

TWELFTH DAY

Friday, February 5, 1993

The Senate of the Seventeenth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 1993, convened at 11:37 o'clock a.m. with the President in the Chair.

The Divine Blessing was invoked by the Reverend Joseph Grimaldi, St. John Vianney Parish, after which the Roll was called showing all Senators present with the exception of Senators Koki, McCartney and Mizuguchi who were excused.

The President announced that he had read and approved the Journal of the Eleventh Day.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

The following concurrent resolution (S.C.R. No. 9) was read by the Clerk and was referred to committee:

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 9 "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HAWAII'S DISTANCE LEARNING TECHNOLOGY AND THE DELTA-HAWAII PROJECT."

Offered by: Senator McCartney.

Referred to: Committee on Education, Labor and Employment

SENATE RESOLUTION

The following resolution (S.R. No. 6) was read by the Clerk and was referred to committee:

Senate Resolution

No. 6 "SENATE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HAWAII'S DISTANCE LEARNING TECHNOLOGY AND THE DELTA-HAWAII PROJECT."

Offered by: Senator McCartney.

Referred to: Committee on Education, Labor and Employment

ORDER OF THE DAY

RE-REFERRAL OF SENATE BILLS

The Chair re-referred the following Senate bills that were introduced:

Senate Bill Referred to:

No. 139 Jointly to the Committee on Consumer Protection and the Committee on Judiciary, then to the Committee on Ways and Means

No. 512 Jointly to the Committee on Human Services and the Committee on Judiciary, then to the Committee on Ways and Means

No. 554 Committee on Judiciary

No. 587 Committee on Education, Labor and Employment, then to the Committee on Judiciary

No. 862 Jointly to the Committee on Education, Labor and Employment and the Committee on

Consumer Protection, then to the Committee on Ways and Means

No. 881 Committee on Education, Labor and Employment

No. 1126 Jointly to the Committee on Government Operations, Environmental Protection and Hawaiian Programs and the Committee on Ways and Means

No. 1187 Committee on Consumer Protection, then to the Committee on Ways and Means

No. 1242 Jointly to the Committee on Consumer Protection and the Committee on Judiciary

No. 1293 Committee on Consumer Protection, then to the Committee on Ways and Means

No. 1326 Jointly to the Committee on Consumer Protection and the Committee on Judiciary

No. 1394 Committee on Health, then to the Committee on Judiciary

No. 1660 Committee on Consumer Protection, then to the Committee on Ways and Means

No. 1707 Committee on Consumer Protection, then to the Committee on Ways and Means

No. 1720 Committee on Consumer Protection, then to the Committee on Ways and Means

No. 1758 Jointly to the Committee on Government Operations, Environmental Protection and Hawaiian Programs and the Committee on Judiciary, then to the Committee on Ways and Means

No. 1800 Jointly to the Committee on Government Operations, Environmental Protection and Hawaiian Programs and the Committee on Ways and Means

No. 1835 Jointly to the Committee on Planning, Land and Water Use Management and the Committee on Science, Technology and Economic Development, then to the Committee on Ways and Means

At 11:41 o'clock a.m., the Senate stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The Senate reconvened at 11:43 o'clock a.m.

Senator A. Kobayashi rose to speak on a point of personal privilege as follows:

"Mr. President, I rise to speak on a point of personal privilege.

"In this morning's paper I was very happy to see that the family leave bill passed and thanks to many here that worked hard for that, among them Senator Tungpalan and Senator Mizuguchi.

"However, when I turned to the back of Section A, there was a very disturbing article and it says, 'Equality for women? In 1,000 years, U.N. says. It will take nearly 1,000 years for women to gain the same economic and political clout as men if current trends continue, a U.N. report predicted yesterday.'

"This is just so depressing and so upsetting. I'm glad that here in Hawaii we're slowly moving forward and I look forward to the day, which will be soon, that there will be three women on the supreme court. I look forward to the day, which will be soon, that the men in the Legislature will be scrambling around trying to form a men's caucus just to get their ideas across. Thank you."

Senator Fernandes Salling, also on a point of personal privilege, said:

"Mr. President, as a follow-up to the previous speaker, I look forward to the day, which may be soon, that we have a woman who is president of the Senate." (Laughter!)

Senator Matsuura interjected:

"Mr. President, do you know the song 'That'll be the Day?'" (More laughter!)

Senator Chang added:

"Mr. President, I remember the urging of the Senator from Kahaluu that Friday should be a happy day, so to make the distaff members of the Senate happy, may I, accordingly, scramble to form a men's caucus, starting today?"

Senator Tungpalan then said:

"I'm happy, Mr. President, that at least we have one assistant majority leader who is a woman and if the majority leader persists in his comments about women, perhaps, one day we will be able to share the position that he now has." (More laughter!)

Senator Chang added:

"Mr. President, I have to announce an emergency meeting of the newly formed men's caucus immediately after the session." (More laughter!)

The Chair then said:

"I wish to announce to all of the members that I am very happy being the president."

Senator Solomon then rose to state:

"Mr. President, on a point of personal privilege and putting all laughing matters aside, I think that the comments that were made previously by the Ways and Means chair should be taken seriously. I think it's a very sad state of affairs when a country such as ours that has its rudiments in the spirit of democracy, civil justice as well as human rights issues, that when a newspaper has the audacity to print an article that puts down women ... when the female population in this country outnumbers the male population as well as majority of the votes ... I know in this state -- 60 percent of the voting population here are females. I think it behooves the leadership in this body to take the matter seriously and to take the remarks of female senators to heart. Being a native Hawaiian, in our culture men and women were treated equally. So I have a difficult time understanding these kinds of Western-Euro-American-Asian concepts. The bottom line is that we serve in the Legislature here in Hawaii and that we have respect for diverse cultural backgrounds and ethnicity ... the respect for native rights and, definitely, the respect for women's rights. So I'd like to encourage you, Mr. President, to consider and to take all of these matters into very serious consideration, and as we move forward during our deliberations this session that in the back of our minds that we always have

a sense of equality. It should go beyond gender ... it really is a civil rights and human rights issue.

"Thank you very much, Mr. President."

Senator Matsuura then said:

"Mr. President, I also rise to speak on a point of personal privilege.

"I concur with the previous speakers in terms of the quality of life that the women of our nation and of the world have accomplished. I, myself, am a recipient of that kind of help. As a fifth-grader I could not read and write, and it was a woman who taught me how to read and write keeping me after school everyday. That same teacher also taught Dr. Joyce Tsunoda to learn to read and write and she was also kept after school everyday. I have very great respect and gratitude for all the women including my mother who have played major roles in my life. I can't remember too many men making very significant contributions to my life but I can recall many women who have.

"I remember a woman from Tibet named Mrs. Taring who took care of orphaned Tibetan children who had moved to India. She corralled these orphans, fed, housed and educated them. Needless to say, I have very great respect for the women who have played major roles in the peace and harmony of this world. Thank you."

The Chair then said:

"Members of the Senate, the Chair would also like to remind all members that in a speech just the other evening the Chair dedicated this session to the memory of Thurgood Marshall who exemplifies all of the civil rights issues we've achieved in the past few years. I certainly hope that the members of the Senate will support the Chair in my efforts to make our Senate more open and more cooperative by having all of us working together. Thank you very much."

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:54 o'clock a.m., on motion by Senator Ikeda, seconded by Senator Reed and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 o'clock a.m., Monday, February 8, 1993.