of those decisions.

"The Judiciary, who is responsible for the courts, says the Judiciary supports the intent of this bill. The Judiciary notes that any pretrial bail reform should be tailored to the presumption of innocence, ensuring the appearance of the defendant, minimizing the risk of danger to the community, and ensuring the equal treatment of individuals regardless of race, wealth, and social class.

"Speaker, I listen to the experts. And yes, there is disagreement. Prosecutors will say one thing, police will say one thing, public defenders will say another, and Judiciary. So, in this case, I listened to the Judiciary, I listened to the Hawaii State Correctional Oversight Commission, I listened to the Office of the Public Defenders. But I also listened to those who oppose the bill and try to address their concerns in the bill as best as I could. And I looked to national examples from other states of what works, learned the lessons of things that don't work in other states.

"This is my last quote that I'll make. This is from the R Street Institute, which is really a middle of the road, non-partisan criminal justice research and think tank. Their quote is, 'H.B. 2413 is a measured way to realign the system with what it is intended to do, reserving beds and staff attention for higher-risk cases.'

"My time is up, so I'm going to request that I could add some additional written comments to the Journal. Thank you, and I urge all members to support this measure."

Representative Tarnas's written remarks are as follows:

"HB 2413 is a measured way to realign the system with what it is intended to do, reserving beds and staff attention for higher-risk cases while allowing limited dollars to be redirected toward housing stability and behavioral health supports in the community. Research shows that cash bail does not reliably produce better pretrial outcomes. Moreover, many people do not post bail themselves and instead pay a nonrefundable fee to a commercial bail bond agent. This results in a fee lost regardless of whether the person appears in court which limits the practical incentive that cash bail is assumed to create."

"Madam Speaker, this is a good bill that includes the much-needed reforms that were recommended by the 2018 Criminal Pretrial Task Force. For these reasons, I urge members to support this bill. Thank you."

"Madam Speaker, this is a good bill that includes the much needed reforms that were recommended by the 2018 Criminal Pretrial Task Force. For these reasons, I urge members to support this bill. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in strong support. I thank the Judiciary chair for his incredible work on this bill, and I ask that his words for both of his presentations are entered into the Journal as my own. Thank you," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"Madam Speaker, in opposition. I would like to adopt the words of representative from Kapolei. And also a brief comment. This is softer on crime again. And like many other bills that we been pushing around is going toward softer on crime. And I think that we would hold accountability to people's actions. So, opposed. Thank you," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Muraoka rose in opposition to the measure and asked that the remarks of the representatives from Kapolei and 'Ewa Beach be entered into the Journal as his own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In opposition with a comment. I'm all for some bail reform and improving our system that would provide relief to people who should not end up in jail. My opposition is just objectively based on opposing testimony of those who are in the game and deal with it every day. We have opponents, as was previously stated, opposing testimony from the Department of the Attorney General, Maui Police Department, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of County of Hawaii, County of Maui, and the City & County of Honolulu, as well as HPD and even throw in the Waikiki Neighborhood Board. So just based on the significant testimony, I have to lend credence and respect to them. And that's the basis for my opposition. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

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

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

"Madam Speaker, I rise in support. And I would like the words of the Judiciary chair entered into the record as my own, both times he spoke. And I also just wanted to make a comment. I know the representative from Ho'opili said that this is just common sense, right? To be voting in opposition, it's a bad bill, it's just common sense. But I will say that common sense runs the gamut, and there's regular common sense, and then there's common sense where someone would get on an airplane and travel all the way to Virginia to visit a post office box. So, just taking that into consideration. Thank you, Madam Speaker," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and H.B. No. 2413, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PRETRIAL REFORM," passed Third Reading by a vote of 30 ayes to 20 noes, with Representative La Chica voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Alcos, Chun, Garcia, Gedeon, Hashem, Kila, Kitagawa,

Kong, Lee, Matayoshi, Matsumoto, Muraoka, Olds, Pierick, Reyes Oda, Sayama, Shimizu, Takenouchi, Tam, and Templo voting no.

**H.B. No. 2494, HD 1:**

Representative Kahaloa moved that H.B. No. 2494, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Speaker. In support. House Bill 2494 is a bill encouraging greater citation used for minor offenses while still guaranteeing that arrest is a tool available to police for all serious offenses and scenarios when an arrest is necessary to protect public safety. This measure promotes a more targeted use of arrest that preserves limited law enforcement resources and will more effectively and equitably achieve public safety in Hawaii."

"The measure creates a presumption that police officers will issue a citation in lieu of an arrest in most petty misdemeanor and violation cases. It clarifies that officers can always arrest a suspect for drunk driving or domestic violence, even if the charges are petty misdemeanors. The measure preserves officer's ability to arrest a suspect if an officer determines the person failed to offer satisfactory evidence of their identity, or will not appear in court, or has an outstanding arrest warrant justifying their detention, or is likely to have further police contact in the immediate future, or must be detained to prevent bodily injury to someone. This measure offers an evidence-based redesign of the citation form to improve court appearance rates."

"The bill does not allow people who are dangerous or who are flight risks to evade arrest. Police can always arrest if the suspect poses a danger to public safety. The bill does not change in any way an officer's ability to arrest someone for any felony misdemeanor, or drunk driving, or domestic violence petty misdemeanor. The bill does not prevent officers from arresting someone who they cannot identify or who they reasonably determine is unlikely to show up in court."

"It does not impose confusing new standards on police. The factors that justify arrest already exist in current arrest law and our routine police considerations, ensuring officers can quickly and easily apply them in the field. And this bill does not bog down the courts with endless challenges to valid arrests in petty misdemeanor cases. Defendants already have a right to challenge their arrest in these cases, and this bill does not significantly alter that calculus."

"This is an approach that's used in numerous jurisdictions throughout the country, in blue states and red states. I was in Charleston, South Carolina, and they thought this was great. The police department said they were initially concerned about it, but when they started to use it they said, this is really useful, can we add some more offenses that we can use citation in lieu of arrest. Because it's efficient, it's effective, and it protects public safety. So, I urge all members to support this measure. Thank you, Speaker."

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

"In opposition. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Once again, we have another bill before us that reflects a trend we've been seeing across the country. Policies being pushed in progressive jurisdictions on the mainland, now being imported here and tested in Hawaii. House Bill 2494 directly affects the ability of our police officers and prosecutors to keep the peace and enforce laws that protect our communities."

"And let's be clear about the types of offenses we're talking about here in this bill. These are not insignificant crimes. These are offenses that have real impacts on everyday residents. Theft, shoplifting, criminal property damage, disorderly conduct, harassment, indecent exposure, and open lewdness. These are the types of incidents that affect the safety and quality of life in our neighborhoods and businesses."

"Under current law, if a police officer has probable cause, they have the authority to make an arrest. That standard has guided law enforcement in this country for generations. But House Bill 2494 changes that. This bill would make it illegal for an officer to arrest someone for a petty misdemeanor or a violation based on probable cause alone. Instead, the officer must now identify additional qualifying factors before making an arrest. They must determine whether that person provided satisfactory

identification, whether they may fail to appear in court, whether there is an outstanding warrant, whether there may be further police contact, or whether someone might be harmed.

"Madam Speaker, that may sound simple on paper, like this bill states. But in the real world, during a fast-moving situation, this creates an additional burden on officers who are already doing one of the most difficult jobs in our society. Instead of focusing on restoring order and protecting the public, officers now have to stop and run through a checklist to justify why they're making an arrest, even when they already have probable cause.

"And who's telling us that this is bad policy? Again, the Honolulu prosecuting attorney says this is bad policy. The Maui prosecuting attorney says this is bad policy. The Hawaii County prosecuting attorney says this is bad policy. The Hawaii attorney general says this is bad policy. And the Honolulu Police Department says this is bad policy. In other words, the very people responsible for enforcing our laws and keeping our communities safe are raising the red flag, and most politicians here on the floor seem to ignore it.

"They warn that this bill will create unnecessary obstacles for officers trying to address crimes that disrupt our communities and undermine public order. Madam Speaker, when the professionals on the front lines of public safety, those who deal with crime every single day, tell us that this policy will make their jobs harder and weaken enforcement, we should listen.

"Our communities deserve safety. Our officers deserve support, not more red tape. And in my opinion, this is a common-sense idea to oppose this bill. It's common because the leading lines of law enforcement says this is bad policy. It's common sense, Madam Speaker. No vote."

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

Representative Shimizu's written remarks are as follows:

"I rise in opposition to HB 2494.

"HB 2494 proposes changes to arrest procedures for certain offenses by requiring law enforcement officers to issue citations in lieu of arrest for many petty misdemeanors and violations unless specific conditions are present. While the measure seeks to reduce unnecessary arrests and address concerns related to pretrial detention and correctional facility overcrowding, several concerns remain regarding the practical impacts on law enforcement operations and the criminal justice system.

"One concern raised by law enforcement and legal stakeholders is that limiting the ability of officers to make arrests in these circumstances could significantly impede the ability of law enforcement to effectively carry out their duties in the community. Officers often rely on arrest authority to manage situations where further investigation, identification verification, or immediate accountability may be necessary to maintain order and protect public safety.

"Another concern involves certain habitual or repeat offenses that may require booking and fingerprinting as part of the investigative and documentation process. Arrests in these situations can play an important role in establishing accurate records and ensuring that repeat offenders are appropriately identified. Requiring citations instead of arrests in many cases may make it more difficult to maintain complete records for individuals who repeatedly commit similar offenses.

"There are also concerns about the potential impact this measure could have on the criminal justice data systems used in Hawai'i. Arrest records and booking information contribute to the data maintained by the Hawai'i Criminal Justice Data Center, which plays an important role in informing criminal justice policy decisions and reforms. Reducing arrests in a broad range of cases may affect the availability and reliability of this data, potentially limiting the ability of policymakers to accurately assess trends and outcomes.

"In addition, stakeholders have expressed concerns that the changes proposed in this measure could create legal ambiguities that lead to increased litigation regarding the circumstances under which arrests or citations are appropriate. This may create additional burdens on law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and the courts.

"Finally, concerns have been raised regarding the underlying premise that reducing arrests for misdemeanor-level offenses would meaningfully address correctional facility overcrowding. According to testimony from county prosecutors, the majority of individuals held in certain facilities, such as the Hawai'i Community Correctional Center, are detained for felony offenses, while only a small portion of the population is held on misdemeanor-level charges. As a result, the proposed changes may have limited impact on overcrowding while introducing new operational challenges for law enforcement.

"For these reasons, I respectfully oppose HB 2494 due to concerns that the bill may hinder law enforcement operations, reduce the ability to properly document repeat offenses, affect criminal justice data systems that inform policy decisions, increase the potential for litigation, and may not effectively address correctional facility overcrowding."

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

Representative Alcos rose in opposition to the measure and asked that the remarks of the representative from Kapolei be entered into the Journal as his own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

Representative Gedeon rose in opposition to the measure and asked that the remarks of the representative from Kapolei be entered into the Journal as his own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Souza rose in support of the measure and asked that the remarks of the Judiciary chair be entered into the Journal as her own, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and H.B. No. 2494, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM," passed Third Reading by a vote of 32 ayes to 18 noes, with Representatives La Chica and Reyes Oda voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Alcos, Chun, Garcia, Gedeon, Hartsfield, Kila, Kitagawa, Kong, Lee, Matayoshi, Matsumoto, Muraoka, Olds, Pierick, Shimizu, Takenouchi, Tam, and Templo voting no.

#### **H.B. No. 2503, HD 1:**

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, H.B. No. 2503, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FIREWORKS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 49 ayes to 1 no, with Representative Pierick voting no.

#### **H.B. No. 1716, HD 1:**

Representative Kahaloa moved that H.B. No. 1716, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Representative Muraoka 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 H.B. No. 1716, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 48 ayes to 2 noes, with Representatives Alcos, Gedeon, Matsumoto, Muraoka, Reyes Oda, Shimizu, and Souza voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Garcia and Pierick voting no.

**H.B. No. 1516, HD 1:**

Representative Kahaloa moved that H.B. No. 1516, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, in support. This measure seeks to give clarity to provisions that are already in statute that judges must set bail amounts that a defendant can afford to pay. It specifically excludes from the affordability considerations any compensation that an individual is receiving as part of a public benefits package, which could include SNAP or welfare or other sources.

"The Office of Hawaiian Affairs stated in their testimony, this bill 'does not eliminate judicial discretion or remove consideration of offense severity or public safety; rather, it provides clearer guardrails so that bail functions as intended: to reasonably assure court appearance, without becoming an unintended driver of wealth-based detention.'

"And I want to quote one other piece of testimony from the Office of the Public Defender. This bill takes an important step toward ensuring that bail serves its intended function as a mechanism to ensure court appearance rather than as a punitive barrier that disproportionately impacts indigent defendants. Specifically, the bill clarifies that income derived from public benefits such as supplemental security income, social security disability insurance, and temporary assistance for needy families must be excluded from consideration when assessing a defendant's ability to pay. For the clients that the Office of the Public Defender represents, those benefits are often their sole means of subsistence and they are not discretionary funds that can reasonably be used to secure release.

"So, this measure, I think, is common sense, and I would urge all members to support it. Thank you, Speaker."

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

Representative Shimizu's written remarks are as follows:

"I rise in opposition to HB 1516.

"HB 1516 proposes to amend the factors considered when determining a defendant's financial ability to afford bail by excluding income derived from certain public benefits and requiring courts to consider the amount a defendant could reasonably pay within 40 hours of arrest under specified conditions. While the measure is intended to address concerns regarding fairness in the bail process, several concerns remain regarding whether the changes proposed in this bill are necessary and how they would be implemented in practice.

"One concern raised by prosecuting attorneys is that the bill may be unnecessary because judges are already required under existing law to consider a defendant's financial circumstances when determining bail. Courts currently have broad discretion to evaluate factors such as the nature of the offense, the potential penalty upon conviction, and the defendant's financial resources. Because the judiciary already considers these factors as part of the bail determination process, the proposed statutory changes may duplicate existing considerations rather than meaningfully improving the current system.

"Another concern relates to the practical challenges associated with verifying a defendant's claimed income and public benefits at the time bail is set. Bail determinations often occur shortly after arrest, when courts and law enforcement may have limited access to documentation regarding a defendant's financial situation. Verifying whether a defendant receives certain public benefits, and determining the extent to which those benefits should be excluded from financial calculations, could introduce additional administrative complications during a time-sensitive process.

"There are also concerns that creating additional statutory requirements related to financial calculations could complicate bail determinations that are currently handled through judicial discretion and case-by-case evaluation. Judges are often required to make prompt decisions based on the information available at the time of a hearing, and additional statutory formulas or exclusions may add complexity without necessarily improving outcomes.

"For these reasons, I respectfully oppose HB 1516 due to concerns that the bill may be unnecessary given existing judicial discretion to consider a defendant's financial circumstances and may create practical challenges related to verifying financial information and public benefit status during the bail determination process."

Representative Souza rose in support of the measure and asked that the remarks of the Judiciary chair be entered into the Journal as her own, and asked that his written remarks be inserted in the Journal, and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

Representative Souza's written remarks are as follows:

"I support HB 1516, HD 1. It is important to emphasize that we are not changing the law to consider a defendant's financial ability with this legislation. The current language in the Hawai'i Revised Statutes Section 804-9 states that financial ability be taken into consideration when it comes to bail. It states verbatim: 'The amount of bail rests in the discretion of the justice or judge or the officers named in section 804-5 and shall be set in a reasonable amount based upon all available information, including the offense alleged, the possible punishment upon conviction, and the defendant's financial ability to afford bail.'

"This bill states that '[t]he defendant's financial ability to afford bail shall be subject to the following considerations to the extent known: (1) Any income derived from public benefits, including supplemental security income, social security disability insurance, and temporary assistance for needy families, shall be excluded from consideration; and (2) If the defendant's household income, exclusive of any income derived from public benefits, exceeds one hundred fifty per cent of the federal poverty level for Hawaii, the amount the defendant could reasonably pay within forty hours of arrest shall be considered.'

"In testimony in support from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs ('OHA') to the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs on February 19th, OHA states that 'Native Hawaiians are disproportionately represented in Hawai'i's criminal legal system and are more likely to experience economic vulnerability, making ability-to-pay clarity especially important to avoid inequitable pretrial detention outcomes for OHA beneficiaries and their families. HB1516 does not eliminate judicial discretion or remove consideration of offense severity or public safety; rather, it provides clearer guardrails so that bail functions as intended: to reasonably assure court appearance, without becoming an unintended driver of wealth-based detention.'

"At that same hearing, the Office of the Public Defender submitted testimony in support that states: '[s]pecifically, the bill clarifies that income derived from public benefits such as supplemental security income, social security disability insurance, and temporary assistance for needy families must be excluded from consideration when assessing a defendant's ability to pay. For the clients we represent, these benefits are often their sole means of subsistence and are not discretionary funds that can reasonably be used to secure release.'"

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 H.B. No. 1516, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PRETRIAL RELEASE," passed Third Reading by a vote of 42 ayes to 8 noes, with Representative Reyes Oda voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Gedeon, Kila, Matsumoto, Olds, Pierick, and Shimizu voting no.

**H.B. No. 2329, HD 1:**

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, H.B. No. 2329, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN

ACT RELATING TO CONFORMITY TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE," passed Third Reading by a vote of 47 ayes to 3 noes, with Representatives Garcia, Pierick, and Shimizu voting no.

**H.B. No. 2280, HD 1:**

Representative Kahaloa moved that H.B. No. 2280, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"In opposition. Madam Speaker, the Emergency Budget Reserve Fund, also known as the Rainy Day Fund, is intended for true immediate emergencies or clear defined fiscal crisis. This bill asks the Legislature to approve a withdrawal without identifying the amount, the program, or even the emergency it is meant to address, as stated in HRS 328L-3C&D. In fact, the bill explicitly states and I quote, specific conditions necessitating this expenditure are not fully known. That is not emergency budgeting, that's a blank check.

"At the same time, state departments continue to carry a 20% to 30% vacancy rate, burning millions of dollars each year in the budget. Those dollars need to be returned and then reallocated for some of the measures that this bill is intended for. Using the Rainy Day Fund for ongoing and predictable needs, no matter how important, weakens the state's fiscal safeguards and leaves Hawai'i less prepared than when a real quite crisis occurs like we may be seeing in the next few days. For those reasons, I'm in opposition."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support with reservations. And I'd like to adopt the words of the representative from Waianae as my own. And the reservation, again, is to ensure that we have accountability and reporting to the Legislature in accordance with HRS 93-16. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

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

"In support. I just wanted to note that in order to spend out of the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund, you need a bill alive to do so. So should an emergency arise in the near future, we will need this bill to be appropriate for that emergency. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and H.B. No. 2280, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND," passed Third Reading by a vote of 44 ayes to 6 noes, with Representative Shimizu voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Alcos, Garcia, Gedeon, Matsumoto, Muraoka, and Pierick voting no.

**H.B. No. 2547, HD 1:**

On motion by Representative Kahaloa, seconded by Representative Morikawa and carried, H.B. No. 2547, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CORPORATE BONDS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes.

**H.B. No. 2275, HD 1:**

Representative Kahaloa moved that H.B. No. 2275, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support with a reservation. And my reservation is to ensure accountability and reporting to the Legislature in accordance with HRS 93-16. And permission to enter written comments to the Journal."

Representative Shimizu's written remarks are as follows:

"I rise in support with reservations for HB 2275.

"HB 2275 proposes funding adjustments and emergency appropriations for various state programs to address anticipated operating shortfalls that arose after the removal of prior budget proviso authority allowing departments to transfer funds between programs. While the bill seeks to address immediate operational needs, several concerns remain regarding the structure and long-term implications of the approach taken in this measure.

"One concern is that the bill primarily addresses a past budgeting oversight rather than establishing safeguards to prevent similar issues in future budget cycles. While correcting prior omissions may be necessary to ensure that programs continue operating effectively, a more durable solution may involve restoring or clarifying the underlying budget management mechanisms that allowed departments to responsibly adjust funding between programs when circumstances change.

"Another concern relates to transparency. The measure includes numerous line-item adjustments across multiple programs and departments. Although these adjustments are intended to address funding gaps, the volume and scope of these changes can make it difficult for policymakers and the public to clearly track how funds are being reallocated and how program budgets are being modified. Maintaining transparency in appropriations decisions is important to ensure accountability and public confidence in the budgeting process.

"Additionally, the bill does not fully restore the long-term authority for departments to transfer funds between programs that previously existed in earlier budget acts. Without addressing this broader issue, departments may continue to face operational challenges in responding to changing program demands during the fiscal year, which could lead to similar funding adjustment measures in the future.

"For these reasons, I support HB 2275 with reservations. While the bill helps correct a previous budgeting oversight and ensures continued operation of important state programs, further attention may be needed to improve transparency and establish longer-term solutions that provide departments with appropriate flexibility while maintaining legislative oversight."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and H.B. No. 2275, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FUNDING ADJUSTMENTS FOR STATE PROGRAMS," passed Third Reading by a vote of 50 ayes, with Representative Shimizu voting aye with reservations.

**H.B. No. 2306, HD 1:**

Representative Kahaloa moved that H.B. No. 2306, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

Representative Shimizu's written remarks are as follows:

"I rise in opposition to HB 2306.

"HB 2306 proposes changes to Hawai'i's income tax structure by repealing certain future bracket adjustments, increasing tax rates on the highest income tax brackets beginning after December 31, 2026, and expanding the household and dependent care services tax credit while extending the sunset for certain existing tax credit changes.

"While the bill includes provisions intended to provide targeted relief for some households, I rise in opposition because of concerns about the overall direction of the measure and the added complexity it introduces into the tax code.

"One concern is that this bill raises taxes on the highest income brackets. Even when directed at upper-income earners, tax increases should be approached carefully. Hawai'i already has a high cost of living and a challenging tax environment. Increasing rates sends the wrong signal in a state that should be working to improve affordability, encourage economic stability, and retain residents and investment. Tax policy should aim for predictability and restraint, not additional upward pressure on taxpayers.

"Another concern is that the measure makes the tax code more complex by layering in new bracket structures, adjusted thresholds, and revised credit

calculations. The bill also expands and modifies the household and dependent care services tax credit through new income tiers and phase-downs. While these changes may be intended to target benefits more precisely, they also make the overall tax system more difficult for taxpayers to understand and more complicated to administer.

"A tax system that is overly complicated can create confusion for families, increase compliance burdens, and make it harder for taxpayers to plan with confidence. It can also place additional administrative demands on the state. Simpler tax policy is generally more transparent, easier to explain, and easier for the public to navigate.

"For these reasons, I respectfully oppose HB 2306. Although the bill includes some targeted tax credit expansions, it does so while increasing taxes on certain brackets and making the tax code more complicated through added rules and phase-outs."

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

"Madam Speaker, in opposition. In 2024, this legislature passed what was widely described as the largest tax cut in Hawaii's history. Members of this body spoke proudly about it and shared that accomplishment with their constituents as real relief for families struggling with the high cost of living.

"That tax relief was designed to be phased in over several years, so local families would continue to see relief in the years ahead. Now, a short time later, we're being asked to step back from that commitment. Even with the proposed amendments in this version of the bill, we still fall far short of keeping that promise that was made to the people of Hawaii.

"I understand that we may be in a different fiscal environment today than we were in 2024. But before we consider taking back something that was promised to the people, we should first exhaust every option on our end. That means taking a hard look at government spending and making sure we act responsibly with taxpayer money. At this point, I do not believe we have done that. For that reason, Madam Speaker, I am in opposition."

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

"In opposition. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just two sessions ago, like was said, this body stood right here on this floor and celebrated what many called the largest income tax cut in Hawaii state history. Those weren't my words, those were the words of this chamber. Those were words of the Majority Caucus, Madam speaker. Those were the words spoken in opening day speeches, at press conferences, in newsletters sent across the state, on social media, and in news media interviews.

"We told the people two years ago, we heard them. We heard their struggles, we heard their frustration with the cost of living, we heard families saying they were barely hanging on. And so, we said in that tax cut, we're going to give you some relief. We made that promise. But now just two sessions later, Madam Speaker, this bill introduced by Speaker Nakamura, introduced on behalf of the governor's administration, asks us to repeal those very tax cuts.

"As I said on Friday, this bill was a slap in the face to the people of Hawaii. Families across Hawaii were just beginning to feel a small glimpse of that relief this year. Just starting to see a little more breathing room in their paychecks. And now we're telling them, never mind.

"Last week, this body voted to move this bill forward, only eight Republicans and one Democrat voted against this bill, out of 51 elected representatives. Everyone else voted to renege on the promise that we made to the people of Hawaii. For those who need a refresher of what it means to renege, according to the dictionary, it's to break a promise, break a pledge or a formal contract, of backing out last minute. That's what this bill is proposing.

"And what does that message send? It tells the people of Hawaii that when government makes a promise, it might only last until the next budget problem comes along. And without imputing motive, I don't like to break rules unlike some members of our caucus, I just have to point out something that many people outside this building are already noticing. We promised those tax cuts right before the 2024 elections. Most of us here, Madam Speaker, won re-election. And now the proposal is to cancel the very relief that we celebrated just before the 2024 election.

"Now we're told the reason for this and the need for this is because of a projected budget shortfall. We keep hearing, well, it's the federal government, that's the reason why. It's Congress, the Big Beautiful Bill. It's President Donald J. Trump, it's their fault. That's why we must pull back these tax cuts. But have we ever considered another possibility? Maybe the problem is not that taxpayers are keeping too much of their hard-earned money. Maybe, Madam Speaker, the problem is that government has been spending too much of it. Because when local families face a shortfall, they don't get to raise taxes on their neighbors. They don't get to rewrite promises that they already made. They tighten their belts. They cut. They trim. They adjust. They learn to live within their means. But in this building, the first instinct always seems to be the same. Raise taxes, create new taxes, or in this case, cancel promised tax relief. This is unacceptable. And we don't have to follow through with this.

"The truth is, Madam Speaker, we do have options. There is over \$500 million sitting idle in special funds that could be repurposed. We have hundreds of vacant state positions that have gone unfilled for years, positions that add up to roughly \$380 million. We could eliminate special funds flagged by the state auditor, and that would amount to about \$115 million. Now, the governor has already imposed a 10% budget restriction on departments. And if he would just expand that to 14%, just 4% more per department, that could save another \$89 million.

"We could also revert DHRD's budget to its pre-2023 level and that would save \$10 million. We could return our spending in this state to 2019 levels, pre-COVID, and that would save another \$120 million.

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

Representative Garcia continued, stating:

"Thank you. And that's before we even begin to seriously look at the rest of the budget. So, let's be upfront with the people of Hawaii. We do not have to repeal tax relief. We do not have to raise taxes. And we certainly do not have to break our promise to the people of Hawaii.

"What we need to do, Madam Speaker, is start spending wisely. Stop wasting taxpayer dollars. Stop growing government faster than families' paychecks. It takes money out of the pockets of working families and puts it back into the coffers of government, that's what this bill does. So, Madam Speaker, I urge this body to stand up for Hawaii's taxpayers, to stand by the promise that we made, and have the decency to vote no on this bill. The people of Hawaii deserve better than more broken promises. No vote."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In support. And before I begin, I'd just like to remind all of the members that on this floor chamber, we only refer to each other by our titles or by our district.

"Madam Speaker, I'm a little bit surprised to hear some of the comments from our colleagues in the minority when they say that we are not helping struggling families. We are leaving the standard deduction increases intact. We are doubling the child dependent tax care credit for working families. And the reason why we are proposing this measure at this time is so that we can preserve as much of the tax cuts as possible, so we can provide as much tax relief as possible to those families who are actually struggling. Personally, Madam Speaker, I don't think joint filers making \$450,000 a year are struggling. As much as I would like to give them some tax relief, I think it's a bridge too far to describe them as struggling.

"I've also heard some comments about returning to 2019 spending levels. Madam Speaker, we have seen a tremendous amount of inflation over just the last two years. And especially over the last year, as some of the policies from the federal government, whether they be tariffs or invasions, has significantly increased the price of groceries, price of fuel, and the cost of living for normal working-class families.

"Whenever we consider tax policy, I've always felt that it's probably, at the end of the day, the most important thing that we do here in this building. Who do we tax, how much, and what do we spend it on. I think the real slap in the face would be to tell working families that we're cutting essential social services or environmental stewardship in order to preserve tax cuts for people who live in expensive homes and make hundreds of thousands of dollars. Thank you for your attention to this matter."

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

"In strong opposition, and can I have the words from the representative from Kapolei inserted as my own," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"Same request," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"Strong support. May I have the words of the majority leader entered as if they were my own," and the Chair "so ordered." (By reference only.)

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

"Thank you, Speaker. I am in strong support. I appreciate the powerful words of the minority leader. They're indeed good points. But I think our foremost responsibility is to be fiscal stewards. And the world around us changes. Just like when you run a business, there might be times of expansion and times of belt tightening. And when you run a business, you need to be cognizant of those for the operation to continue to move forward.

"And if you think of the state and our fiscal stewardship of the state, it's like that. We need to continue the operation moving forward in serving all of our constituents as we promised to. That requires us to be careful stewards, and that might mean raising taxes, lowering taxes, maintaining them, pausing them, or any combination thereof. So, I think it's important that we remember that powerful responsibility we carry. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in opposition. I'm voting no to this measure simply because we did pass a historic tax cut for the people of the State of Hawaii in 2024, and I am not in support of rescinding the very relief that was promised in Act 46 from 2024, as this bill relates to repealing the future adjustments to the standard deduction, especially. However, I understand the need to take such action and the responsibility we have to ensure fiscal stability in our state right at this moment and how we move forward from here, especially in light of federal funding cuts.

"In testimony from the Office of the Governor to the House Committee on Finance on March 3rd, it states that recent federal government actions have reduced the state's revenue outlook by nearly \$3 billion. The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce stated in their testimony the following. Public revenue funds the infrastructure our communities rely on every day, roads, ports, public safety, workforce support, disaster response, and affordable housing. When large, multi-year tax reductions are locked in without reassessment with the federal funding shifts we've experienced, we will continue to see the risk shifts to future service cuts or sudden budget shortfalls. That instability harms everyone, especially small businesses and working families.

"They go on to state that HB 2306 does not raise taxes, it pauses future automatic reductions and preserves the Legislature's ability to reassess fiscal conditions before additional revenue is reduced. In a period of economic uncertainty and growing public needs, that is responsible governance.

"Perhaps the real issue is that hindsight is 20/20, and maybe we should not have passed such a historic tax relief bill a couple years ago if we could not ultimately carry out the intended future benefits for the people of the state. Regardless, it is easy to be on this side of the aisle and rant and rave about what the Democrats said and did in 2024 and campaigned on and this and that, and broken promises, and then sharing the clip on social media as click bait. However, doing so ignores the broader reality and fails to consider the situation as a whole, both locally and at the federal level.

"Ultimately, we have a responsibility and an obligation to the people we serve to step back, assess the full context, and ensure that the decisions we make are thoughtful, responsible, and in the best interest of our communities, given the present situation and the current fiscal outlook. Again, I'm in opposition. Thank you."

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

"In support. As your chair of Human Services & Homelessness, I am acutely aware of the impact of the federal tax cuts. And this was something that we did not foresee when this tax relief bill was passed years ago. Maybe we should have, but we did not see this coming. The other thing that I did not see coming that I'm very aware of because my district has a large proportion of Native Hawaiian residents and therefore has benefited from many federal programs around DEI, and specifically for Native Hawaiians that have been cut, is also social programs.

"So, we are dealing with real, not imaginary, but real cuts to benefits for our safety net for the Native Hawaiian population, which this body on both sides of the aisle has been very committed to supporting. And that money has to come from somewhere to replace it. And I appreciate the work of our Finance Committee to try to make the best decisions available to us at this time. *Mahalo.*"

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In strong support. One of the things that I've consistently heard since being elected was that you cannot tie the hands of future legislatures. It's important for us to be able to adjust and adapt and respond when crises and problems arise in our community so that we can protect everyone here in our state and the benefit and values that we hold dear here in Hawaii.

"The other thing that I wanted to note, and I went back and looked at the original bill in 2024. I was one of two people that are still sitting in this room today who voted with reservations. And I voted with reservations because, not only was it a historic tax cut, but it was also a major tax cut for wealthy individuals here in our state. And I didn't agree with that.

"So, to me, while Act 46 was historic, this bill, this is the bill we should have passed. This is righting the wrongs that happened. And this is ensuring and fulfilling a promise to working families and to individuals who need support then and now and will still need support in the future. Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. In support. Madam Speaker, just two years ago, this legislature passed the largest income tax cut in Hawaii's history, and we did that to help working families. What I want to say is 70% of those tax cuts are already in effect and nothing in this bill takes that away. But responsible governing also means responding to circumstances that change.

"Right now, the federal government is pushing massive spending cuts onto states through what they're calling the Big Beautiful Bill. When Washington cuts funding for health care, food programs, and other essential services, the costs don't just disappear. They get pushed on to states like ours. Take Waikiki, for example, we have an aging population, and many of them rely on social security and food assistance in order to get by. We can't just let them fall through the cracks because the federal government and this administration has turned their backs on them.

"Some would suggest that we return to pre-pandemic spending levels, but that's not feasible as well due to rising labor costs, inflation, and new costs over the horizon. When our federal government put federal workers out of work, who had to foot the bill? We did. When President Trump shut down our government, who had to foot the bill? We did. So, if we were to go back to 2019 spending levels, we would still be in this situation we are right now, and we will still have to make this kind of tough decision.

"This bill stabilizes our budget and buys us time to reassess. We are choosing stability of our residents over gambling with our state budget. We can continue to support working families while making sure Hawaii has the resources it needs to take care of our communities. For those reasons, I stand in support of this bill. Thank you."

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

"Thank you. I'm in support, Madam Speaker. *Mahalo*, I find that every time I'm here, or every year I'm here, I end up talking less and less on the floor and I promise not to go crazy today. But I figured it was important to explain some of the contents of the bill, the context, where we are in our current session, and most critically, how we got here.

"The House draft does four things. The first is it restructures the child and dependent care tax credit, doubling the size of that credit for working-class families. Second, it extends the sunset for that credit in addition to the State Earned Income Tax Credit and the Food Excise Tax Credit. Together, these measures will provide over \$100 million per year in direct tax relief to our middle class.

"The third major change is it stops further implementation of the Act 46 tax bracket changes, a measure that has already provided and will continue to provide hundreds of millions of dollars in additional tax relief every year for our friends, families, and neighbors. The House draft differs slightly from the administration's original bill in that it imposes a 1% marginal tax increase on high-income earners, starting at \$450,000 a year for joint filers.

"Lastly, and most importantly, this bill would continue the planned increases in the standard deduction, raising it by 50% by its implementation's completion. This means that every taxpayer who claims this deduction will continue to see tax relief unless they are one of the fortunate few who are doing extremely well for themselves. Even then, due to the tax cuts that have already been implemented, a family in our state making \$500,000 a year would still expect to pay over \$8,000 a year less in income taxes, even should this bill pass in its current form. A middle-class family in our state would realize a 50% income tax cut when compared with a couple of years ago.

"So, with all that being said, why are we in this situation in the first place? A lot has been made of our expenses and I think that's fair. There are areas where we can do better, and I'm committed to working on those solutions with the administration and the Senate. And I would expect that at the end of session we'll arrive at something that's a little different.

"But for perspective, in just one calendar year, our state's Council on Revenues has revised down the general fund revenue projection for our state by \$3.5 billion. A \$10 million program or \$100 million here or there or scraping special funds will not fill that hole. A large portion of that figure is a direct result of global uncertainty, declining consumer confidence, and worrying trends in our tourism-based economy. If this sounds overblown, I encourage everyone to watch the Council on Revenues' meetings for themselves and hear our best and brightest justify their modeling.

"This impact to our state budget is substantial but does not capture the full extent of what we are facing. Over this same period of time, we have seen an increase in projected expenses by nearly \$2 billion. While some of this can be explained by routine things like collective bargaining, built into these figures are hundreds of millions of dollars per year in unavoidable costs because our state, like every other state, is being asked to pay a much larger share for vital life-saving programs like SNAP and Medicaid. Together, in just one year, we have seen our budget take a projected hit of over \$5 billion.

"Now, what major change has happened in the last 15 months to cause such a shift in our economy? We're all trying to find the guy who did this. But when our federal government had the option to destabilize the budgets of both blue and red states alike, I guess that was too good of an opportunity to pass up if it also meant giving massive tax cuts to billionaires.

"So now it is left to us to pick up the pieces and find a balance between fiscal responsibility, providing essential services, and figuring out who pays what."

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

Representative Todd continued, stating:

"Unlike our federal government, we cannot print our way out of this while running up record deficits. In fact, in the current year, it's over \$1 trillion projected. Great fiscal responsibility on that one.

"On a positive note, while we've been sitting here, the Council on Revenues has convened to make a slight revision to their projections, which will give us a little more wiggle room come conference time. I think together we can find creative ways to maintain a larger portion of the Act 46 tax cuts for those who need it most. And while this bill will continue to evolve through session, I believe we have found a good balance of continued targeted relief while ensuring that our state budget is sound and our essential services are secure.

"Over the next couple months, we will continue work with the Senate and administration to find additional ways to help working families while identifying some common-sense savings in our budget where possible. Thank you all for your patience and trust. I am confident that when we wrap our session, we will have found a solution that pleases everybody. Well, almost. Thank you."

Representative Garcia rose to respond, stating:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. Second time, still in opposition. I want to respond briefly to some of the arguments that we just heard. Because listening to the debate today, which I appreciate, debate is good, you'd think the sky is falling and the budget is collapsing. And the only thing standing between Hawaii and financial ruin is taking back the tax relief that we promised people two years ago. That's the headline. That's the headline that's being pushed.

"When you actually look at the facts, that storyline starts to crumble pretty quickly. First, we keep hearing that repealing these tax cuts is necessary to protect essential services. That phrase has been repeated quite a bit today. Education is mentioned. Health care is mentioned. Housing is mentioned. And, of course, those things absolutely matter. No one in this chamber is arguing they don't.

"But here's a part that doesn't quite add up. Anytime government wants to spend more money, we're told it's for essential services. But anytime someone suggests that government should tighten its belt, even just a little, suddenly that's portrayed as shutting down the entire state, cutting essential services, cutting health care, cutting education, and cutting safety social nets. That's not budgeting, that's scare tactics, fear tactics.

"It's like a household saying, well, if we can't buy a brand new truck this year, I guess we'll have to cancel our groceries and electricity as well. No, Madam Speaker, you don't cancel groceries, you reconsider buying the truck. Government can spend wisely without cutting essential services. Those things are not mutually exclusive.

"It was mentioned earlier that these are just pauses. And in fact, I heard the governor go on TV and mention, well, we plan to just pause the tax relief. This bill isn't a pause. There's no sunset date to the reverting back to the 2024 tax cuts. There is no pause. It's an absolute repeal. And more people should be ranting and raving, Madam Speaker, on the floor about this. Because this is, as I said, unacceptable.

"Now the second argument we keep hearing is that these tax cuts mostly benefit the wealthy. That one gets repeated so often that people start to assume that it must be true. Except when you actually run the numbers, it's not true, not even close. Let's look at a real example from the 2024 tax cuts."

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

Representative Garcia continued, stating:

"Thank you. A family of four earning \$50,000 a year today would see their state income tax liability go from \$2,205 before the tax cuts to just \$300 by 2031 if we allowed the full implementation. That's an 86% tax reduction, 86%. Madam Speaker, those families aren't rich. Those are the families who are struggling with rent, groceries, gas, and childcare in one of the most expensive states in America.

"Now compare that to a family earning \$500,000 a year, a family of four earning \$500,000 dollars a year. Their tax liability would drop from \$42,770 down to \$30,665. That's only a 28% reduction. So, the lower and middle-income families receive an 86% tax cut while the high-income families receive a 28% tax cut. That's not the rich. And yet we're told this somehow benefits the wealthy. That argument does not survive about 30 seconds, Madam Speaker, with the basic math if you run the numbers.

"In fact, the structure of the tax cuts was designed specifically to deliver the largest relief to the people who needed it the most. That was mentioned two years ago on this floor, that those tax cuts would predominantly benefit the middle- and lower-income families. So, when we hear the claim that this bill is really about helping the rich, that claim must be called out for what it is. Not true.

"And then there's the argument that circumstances have changed, where we're told the fiscal picture is now different. Maybe so. But here's a question that hasn't been answered. When circumstances change for families in Hawaii, do their bills disappear? Does their rent go down? Does their electricity bill get smaller? Does the price of groceries magically fall? No, it doesn't. Families still have to live within their means. They adjust, they prioritize, they make tough decisions. If they can do it, Madam Speaker, then the government of Hawaii should be fully capable of doing the same.

"Instead, the solution being offered today is essentially this, we gave you tax relief two years ago, but now we want your money back. That's a tough message to deliver in a state where people are already leaving because they can't afford to stay. Hawaii doesn't have a revenue problem. The people of this state are already spending billions of dollars to the government every year in taxes. What we have is a prioritization problem. We need to manage the money that we already collect more wisely. The good news is that it can be done without cutting essential services and without breaking the commitment that we made to working families.

"I'll close with this question, Madam Speaker. When government promises tax relief to the people, does that promise actually mean something, or is it just temporary? I believe the people of Hawaii deserve an answer that they can trust. And for that reason, I cast my vote in strong opposition to this massive tax increase. No vote."

Representative Tam rose to respond, stating:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. Still in support. I just want to respond to something that was mentioned, which was that circumstances will always change for family, and that is true. Circumstances have changed for many families across the state and across the nation. They're paying more because of taxes on tariffs. They are paying more gas because of this war in Iran. And now, the federal government is not even giving them any kind of relief. But instead, the now-fired DHS secretary, Kristi Noem, spent \$200 million on an advertisement for all of us.

"So where do these families go when circumstances change for them and they have to tighten their budget? A lot of them end up on programs that we have to support here, like food assistance and housing assistance, and health care. So, we have to foot that bill. We can't let them fall through the cracks. So, I continue to stand in support of this bill. Thank you, Madam Speaker."

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

"*Mahalo*, Madam Speaker. In support. I want to acknowledge that I live in a reality where two things can exist. That to the points made by both members of the majority and minority, two of those things can exist at the same time. But if I can just ground the conversation back into the realities, I think, of the districts we represent.

"In my invocation, I talk about storytelling. If you don't mind I want to tell this story. According census data, the median income household in 96792 is approximately \$87,000. But Madam Speaker, the per capita income is only roughly \$29,000. That means folks living in Maili and Nanakuli, they are making well below our average median here in the State of Hawaii.

"But I also want to add that that household size is super inflated, because Madam Speaker, the average household size in 96792, potentially in the communities of Maile, Nanakuli, and maybe Waianae, Makaha as well, is 3.6 people. But we know that they are not necessarily living in an inflated household because they want to, but they have to. But all of these families are trying to come together to *hui* up their income to just survive here in the State of Hawaii.

"I know to some that the tax cut is being sold as a reversal or not a promise. But I think for me when I'm looking at trying to find a path forward, I want to preserve those tax cuts for the majority of the folks that are living in my community. Madam Speaker, they are your workforce, they are oftentimes the jobs that nobody wants to work because they're super entry level. I don't want to pit it against folks who have more than the have notes. But I think more than anything, I truly believe in a trickle up effect.

"Because if we can put more money in the pockets of our 96792 residents, I know where they're going to spend that money. They're going to have dinner at Hannara's restaurant in Waianae. They're going to go and patron A & G's in Nanakuli. They are going to always keep the money in the areas

and the places that they love and know. So, when we're putting that extra dollar back in their pocket, I know it's a dollar good spent.

"To the point I think that has also been raised in concern, we are consistently trying to respond to the change in economic conditions that have been put upon the state, but I want to acknowledge that we can continue to still find that path forward. The Senate just put out a press release acknowledging that they have passed a version of the tax cut as well, acknowledge that the changing federal climate is playing into this. But I want to just bring it back home.

"When we are putting federal dollars into the federal government or putting our state dollars into our state budget, we are doing the best that we possibly can. So, when we are looking to preserve this tax cut, I am trying to preserve it for the 96792 residents that desperately need it the most. And when we can uplift those residents in the same way, I think the residents in districts across the state share those same stories.

"Your Committee on Transportation has also been very strategic in understanding blanket amendments don't work. We've moved measures out of the committee that specifically help folks who are often left behind, whether it was amending to make sure that the subsidization of vehicle purchases for used electric vehicles or new electric vehicles, they go to medium income orders of only 200% and up to 300%. When there was a bill being considered for us for Keiki Ride Free, I made sure that it targeted the families that desperately need it more than anything. Blanket does not necessarily always translate into the best effect. But when we could do targeted, to support those that often get left behind in our systems, that is the kind of tax cuts and tax relief that matters the most.

"Obviously, we are still going through the process of discussion and debate. And I've welcomed, I think, both sides as it's been raised, and historically I think as well, this has been the longest floor session that I've been in the last four years. But I welcome everyone's input because we are all elected to our individual communities to represent them to the best way as possible. So, with the bill before us and for all that has been shared, that is the reason I'm raising my support today, Madam Speaker. *Mahalo*."

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

"Thank you, Speaker. I know we're going really long, but I feel really passionate about this issue. In support, strong support. And I want to address the comments about broken promises and the implication that we're going back on our word. Because three years ago, we did make a policy choice. But since we made that policy choice, the federal government passed a budget bill that experts are saying is the largest upward transfer of wealth in recent American history in our lifetimes, maybe in American history in general. And there are different estimates, right?

"But an analysis by Hawaii Appleseed says that this year under HR 1, the top 1% of earners can expect an average tax break of \$43,000, and then in addition to that a state tax break of around \$6,000. Meanwhile, the bottom 20% can expect an average of just \$90 from federal tax breaks and just under \$500 for state tax breaks. And on top of that, the federal government is cutting SNAP and Medicaid to pay for those tax breaks for the wealthy. So for me, that's the context that we're having this conversation in.

"And yes, three years ago, we made a certain policy choice. But for me as a newly elected representative of my district, there are much deeper promises that I made to my community, and I'm going to get emotional. Because watching what our communities went through this interim was really painful and alarming for me. But the promises that I hold dearest are keeping our people fed, keeping our people healthy, keeping our *'āima* cared for, keeping our libraries open, and our streets safe, and our teachers paid, and our *keiki* educated, and our families housed. And the thought of not being able to uphold those promises, it's what's really scary to me.

"And as someone who comes from a district with a pretty economically diverse constituency, I go from Kapahulu all the way up to Kahala Beach, I find it kind of disingenuous to say that everyone in our community is struggling in the same way. My constituents in Kahala have their own issues that they face, and those are really important. But in Kapahulu, when I knocked on doors, I met an 80-year-old auntie who's still working at Domino's Pizza, because she was afraid of her rent going up. And I met

another auntie who was caring for her mom who was disabled. And they're both *kūpuna* in my eyes, but she was living without electricity for a year because she fell behind during COVID, she exhausted all of the different kinds of resources that were available to her, and she didn't know how to dig herself out of that hole.

"So, yes. Everyone in Hawaii is facing a certain kind of hardship. But working families are really, really struggling in real ways. And there are people at the very top who are doing relatively well and who are going to receive tax breaks that are equal to, if not more, than what some of our constituents make in a year. So, for those reasons, I'm just so grateful to our Finance chair and our Finance Committee for putting forward a proposal that preserves tax relief for the working people of Hawaii and ensures that those who are doing exceptionally well in this moment pay their fair share. Because that's my favorite thing about Hawaii, that when people are hurting, we take care of them, and when we get a little bit extra, we share it. Thanks."

Representative Todd rose to respond, stating:

"Still in support. Almost convinced, though. I appreciate the minority floor leader's support for the working class. He is right that the Act 46 income tax cuts would have meant an 86% reduction in tax liability for families making \$50,000. And I'm happy to report that the draft before you would have a reduction of 84%. And when factoring in the sunset extensions and restructuring of the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, many would see a savings greater than the 86% provided for in Act 46.

"In my prior comments, I made a critical mistake. When speaking to the merits of this measure, I dramatically and irresponsibly understated the impact of the current administration on our state and our budget. In my initial remarks, I avoided talking about the hundreds of millions of dollars in funding lost for the University of Hawaii, much of that for Native Hawaiian education. I didn't talk about the funding freezes, suspended grant funding, tariffs which change on a whim, low job creation, higher insurance costs, a \$1 trillion cut to Medicaid, and threatening our allies, which has directly impacted their citizens' willingness to travel here or purchase our local goods. I didn't even talk about the price of oil going up 30% this week, and the threats to programming for our *keiki*, which has put very popular programs, like Tūtū and Me, on life support.

"Even now, this barely scratches the surface and fails to capture what we are being asked to deal with. Through our state budget, we are being asked to step into the federal government's obligations and take on their responsibilities, but not being given the appropriate resources to do so.

"When I found time to travel this year to a budget conference this summer to meet with many of my counterparts from both red and blue states, they echoed the following message. The actions of the federal government are a fundamental threat to all state budgets and our ability to provide for our residents. This is a challenge we will rise to, but we shouldn't have any illusions as to why we are being asked to. Thank you."

The motion was put to vote by the Chair and carried, and H.B. No. 2306, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INCOME TAX," passed Third Reading by a vote of 39 ayes to 11 noes, with Representatives Alcos, Amato, Garcia, Gedeon, Kong, Matsumoto, Muraoka, Pierick, Reyes Oda, Shimizu, and Souza voting no.

#### **H.B. No. 2148, HD 1:**

Representative Kahaloa moved that H.B. No. 2148, HD 1 pass Third Reading, seconded by Representative Morikawa.

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

Representative Shimizu's written remarks are as follows:

"I rise in opposition to HB 2148.

"HB 2148 establishes a 3% surcharge on certain unrealized gains when high-value property is transferred as part of an estate and generation-skipping transfer. The measure also lowers the estate tax exclusion amount for many estates that do not include an owner-occupied residence or a bona fide farm.

"While the intent of the bill may be to increase revenue from large estates, there are concerns about the additional tax burden and the changes to the existing estate tax framework.

"One concern is that the bill creates an additional tax on high-value property transfers through the new unrealized gains surcharge. This adds another layer of taxation on top of the existing estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes. Creating new surcharges increases complexity in the tax system and may place additional burdens on families attempting to transfer assets across generations. Tax policy should strive for predictability and simplicity rather than layering new taxes onto an already complex system.

"Another concern is that the bill lowers the estate tax exemption for many estates that do not include an owner-occupied residence or a bona fide farm. This change could subject more estates to taxation than under the current structure. While the measure attempts to preserve certain exemptions for farms and residences, estates that include other types of property may face a lower exemption threshold and therefore a higher tax burden.

"For these reasons, I respectfully oppose HB 2148. The bill creates a new surcharge on certain property transfers and lowers the estate tax exemption for many estates, increasing tax complexity and potentially expanding the number of estates subject to taxation."

Representative Souza 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 H.B. No. 2148, HD 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE ESTATE AND GENERATION-SKIPPING TRANSFER TAX," passed Third Reading by a vote of 40 ayes to 10 noes, with Representative Souza voting aye with reservations, and with Representatives Alcos, Amato, Garcia, Gedeon, Kong, Matsumoto, Muraoka, Pierick, Reyes Oda, and Shimizu voting no.

At 4:31 p.m., the Chair noted that the following bills passed Third Reading:

H.B. No. 1678, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 1679, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2107, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 1548, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 1520, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 1768, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2448, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 1682, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 1667, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 1957, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2413, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2494, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2503, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 1716, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 1516, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2329, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2280, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2547, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2275, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2306, HD 1  
 H.B. No. 2148, HD 1

#### **INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

By unanimous consent, the following resolutions (H.R. Nos. 25 through 30) and concurrent resolutions (H.C.R. Nos. 25 through 30) were referred to Printing and further action was deferred:

H.R. No. 25, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL TO CONVENE AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE FIRES WORKING GROUP," was jointly offered by Representatives Belatti, Amato, Marten, and Takenouchi.

H.R. No. 26, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO STUDENTS ON HOW TO PREREGISTER TO VOTE PRIOR TO REACHING VOTING AGE," was jointly offered by Representatives Reyes Oda, Garcia, Ichiyama, Iwamoto, Muraoka, Pierick, Shimizu, and Templo.

H.R. No. 27, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO ESTABLISH A THREE-YEAR BUSINESS PLAN AND A STRATEGIC VISION FOR THE HAWAII FILM STUDIO," was offered by Representative Gedeon.

H.R. No. 28, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO NOT CHARGE THE STATE RENT FOR THE USE OF THE KALAELOA FILM STUDIO LAND AND FACILITIES AND ENTER INTO A LONG-TERM LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE FOR SUCH USE," was offered by Representative Gedeon.

H.R. No. 29, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE HAWAII HEALTH PLAN WORKING GROUP TO DESIGN AND RECOMMEND A BASIC, AFFORDABLE HAWAII HEALTH PLAN AVAILABLE TO EVERY RESIDENT OF THE STATE," was jointly offered by Representatives Takayama, Amato, Evslin, Iwamoto, Kila, Marten, Olds, Perruso, Poepoe, Takenouchi, and Tam.

H.R. No. 30, entitled: "HOUSE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF REQUIRING WATER SUPPLIERS IN THE STATE TO ADJUST FLUORIDE LEVELS IN THEIR WATER SYSTEMS TO MEET THE OPTIMAL FLUORIDE LEVEL FOR COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION AS ESTABLISHED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES," was jointly offered by Representatives Takayama, Marten, and Perruso.

H.C.R. No. 25, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL TO CONVENE AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE FIRES WORKING GROUP," was jointly offered by Representatives Belatti, Amato, Marten, and Takenouchi.

H.C.R. No. 26, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO STUDENTS ON HOW TO PREREGISTER TO VOTE PRIOR TO REACHING VOTING AGE," was jointly offered by Representatives Reyes Oda, Garcia, Ichiyama, Iwamoto, Muraoka, Pierick, Shimizu, and Templo.

H.C.R. No. 27, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO OFFER A BASIC SWIMMING COURSE IN EITHER PRIMARY OR SECONDARY EDUCATION LEVELS," was jointly offered by Representatives Takayama, Amato, Chun, Garcia, Hussey, Iwamoto, Kila, Marten, Matayoshi, Perruso, Shimizu, Takenouchi, Tam, and Templo.

H.C.R. No. 28, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS BOTH SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF PROPOSED MANDATED HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF AUTISM AND FOR APPLIED BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS SERVICES," was jointly offered by Representatives Takayama, Amato, Garrett, Iwamoto, Kila, Marten, Olds, Perruso, and Shimizu.

H.C.R. No. 29, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE HAWAII HEALTH PLAN WORKING GROUP TO DESIGN AND RECOMMEND A BASIC, AFFORDABLE HAWAII HEALTH PLAN AVAILABLE TO EVERY RESIDENT OF THE STATE," was jointly offered by Representatives Takayama, Amato, Evslin, Iwamoto, Kila, Marten, Olds, Perruso, Poepoe, Takenouchi, and Tam.

H.C.R. No. 30, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF REQUIRING WATER SUPPLIERS IN THE STATE TO ADJUST FLUORIDE LEVELS IN THEIR WATER SYSTEMS TO MEET THE OPTIMAL FLUORIDE LEVEL FOR COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION AS ESTABLISHED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES," was jointly offered by Representatives Takayama, Marten, and Perruso.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Ilagan: "Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just real quick, we have Innovation Day on Thursday. It starts from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please check out the local manufacturers and tech industry. They are organized by the Hawaii Chamber of Commerce and HTDC. Thank you."

Representative Hashem: "Yes, I would like to make an announcement. We have a birthday boy today. It's to our fellow colleague from Kailua, Representative Mike Lee, Happy Birthday."

### COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The following measures were referred to committee by the Speaker:

<u>H.R.</u> <u>Nos.</u>	<u>Referred to:</u>
2	Committee on Education
3	Committee on Public Safety, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
4	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
5	Committee on Health
6	Committee on Human Services & Homelessness, then to the Committee on Economic Development & Technology
7	Committee on Human Services & Homelessness, then to the Committee on Economic Development & Technology
9	Committee on Legislative Management, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
10	Committee on Health, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
12	Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, then to the Committee on Economic Development & Technology
14	Committee on Education, then to the Committee on Finance
15	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Education
17	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
18	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Economic Development & Technology
19	Committee on Health, then to the Committee on Finance
20	Committee on Culture & Arts, then to the Committee on Water & Land
21	Committee on Economic Development & Technology, then to the Committee on Finance
22	Committee on Health, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
23	Committee on Economic Development & Technology, then to the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
24	Committee on Education, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

### H.C.R. Nos.    Referred to:

3            Committee on Education

4	Committee on Public Safety, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs	2060, SD2	Committee on Housing, then to the Committee on Finance
5	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs	2069, SD2	Committee on Housing, then to the Committee on Finance
6	Committee on Health		
7	Committee on Human Services & Homelessness, then to the Committee on Economic Development & Technology	2074, SD1	Committee on Economic Development & Technology, then to the Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Finance
8	Committee on Human Services & Homelessness, then to the Committee on Economic Development & Technology	2075, SD1	Committee on Economic Development & Technology, then to the Committee on Finance
9	Committee on Health, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs	2095, SD1	Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, then to the Committee on Health, then to the Committee on Finance
10	Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, then to the Committee on Economic Development & Technology	2101, SD1	Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, then to the Committee on Finance
11	Committee on Education, then to the Committee on Finance	2110, SD1	Jointly to the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems and the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, then to the Committee on Finance
12	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs		
13	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Education	2115, SD1	Committee on Labor, then to the Committee on Finance
14	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Finance		
15	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs	2125, SD1	Committee on Education, then to the Committee on Labor, then to the Committee on Finance
16	Committee on Health, then to the Committee on Finance	2138	Committee on Public Safety, then to the Committee on Higher Education, then to the Committee on Finance
17	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Economic Development & Technology	2146, SD1	Committee on Transportation, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance
18	Committee on Health, then to the Committee on Finance	2152, SD2	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance
19	Committee on Culture & Arts, then to the Committee on Water & Land	2211, SD2	Committee on Human Services & Homelessness, then to the Committee on Finance
20	Committee on Human Services & Homelessness, then to the Committee on Finance	2245	Committee on Labor, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
21	Committee on Economic Development & Technology, then to the Committee on Finance	2247, SD1	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
22	Committee on Health, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs	2259, SD1	Committee on Economic Development & Technology, then to the Committee on Finance
23	Committee on Health, then to the Committee on Finance	2261, SD1	Committee on Health, then to the Committee on Finance
24	Committee on Economic Development & Technology, then to the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems	2313, SD1	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance
<b><u>S.B.</u></b>			
<b><u>Nos.</u></b>	<b><u>Referred to:</u></b>		
99, SD1	Committee on Labor, then to the Committee on Finance	2315, SD2	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance
585, SD2	Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, then to the Committee on Finance	2319, SD1	Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, then to the Committee on Finance
895, SD1	Committee on Education, then to the Committee on Finance	2320, SD1	Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, then to the Committee on Higher Education, then to the Committee on Finance
896, SD2	Committee on Education, then to the Committee on Labor, then to the Committee on Finance	2339, SD1	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
2004, SD1	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs	2342, SD2	Committee on Housing, then to the Committee on Finance
2005, SD1	Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, then to the Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Finance	2354, SD1	Committee on Economic Development & Technology, then to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, then to the Committee on Finance
2014, SD1	Committee on Labor, then to the Committee on Finance	2356, SD1	Committee on Housing, then to the Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
2041, SD1	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance	2360, SD1	Committee on Economic Development & Technology, then to the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, then to the Committee on Finance
2050, SD1	Committee on Higher Education, then to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce	2362, SD1	Committee on Economic Development & Technology, then to the Committee on Finance
2055, SD1	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance		

2382, SD1	Committee on Labor, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance	2727	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
2433, SD1	Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, then to the Committee on Finance	2756	Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, then to the Committee on Finance
2442, SD1	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance	2798, SD1	Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance
2446, SD2	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance	2800, SD1	Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, then to the Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Finance
2466	Committee on Labor, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs	2802, SD1	Committee on Higher Education, then to the Committee on Finance
2485, SD1	Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, then to the Committee on Finance	2809	Committee on Finance
2487, SD1	Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, then to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce	2861, SD2	Committee on Human Services & Homelessness, then to the Committee on Finance
2494	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs	2876	Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
2499	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs	2877, SD1	Committee on Education, then to the Committee on Finance
2528, SD1	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance	2879	Committee on Labor, then to the Committee on Finance
2532	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance	2908, SD1	Committee on Economic Development & Technology, then to the Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Finance
2544, SD2	Committee on Housing, then to the Committee on Finance	2919, SD1	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance
2545, SD1	Committee on Health, then to the Committee on Public Safety, then to the Committee on Finance	2927, SD1	Committee on Finance
2548, SD1	Committee on Education, then to the Committee on Finance	2928, SD1	Committee on Economic Development & Technology, then to the Committee on Finance
2549, SD1	Committee on Education, then to the Committee on Finance	2929, SD1	Committee on Labor, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
2550, SD1	Committee on Education, then to the Committee on Finance	2934, SD1	Committee on Health, then to the Committee on Finance
2565	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs	2944, SD1	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
2566	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs	2961, SD1	Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, then to the Committee on Finance
2577, SD2	Jointly to the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Economic Development & Technology, then to the Committee on Finance	2969, SD1	Committee on Higher Education, then to the Committee on Finance
2578, SD1	Committee on Economic Development & Technology, then to the Committee on Finance	2987, SD1	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance
2580, SD2	Committee on Economic Development & Technology, then to the Committee on Finance	3002	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, then to the Committee on Finance
2595, SD1	Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, then to the Committee on Finance	3011, SD1	Committee on Housing, then to the Committee on Finance
2598	Committee on Finance	3022, SD1	Committee on Culture & Arts, then to the Committee on Finance
2602, SD1	Committee on Higher Education, then to the Committee on Finance	3029, SD1	Committee on Transportation, then to the Committee on Finance
2603, SD1	Committee on Culture & Arts, then to the Committee on Finance	3047, SD1	Committee on Education, then to the Committee on Finance
2613, SD1	Committee on Education, then to the Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Finance	3048, SD1	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Finance
2657, SD1	Committee on Higher Education, then to the Committee on Health, then to the Committee on Finance	3063, SD1	Committee on Education, then to the Committee on Finance
2673, SD1	Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Finance	3069, SD1	Committee on Labor, then to the Committee on Finance
2687, SD1	Committee on Education, then to the Committee on Finance	3076, SD1	Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance
2706, SD1	Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, then to the Committee on Higher Education, then to the Committee on Finance	3081, SD1	Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, then to the Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Finance

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| 3082,<br>SD1 | Committee on Public Safety, then to the Committee on Labor, then to the Committee on Finance                             | 3320,<br>SD1 | Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, then to the Committee on Economic Development & Technology, then to the Committee on Finance |
| 3090,<br>SD1 | Committee on Labor, then to the Committee on Finance   | 3332,<br>SD1 | Committee on Labor, then to the Committee on Finance  |
| 3095,<br>SD1 | Committee on Labor, then to the Committee on Finance   | 3333,<br>SD1 | Committee on Housing, then to the Committee on Finance  |
| 3096,<br>SD1 | Committee on Labor, then to the Committee on Finance   |              |   |
| 3097,<br>SD1 | Committee on Labor, then to the Committee on Finance   |              |   |
| 3109,<br>SD1 | Committee on Public Safety, then to the Committee on Labor, then to the Committee on Finance                             |              |   |
| 3110,<br>SD1 | Committee on Public Safety, then to the Committee on Labor, then to the Committee on Finance                             |              |   |
| 3123,<br>SD1 | Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  |              |   |
| 3136         | Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs                    |              |   |
| 3137,<br>SD1 | Committee on Health, then to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce   |              |   |
| 3138,<br>SD1 | Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, then to the Committee on Finance   |              |   |
| 3139,<br>SD1 | Committee on Health, then to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce   |              |   |
| 3140         | Committee on Labor, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance              |              |   |
| 3157         | Committee on Transportation, then to the Committee on Finance  |              |   |
| 3180,<br>SD1 | Committee on Labor, then to the Committee on Finance   |              |   |
| 3199,<br>SD1 | Committee on Health, then to the Committee on Finance  |              |   |
| 3201,<br>SD1 | Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Finance  |              |   |
| 3203         | Committee on Health, then to the Committee on Finance  |              |   |
| 3215         | Committee on Transportation, then to the Committee on Labor, then to the Committee on Finance                            |              |   |
| 3229,<br>SD1 | Committee on Higher Education, then to the Committee on Finance  |              |   |
| 3232         | Committee on Education, then to the Committee on Finance   |              |   |
| 3233,<br>SD1 | Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, then to the Committee on Housing, then to the Committee on Finance              |              |   |
| 3238,<br>SD1 | Committee on Higher Education, then to the Committee on Finance  |              |   |
| 3240,<br>SD1 | Committee on Public Safety, then to the Committee on Economic Development & Technology, then to the Committee on Finance |              |   |
| 3245,<br>SD1 | Committee on Human Services & Homelessness, then to the Committee on Finance   |              |   |
| 3247,<br>SD1 | Committee on Water & Land, then to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, then to the Committee on Finance       |              |   |
| 3264,<br>SD1 | Committee on Labor, then to the Committee on Finance   |              |   |
| 3279,<br>SD1 | Committee on Education, then to the Committee on Finance   |              |   |
| 3286,<br>SD1 | Committee on Higher Education, then to the Committee on Finance  |              |   |
| 3302,<br>SD1 | Committee on Health, then to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce   |              |   |

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 4:32 p.m., on motion by Representative Morikawa, seconded by Representative Garcia and carried, the House of Representatives adjourned until noon Thursday, March 12, 2026.