

THE
FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE
STATE OF HAWAII
REGULAR SESSION OF 1988
JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

FIRST DAY

Wednesday, January 20, 1988

In accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, the Senate of the Fourteenth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 1988, 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, guests, and the audience rose to sing the National Anthem and "Hawaii Pono" led by Messrs. Clayton and Alan Naluai.

The President then appointed Senators Cobb, Holt and Ikeda to escort Kahu David Twigg of Kaumakapili Church, Honolulu, to the dais for the invocation.

The Committee of Senators escorted Kahu Twigg to the dais and was discharged with thanks.

The Divine Blessing was then invoked by Kahu David Twigg.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The following messages from the Governor (Gov. Msg. Nos. 1 and 2) were read by the Clerk and were disposed of as follows:

Gov. Msg. No. 1, informing the Senate that he appointed Eloise Y. Tungpalan to the Senate, effective December 17, 1987, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Joseph Kuroda from the State Senate, 22nd Senatorial District, and pursuant to Section 17-3(1), HRS, Ms. Tungpalan's term will expire on General Election Day of 1988, was referred to the Committee on Credentials.

Gov. Msg. No. 2, informing the Senate that he appointed Robert N. Herkes to the Senate, effective December 15, 1987, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Richard Henderson from the State Senate, 1st Senatorial District, and pursuant to Section 17-3, HRS, Mr. Herkes' term will expire on General Election Day of 1988, was referred to the Committee on Credentials.

Senator Hagino then moved that a Committee of three be appointed by the Chair as a Committee on Credentials to examine the Letters of Appointment of the Honorable Eloise Y. Tungpalan and the Honorable Robert N. Herkes and to submit a report of its findings to the Senate, seconded by Senator George.

The motion was put by the Chair and carried, and Senators Young, Hee and A. Kobayashi were thereupon appointed by the Chair to serve on the Committee on Credentials.

At 10:13 o'clock a.m., the Senate stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The Senate reconvened at 10:15 o'clock a.m.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Senator Young, for the Committee on Credentials, presented a report (Spec. Com. Rep. No. 1) which was read by the Clerk as follows:

"The Honorable Richard S.H. Wong
President of the Senate
The Fourteenth State Legislature
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Wong:

Your Committee on Credentials begs leave to report that it has examined the Letters of Appointment of the Honorable Eloise Y. Tungpalan and the Honorable Robert N. Herkes and finds that they are qualified to fill the respective vacancies in the Senate created by the resignations of Senators Joseph Kuroda and Richard Henderson for the Fourteenth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 1988.

Respectfully submitted,

Patsy K. Young
Clayton H.W. Hee
Ann Kobayashi"

Senator Young then moved that Special Committee Report No. 1 be adopted, seconded by Senator Hee and carried.

The Committee was thereupon discharged with thanks.

The Chair, at this time, appointed Senators McMurdo, Yamasaki and Reed to escort Chief Justice Herman Lum of the Hawaii Supreme Court to the dais to administer the oath of office to the newly appointed members of the Senate.

The Senators escorted Chief Justice Lum to the dais and were thereupon discharged with thanks.

Chief Justice Lum then administered the oath of office to the newly appointed members of the Senate, the Honorable Eloise Y. Tungpalan and the Honorable Robert N. Herkes.

The Roll was then called showing all Senators present.

The Chair, at this time, introduced to the members of the Senate and guests his grandchildren, Joseph and Barrett Moiho and Amber Wong.

The President then delivered his Opening Day remarks, as follows:

"Governor Waihee, Lt. Governor Cayetano, former Governor and Mrs. Ariyoshi, Chief Justice Lum, distinguished guests, members of the Senate, ladies and gentlemen -- good morning and Aloha to you all.

"I would like to begin by expressing special greetings to the two newest members of this Honorable Body -- Senator Eloise Yamashita Tungpalan and Senator Robert Herkes. Welcome, Senators. I look forward to working with you in the days and weeks ahead.

"Seven-hundred twenty-three days ago, a young astronaut from the coffee fields of Kona taught us the meaning of courage when he rode on the wings of his dream in search of a new frontier.

"Like Ellison Onizuka, our children radiate a courageous, restless spirit of discovery. They possess bold and lofty dreams. They dream of becoming doctors, business leaders, and movie stars.

"They dream of Hawaii without heart disease, AIDS and cancer.

"They dream of world peace, universal sharing and travel into the far reaches of outer space.

"They dream of owning their own homes and raising their families -- all right here in Hawaii.

"I have learned a lot by listening to the 'heartbeats' of our future generation. They may be young and innocent, but their sincere voices clearly spell out the kind of Hawaii they want -- for today and tomorrow. They are counting on us to assure their future -- by guiding the direction that Hawaii is taking now.

"If we care for their future, we will create ladders of opportunity so all our people can climb up to better quality jobs and lives.

"If we care, we will heal the wounded learners of today and nurture the gifted, the talented and the unmotivated.

"If we care, we will provide shelter for all of our people.

"I will not try to present a comprehensive list of issues at this time for your consideration. Instead, I would like to share with you a few general themes that seem relevant today -- themes that I hope we will bear in mind during the course of the 1988 legislative session.

"First is economic growth.

"We are facing a sea of dynamic changes and we must adapt our economic base and diversify our whole economy if we are to create quality jobs and preserve the quality of life here in Hawaii Nei.

"Let's think big and proceed with the convention center and the spaceport, as well as a world-class waterfront in Honolulu.

"Let's dream big and see if we should create an international 'think tank' institute. Let's promote Hawaii as a people resource -- in terms of expertise, knowledge and skills -- for the whole Pacific and Asian region. Let's maximize Hawaii's role as a crossroads between East and West. Let's help small business to grow and encourage entrepreneurship -- these are the backbone of our economy.

"Let's move ahead in the areas where Hawaii has an advantage -- in ocean resources, in selected areas such as

tropical agriculture, astronomy, aquaculture and alternate energy.

"My second general theme for your consideration is education.

"We need to not only create a strong environment for business and new job opportunities but we must help prepare our children to be full participants in the kind of socio-economic environment we hope to create. We are committed to helping our future workers get quality jobs here, develop their businesses here and raise their families here. Our children are our greatest resource -- let us invest in their future.

"Education, however, is not only to prepare our young people for making a living -- it is to prepare them for life.

"An educated citizenry is the very foundation of our democratic system of government. I want a solid education for our children. I want them to have the knowledge and the critical thinking skills that will serve them well in their future years. Educational reform and improvement, strengthening the school program and curriculum should be high on our list of priorities.

"Senators, we have 30 gymnasiums in our schools but no imaginariums. To allow the imaginative and creative minds of our youth to grow and prosper, I would like to see every school designate a place called the imaginarium where creative works can be regularly displayed.

"The third theme I'd like to mention concerns housing.

"A measure of Hawaii's greatness as a society is how well we provide for one of the people's basic and elemental needs -- shelter.

"Join me in developing affordable housing that will be within reach of more of Hawaii's hardworking families.

"Join me in increasing the inventory of available rental units to relieve the critical shortage we face.

"Join me in meeting the housing needs of our elderly and our homeless.

"I believe the legislature is ready to move forward on housing. Hopefully, the administration is prepared also. Governor, we look to you for leadership. Join with us so we can all proceed together.

"Senators, we have a full agenda before us as we begin the work of the 1988 session. In addition to the general themes I've just mentioned, we will have to deal with a number of specific issues -- the 'right to know' versus the 'right to privacy' insofar as government records are concerned. Addressing the problems of crime, dealing with the issue of tort reform. Statewide transportation concerns, including mass transit, will require our attention. Last year, we created two state departments -- Corrections and Human Services -- and a new Office of State Planning. Now, we need to assess how well this reorganization is doing.

"I'd like to say that we are at a major crossroad in the history of Hawaii. Do we continue 'life as usual' or boldly pursue the dreams of greater opportunities?

"Senators, join me in creating a Hawaii that cares for its children ... join me in building a Hawaii that integrates our people's minds and hearts to make things better for all of us.

"On April 12, 1981, Ellison Onizuka sent a picture of the Columbia Space Shuttle to his mother with the following:

'To Mom,

With lots of love and thanks for believing in my dream -- I couldn't have gotten this far without your help! Come fly with me.

Love, Ellison'

"It's time we believe in the dreams of our 'keiki o ka aina' and tell them to hang on to their dreams.

"It's time to roll up our sleeves and tackle the challenge before us.

"It's time we act to make it possible for our children to realize their dreams.

"The words of Whitney Houston singing 'The Greatest Love of All' should inspire us into action:

'I believe the children are our future. Teach them well and let them lead the way. Show them all the beauty they possess inside. Give them a sense of pride . . . to make it easier. Let the children's laughter . . . remind us how we used to be . . .'

"Mahalo and Aloha."

Senator George, Minority Leader, then responded as follows:

"Mr. President, distinguished guests, colleagues:

"It's useful in a political context to weave appropriate quotations into one's remarks -- provided, of course, due credit is given to the original quotee. It was in Chinese literature that I found the quotation with which I'd like to keynote these brief remarks; the author is that well-known aphorist Anon.

"To quote, then, 'On a rising tide, all boats are lifted.'

"Applied to our Senate, it expresses my belief that each of us helps to shape the fame of all of us, whether or not we might hope to confine the glory of our separate victories to burnish our own crowns. The corollary of the adage might be: 'If you're on the Titanic, it doesn't matter whether you're captain, crew or passenger.' What I'm getting at is that, for good or ill, we are apt to be praised or tarred collectively - and that it would be a really splendid idea for us to join together in tackling the business for which we were sent here. We might even do this without special emphasis on individual and partisan differences.

"In other words, we're all in this together.

"I think we're all, majority and minority alike, pretty well agreed on the nature and magnitude of the problems facing the state. Matter of fact, the catalog of problems and the priorities placed on their solution have stayed pretty standard for a number of years. Housing. Education. Business climate. Transportation. Environment. Reliever airport. Agriculture. Jobs. Drugs.

"Because this is my first crack at an opening day speech, I went back and read a decade's worth, and truly, the problems seem to be the same up and down the line, and all that differed was the rhetoric used by the speechmakers to describe them.

"This seems to me to be a pretty broad signal that our record of problem-solving isn't all that terrific.

"So Republican and Democrat lawmakers find themselves in fair agreement about our problems, and sometimes we even agree on how they ought to be solved. This has sometimes led to a curious sort of arrangement - such as the one in which the GOP tax on medical expenses was hana'ied by the Democrats and was enacted as part of the majority package. But turnabout has always been fair play, and we should remind ourselves of the GOP adoption of that old Democrat favorite, home rule.

"Then there's H-3 -- a project which might well have flopped long ago if it hadn't been for the kind of bipartisan cooperation we have shown ourselves to be capable of.

"I invoke these historical grace notes only as a reminder that we can agree, and often do; that cooperating instead of competing might enhance us all, and would certainly lighten the chores we were sent here to accomplish.

"It's only a dozen years until the turn of the century; a reminder that we do face a new challenge -- the chance to be citizens of the world; participants rather than spectators in the development and expansion of the Pacific Era. Once again, we'll meet this new challenge best if we use all our talents and all our strengths.

"Because my former colleague from the Big Island let the last session close without letting us know that he was leaving us, we never had a chance to bid him a formal farewell. I would like to take just a moment now to remedy that omission. I'm honored to have Richard Henderson sitting with me today as a member of the minority family. If he will rise and shine we can all give him the round of applause his long years of solid service merit. (Former Senator Henderson rose to be recognized and was presented a lei by Senator A. Kobayashi.)

"We'll all miss Scotchy. But Bob Herkes, sitting as a member of the Senate for the first time today, brings plenty of talent and determination to fill the Henderson shoes, and we welcome him warmly.

"It shouldn't come as any surprise that the minority will again place a high priority on tort reform, the erasure or amendment of the inequitable plant closure act, resistance to putting money in a state insurance fund, bringing into balance a tax system that has resulted in a hefty surplus, transfer of appropriate parks and highways to the counties, with necessary funding, and a firm decision on a convention center.

"I'll finish as I began -- 'on a rising tide, all boats are lifted.' Remember, we're all in this together. Let's roll up our sleeves and get to work."

At 10:38 o'clock a.m., the Senate stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The Senate reconvened at 11:53 o'clock a.m.

The following introductions were then made to the members of the Senate and guests:

Senator Holt introduced former Senator Joseph Kuroda.

Senator Cobb introduced former Senator Buddy Soares.

Senator Chang introduced former Senator Billy Fernandes.

In closing, all rose and joined hands to sing "Hawaii Aloha."

The President then extended appreciation and thank you to Al Harrington, Clayton and Alan Naluai of "The Surfers" and their group, Louise Kong and group of "kupunas" from the Waianae Coast Culture and Arts Society, the Cazimero Brothers and Leinaala Heine and their group, Mahi Beamer, Genoa Keawe and her group, Huali Solomon Covington and her family, and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Mehau, program coordinators, for the fine entertainment provided this morning.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:57 o'clock am., on motion by Senator Blair, seconded by Senator A. Kobayashi and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 o'clock a.m., Thursday, January 21, 1988.