

THE
NINTH LEGISLATURE
STATE OF HAWAII
REGULAR SESSION OF 1978
JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

FIRST DAY

Wednesday, January 18, 1978

In accordance with the provisions of Section 11 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, the Senate of the Ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 1978, was called to order at 10:00 o'clock a.m., Wednesday, January 18, 1978, by the Honorable John T. Ushijima, President of the Senate.

At this time, the President appointed Senators Ching, Taira and Yee to escort Reverend Leon Sterling to the dais for invocation.

The Committee of three escorted Reverend Sterling to the dais and was discharged with thanks.

The Divine Blessing was then invoked by Reverend Sterling.

The Roll was then called showing all Senators present.

The President then addressed the members of the Senate and guests as follows:

"Mr. Governor, Lt. Governor, Fellow Senators, Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Upon assuming the Presidency of this body three sessions ago, I asked that we join together in setting the theme of the Senate in effectiveness, efficiency, responsibility, and responsiveness.

I suggest that these watchwords are even more important in our deliberations this year.

We are all aware that a constitutional convention will be held later this year to review the fundamental law of our State. The imminence of this event should not deter us from fulfilling our own obligations in this forum. On the contrary, it adds impetus to our responsibility to effectively and efficiently determine sound public

policy in the many legislative issues before us.

There is much work at hand for all of us.

The recessionary trend of previous years appears to have been curbed. Yet, our economy remains uneasy, and the related problem of unemployment persists at levels that concern us all. These matters merit our full attention and our most imaginative thinking so that meaningful corrective programs can be drafted through our collective efforts.

The majority program we have assembled during the interim months again focuses sharply on our economic needs. Certainly, every indicator we have seen points up the public's desires for more job opportunities and for fresh economic initiatives.

Nationally, President Carter has given highest priority to the energy program he has submitted to Congress.

We believe that the energy issue is even more critical to Hawaii, isolated as we are in the middle of the Pacific. Our almost total dependence on imported foreign oil for our energy requirements is a matter of urgent concern to us all. Our vulnerability on this score was indelibly impressed upon our motorists during the gas shortage four years ago.

Whether the Federal government will approve strategic oil reserves in Hawaii is still uncertain. We cannot risk exposing our State's productive capacity to the mercy of oil suppliers. It is imperative that we take the necessary initiatives today to protect ourselves from having our economy brought to a standstill by forces over which we have little or no control.

We are indeed pleased and we welcome the Administration's proposals to accelerate development of alternative energy sources for Hawaii. A comprehensive

energy program is certainly one of the most important issues for us to face in these times. An important consideration in encouraging energy conservation is to focus on and promote such practices at the home consumption level.

We have already enacted tax incentives to inspire wider consumer acceptance of solar heating devices and other systems that do not rely on conventional energy sources.

We propose even more liberal tax credits to make alternative systems more attractive and to give consumers a cost-effective return on their investment over a shorter run.

To generate broader public awareness of the economic importance of energy self-sufficiency, we propose development of an extension service system and a 'Hawaii Solar Center' to assist our citizens in taking greater advantage of the natural energy resources so readily available in our Islands.

Because we consider the energy program so vital to Hawaii's future, Senator Yim's Committee on Energy and Natural Resources plans to move expeditiously on the package of legislation that will be referred to his committee. I suggest that all of us put our best thoughts into this program so that we can come up with the most effective legislation we can conceive to protect Hawaii against economic catastrophe.

A second major component of our majority program focuses on aquaculture development, which has been a priority element in our past sessions.

Many of us have long recognized the great potential that lies in aquaculture. Properly stimulated and developed, countless new jobs can be created through this program. As with alternative energy systems, Hawaii is ideally suited for fishfarms and other aqua-businesses.

We have made substantial progress in research and planning and in putting this budding industry on an equal footing with agriculture in terms of taxation, permit requirements, and loan assistance. Nevertheless, the industry remains largely in its infancy.

One problem identified is the diffusion of aquaculture programs among several State agencies. The consequence has been an apparent lack of coordination.

To resolve this difficulty, we propose designating the Department of Agriculture as the lead State agency in all aquaculture activities. We also believe it timely to establish an Aquaculture Information Center as the clearinghouse for the prospective fishfarmer to contact for permit requirements, market analyses, and current research findings.

Because of the many permits required to start an aquaculture business, we also propose a single, master permit system to consolidate all requirements and thus shorten the time between conception and construction of a fishfarm.

If we mean to become more self-sufficient, to strengthen our export capacity, and to create the new jobs our people need and want, we must be bold and willing to take some risks in making aquaculture a viable industry here.

To be sure, there will be many other subjects that will require our earnest attention in the days and weeks ahead. We share, of course, the public's concern over crimes of violence and organized criminal activity, as was brought out in the State Crime Commission's recent public opinion survey. We recognize that such concerns often stem from a sense of frustration over the difficult course of extracting justice from arrest to conviction to incarceration. If the public perception is correct, then the anxieties of the man-on-the-street should be eased. For our part, we are prepared to work for a greater degree of effectiveness in controlling crime with those law enforcement agencies that are directly involved and responsible for bringing criminals to justice.

We also acknowledge our concern over the urban design of our capital city. The progress of the Kakaako Redevelopment Project approved two sessions ago holds our continued interest, and we look forward to a report providing us a timetable on this ambitious State-city program.

In a related activity, the two-day seminar scheduled for later this month is intended to provide us with a comprehensive briefing on mass transit so that any decision we may be required to make on this issue can be arrived at with the best current information available.

In all our deliberations, we must be alert and sensitive to the total spectrum of opinions and views presented to us. We open this session in a spirit of cooperation -- with our counterparts in the House, with the Administration, with the county governments, and with

the various publics that appear before our committees. As always, we seek reasonable accommodation of all views in the interest of unity and harmony.

Finally, I suggest we turn our thoughts to another special significance of this date. Today, we also observe the bicentennial anniversary of Captain Cook's arrival in Hawaii.

We may differ on the value of this occasion, but I think we can all appreciate and respect the spirit of adventure and the human desire to extend man's understanding of this earth that certainly must have inspired Cook and others who dared explore unknown fields.

As chosen representatives of our people, it is fitting that we reflect upon those virtues possessed by all great leaders of the past. They accepted their responsibility to make decisions, however difficult, when the time for decisions arrived.

Mindful of the unity that has bound us together in past sessions, I am confident that the members of this body are prepared to accept the task at hand with a sense of genuine purpose and commitment to the common good.

Thank you very much."

Senator Yee then spoke as follows:

"Mr. President and fellow members of the Senate:

This is a time for optimism and cooperation. As Senate Republican leader, I will not depart from that theme at this time.

First, Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to thank you, as President of the Senate, for your fair and objective personal leadership over the past three years.

I also want to express my personal appreciation to other majority committee chairmen, who, in contrast to some in the past, have followed your leadership in treating Republican bills and resolutions very fairly.

Last year, for example, we had nearly twenty of our measures become law because they were evaluated on their merits instead of partisan considerations. I am confident that this same form of enlightened leadership and fairness will be demonstrated in the Senate again.

Mr. President, the Republican members

of this body share your concern of energy and the development of aquaculture. It grieves us to see the large percentage of unemployment, the increase in crime, and the lack of finances to meet our obligations. We are also deeply concerned about our education system, the high cost of housing and welfare and the need to protect our environment.

We pledge to work with you and your colleagues in this body to alleviate these persistent problems and help make a better Hawaii for our children and their families.

Equally as important is our concern to help improve the image of our State Legislature. As most of us are aware, the image of elected officials throughout the United States is not at its highest esteem. The confidence and faith of the people in their elected representative district are at a seriously low level. Ironically, part of this lack of confidence can be attributed to certain elected officials who use other elected officials as scapegoats or whipping boys, without realizing they are hurting so many of us in public office.

My pledge is that the Republicans plan to do all it can to restore the integrity and confidence and work under your leadership, so that we will have a very profitable and meaningful session this year.

Thank you, Mr. President."

At 10:30 o'clock a.m., the Senate stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The Senate reconvened at 10:45 o'clock a.m.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

A concurrent resolution (S.C.R. No. 1), entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING GEORGE CHAPLIN ON HIS SELECTION AS 1977 HAWAII SALESMAN OF THE YEAR", was jointly offered by Senators Ushijima, Anderson, Ching, Chong, George, Hara, Henderson, Hulten, Kawasaki, King, Kuroda, Leopold, Nishimura, O'Connor, Saiki, Soares, Taira, Takitani, Toyofuku, F. Wong, R. Wong, Yamasaki, Yee, Yim and Young and was read by the Clerk.

On motion by Senator Ching, seconded by Senator Anderson and carried, S.C.R. No. 1 was adopted.

The President then introduced to the members of the Senate Mr. George Chaplin, the honoree of the resolution just adopted.

SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions (S.R. Nos. 1 and 2) were read by the Clerk and were disposed of as follows:

A resolution (S.R. No. 1), entitled: "SENATE RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE LATE UNITED STATES SENATOR HUBERT HORATIO HUMPHREY AND EXTENDING CONDOLENCES AND DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY", was jointly offered by Senators Kawasaki, Anderson, Ching, Chong, George, Hara, Henderson, Hulten, King, Kuroda, Leopold, Nishimura, O'Connor, Saiki, Soares, Taira, Takitani, Toyofuku, Ushijima, F. Wong, R. Wong, Yamasaki, Yee, Yim and Young.

On motion by Senator Kawasaki, seconded by Senator Yee and carried, S.R. No. 1 was adopted.

A resolution (S.R. No. 2), entitled: "SENATE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING GEORGE CHAPLIN ON HIS SELECTION AS 1977 HAWAII SALESMAN OF THE YEAR", was jointly offered by Senators Ushijima, Anderson, Ching, Chong,

George, Hara, Henderson, Hulten, Kawasaki, King, Kuroda, Leopold, Nishimura, O'Connor, Saiki, Soares, Taira, Takitani, Toyofuku, F. Wong, R. Wong, Yamasaki, Yee, Yim and Young.

On motion by Senator Ching, seconded by Senator Anderson and carried, S.R. No. 2 was adopted.

At 10:50 o'clock a.m., the Senate stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The Senate reconvened at 11:08 o'clock a.m.

The President then extended thanks and appreciation to Eddie Kamae, the Sons of Hawaii and their group and to Nina Kealiwahamana for their performances this morning.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:10 o'clock a.m., on motion by Senator Taira, seconded by Senator Anderson and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 o'clock a.m., Thursday, January 19, 1978.