

THE
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STATE OF HAWAII
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FIRST DAY

Wednesday, January 15, 1986

In accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, the Senate of the Thirteenth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 1986, was called to order at 10:00 o'clock a.m., with the Honorable Richard S.H. Wong, President of the Senate.

At this time, the members of the Senate, their guests, and the audience rose to sing the National Anthem followed by the state song — "Hawaii Pono!" — led by Mr. Al Harrington, Mr. Clayton Naluai and Mr. Al Naluai.

The President then appointed Senators Hagino, McMurdo and George to escort the Reverend John B. Connell of St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church, Ewa Beach, to the rostrum for the invocation.

The Committee of Senators escorted Reverend Connell to the rostrum and was discharged with thanks.

The Divine Blessing was then invoked by the Reverend John B. Connell.

The Roll was then called showing all Senators present.

The President, at this time, made the following remarks:

"Members of the Senate, ladies and gentlemen, before proceeding with the opening day remarks by the Chair, with your indulgence, I would like to take one or two minutes of your time.

"This past July a great supporter of mine, my mom, passed on. In our discussions prior to her death, one of the things she said was: 'Son, when it comes to (opening day) 1986, would you do me the honor of introducing the parents of the Senators who are present in the body.' I would now like to take the opportunity to honor those parents who are here today. For those that were not able to be here, I extend my love and Aloha."

The following parents were introduced and presented with leis: Mrs. Vera Abercrombie, mother of Senator Neil Abercrombie; Mr. Bobby Hoo Kin Chang and

Mrs. Ethel Chang, parents of Senator Anthony Chang; Mr. Billy Fernandes and Mrs. Evelyn Fernandes, parents of Senator Lehua Fernandes Salling; Mr. Masao Hagino and Mrs. Lynnette Hagino, parents of Senator Gerald Hagino; Mr. Charlie Holt and Mrs. Kalei Holt, parents of Senator Milton Holt; Mr. Goichi Kobayashi and Mrs. Yaeko Kobayashi, parents of Senator Bertrand Kobayashi; Mrs. Alice Soares, mother of Senator Buddy Soares; Mr. Randy Solomon and Mrs. Flora Solomon, parents of Senator Malama Solomon; and Mrs. Lee Ann Cobb, step-mother of Senator Steve Cobb.

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

"Governor Ariyoshi, Lieutenant Governor Waihee, Congressmen Akaka and Heftel, Mayors Carpenter, Fasi and Tavares, distinguished guests, fellow Senators, ladies and gentlemen — I wish you all good morning and Aloha.

"Today marks the opening of another legislative session. It is a day of festivities. It is a time of high hopes and expectations. Among the members of the Senate, I feel a mood of eagerness to move forward and face the challenges awaiting us.

"I am greatly encouraged by this spirit and I look forward to a creative and productive session.

"As President of the Senate, I am afforded this opportunity to make a few remarks about the major issues which will be before us this legislative session.

"This time I want to depart a bit from the usual routine. We all know what the major issues are — workers' compensation, land and water use, tort reform, education, health care, crime and so on. Legislation covering these issues will be taken up over the next several weeks. We will have to face these issues, hopefully in a creative, fair and compassionate manner.

"Today, instead of reciting a litany of issues, I want to take this opportunity to share with you a dream that I have, a dream for Hawaii's future.

"Many years ago, a small frail man in India said, 'I have a dream!' The dream was India's independence and that dream united millions of Indians against the British Empire. That dream became a reality. His name was Mahatma Gandhi.

"A few years later, another man said, 'I have a dream!' His dream was to instill self-respect, self-confidence and equal opportunity to what was then a downtrodden black American minority race. His dream is now becoming a reality. His name was Martin Luther King Jr.

"My dream is perhaps not as noble or elevated as Gandhi's or King's. My dream is not even original with me. My dream is one that has been expressed by many people before me. Prominent among those have been Governor George Ariyoshi and Victor Li of the East-West Center, among many others.

"I confess, in the past, when these people were expressing this dream, I did not fully recognize or share it.

"It was only in recent months that I recognized the wisdom and the promise of their dream.

"What is this dream?

"It is the dream of the future. The dream of the great growth and promise of the Pacific Region. The dream of Hawaii's role in the Pacific Region's future.

"Briefly, let's look at the big picture.

"We sit in the middle of an area called the Pacific Region. It stretches from Alaska to Australia, from California to China. This vast ocean area has the resource potential to meet the world's need for water, food, energy and minerals for centuries to come. The center of the world's focus on international trade has shifted from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Everybody knows of the phenomenal economic growth of Japan — now closely followed by the so-called 'Little Dragons' — South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore. More recently, other Asian nations such as Indonesia and Malaysia are also emerging as developing economic powers.

"China — with its one billion population and great quantities of natural resources — is widely considered as the next emerging economic superpower.

"Dramatic changes are occurring in our sister island groups throughout the Pacific. Our Micronesian neighbors are moving into a new free association relationship with the United States. The new independent nations of the South Pacific are experiencing great cultural, social and economic change.

"In terms of world trade, in terms of potential for growth, in terms of natural resources, in terms of market potential — the Pacific Region is where it's at.

"Going from the big picture, let's focus in on Hawaii and take a look at the small picture. Where do we fit in? How do we go about playing a significant role in this vast area of resources, this Pacific Region? How can we be a catalyst for a peaceful reaction that will mold the future of mankind?

"That is my dream.

"Many of you may think this dream is unrealistic. That it is too big, too ambitious.

"I respectfully disagree.

"I think the dream of Hawaii in a leadership role in the Pacific Region is an attainable goal. But, to make the dream come true will take our dedication, our commitment, our perseverance.

"We have some advantages that we have to build upon.

"Hawaii — with our mid-Pacific location, our historic and cultural ties to Asia and to the other Pacific Islands — is in a very advantageous position to be on the leading edge of the great changes which will be taking place here in the Pacific Region. But we need to actively work at maximizing our advantages.

"Therefore, I would like to propose for consideration by the Legislature the following courses of action:

- We need to position ourselves as an international financial and banking center. As examples, I see a potential in off-shore banking and in the so-called 'captive' insurance activities. Other states — such as California — are actively promoting themselves. We should do so also.
- We need to promote Hawaii as a regional corporate headquarters, both for American companies doing business in Asia and the Pacific and for companies from Asia and the Pacific doing business in the United States. This is one of the underlying concepts behind the proposed Aloha Tower World Trade Center which, hopefully, is moving forward.
- We need to promote Hawaii as a sort of midway center for East-West business meetings, a place where deals are negotiated and settled. We know Hawaii is an attractive tourist site; we need to make it more of an attractive business meeting site. To achieve this, we must strengthen our

telecommunications capabilities, our translating capabilities, and other aspects of our infrastructure.

- We need to seek ways to actively export our business and technical expertise to the emerging nations of Asia and the Pacific Islands. We have a large pool of know-how and expertise that can be made available. I don't think we fully recognize the fact that there are quite a number of internationally-recognized authorities here in Hawaii. We can become international consultants in many different areas — tourism, tropical agriculture, geothermal and ocean thermal energy, water desalinization, and so on.
- We need to do more to help small and medium size businesses take advantage of the opportunities available in international trade. We can't sit back and expect the world to come to us — we have to go out into the world and hustle. Our efforts in this area ties in with the overall interest the Legislature has in helping small and medium size businesses.
- We need to develop our potential in fisheries, aquaculture, ocean and marine resources, and other related fields. We are on the leading edge in many of these areas and we need to capitalize more on our strengths. I am greatly encouraged by recent developments in abalone, shrimp, oyster and spirulina growing technology; and I would like to see more legislative support in this area. The ocean is our hope for feeding the growing population of the world. It is the hope of nations like India, where the net population increase is more than 1,250,000 persons every month.
- We need to strengthen our education system — to make our young people more internationally minded, to make them familiar with the history, culture and languages of our Pacific neighbors. Our efforts have been lacking. For example, Australia — with a population of 15 million — has more people studying the Japanese language than the entire United States. I am encouraged by the recent remarks made by the superintendent of education for strengthening internationally oriented education in our schools; his efforts deserve to be encouraged. Also, I am pleased to note new degree programs at the University of Hawaii such as the International Studies Program which will prepare students for careers in Pacific rim countries and Asia. The Legislature should encourage these

developments in our educational system. Our kids have the ability and the talent — I want to be sure that they are ready to take advantage of all the future opportunities that are unfolding.

"This is an important point that bears repeating. I want our people to be prepared to take an active role in the Pacific Region. They are one of the greatest resources that we have in Hawaii, a resource nobody else has. Hawaii's people — raised in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic society, nurtured in the Aloha spirit of sharing, trusting and loving — are the best diplomats, best loved people in the world.

"Go anywhere in the world and you will see this is true. Whether you're in Newport or New York or New Delhi, when people learn you're from Hawaii, they tend to be friendlier. They want to share — if only vicariously — our Aloha spirit.

"My dream is for us to communicate with the rest of the Pacific Region our Aloha spirit, our goal of peace and progress through the sharing of our technology and expertise, our export products, our beautiful Islands.

"It is a goal worth seeking, a dream worth dreaming.

"Eighty-five years ago, John Hay, the American secretary of state, remarked: 'The Mediterranean is the ocean of the past, the Atlantic the ocean of the present, the Pacific the ocean of the future.'

"The future is now. Since 1900, America's population and trade has shifted from the eastern part of the country towards the west. Our nation is part of a Pacific Ocean community that includes 43% of the world's people with a \$3 trillion market growing at the rate of \$3 billion a week.

"Hawaii is right in the center of all this.

"This is where the action is.

"The dynamics, the potential of it all is fantastic.

"I'm very excited about the prospects and I want to be sure that Hawaii is in the forefront of the new developments which will be coming. I don't want us to be left behind.

"The opportunity is there.

"The dream is there.

"The whole idea behind this dream is the fostering of peace throughout the Pacific Region and throughout the world through

sharing, understanding, trusting, helping and loving. This is a dream worth living and striving for.

"I want this dream to become a part of you — to have it challenge, excite and motivate you.

"I look forward to the day when — hopefully — the dream becomes a reality — when we will be able to see the reality with our eyes and feel the satisfaction of knowing the dream has been fulfilled.

"Mahalo!"

Senator Richard Henderson, minority leader of the Senate Republicans, then responded with the following remarks:

"Governor Ariyoshi, Mr. President, colleagues, friends and guests.

"We Republicans believe that there are a number of crucial matters of profound public concern which we must address over the next 60 days of this session.

"And these issues are not labeled Republican or Democrat ... they are matters of concern to all of us

"And that's how we Republicans intend to approach all matters that come before us this session. Mr. President, we intend to work with you and the Majority, on a bi-partisan basis, so that the people of Hawaii can be assured that the Senate intends to make substantial progress on the wide range of problems facing us.

"We believe that we must continue the work begun last session in taking steps to eliminate the widespread perception that a poor business climate exists in this state. We need to adopt reform to workers' comp, unemployment insurance, our tax laws, and other measures that, by their very adoption will change the perception of our negative business climate.

"We must also come to grips with the problem of liability insurance ... its cost and availability which has adversely impacted ... not only our business community, but individuals, and the state and county governments as well.

"We are of the conviction that the highest priority must be given to the raising of the level of support of our public educational institutions in order to reverse a disturbing decline in the real resources made available to the Board of Education and the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, in recent years.

"We need to, once and for all, resolve the matter of a hotel room tax, a proposal we Republicans believe needs approval with

appropriate conditions regarding the use of the funds produced by this levy.

"These are but a few matters we must act on this session. There are many more.

"I want to assure you, Mr. President, and all my colleagues in this chamber that we Republicans are fully prepared to roll up our sleeves and work with you to take care of the many pressing matters we will face in carrying out the people's business this session.

"Thank you very much."

The Chair then introduced the following and remarked:

"At this time, ladies and gentlemen, they don't expect it but I would like to recognize some close friends of mine who have been with me for many years. I appreciate their coming to share their talents with us and would like to introduce them — Al Harrington, Clay and Al Naluai, and Zoulou.

"And before we let the entertainment roll, I would like to express special thanks to a longtime friend of mine, Mr. Larry Mehau."

At 10:34 o'clock a.m., the Senate stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The Senate reconvened at 12:00 o'clock noon.

HOUSE COMMUNICATION

Hse. Com. No. 1, transmitting House Concurrent Resolution No. 1, which was adopted by the House of Representatives on January 15, 1986, was read by the Clerk and was placed on file.

On motion by Senator Cobb, seconded by Senator Soares and carried, H.C.R. No. 1, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO ADDRESS THE LEGISLATURE ASSEMBLED IN JOINT SESSION," was adopted.

The President extended appreciation and thanks to the Opening Day entertainers: Al Harrington, Clay and Al Naluai, Zoulou, Jay Larrin, Ikona — Ledward Kaapane, Alike Odom and Ryan Pang — Bla Pahinui, Dennis Pavao, Bernard Kalua, Gary Shimabukuro and accompanists.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:04 o'clock p.m., on motion by Senator Cobb, seconded by Senator Soares and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 o'clock a.m., Thursday, January 16, 1986, in memory of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.