

TENTH DAY

Thursday, February 3, 1994

The Senate of the Seventeenth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 1994, convened at 11:37 o'clock a.m. with the President in the Chair.

The Divine Blessing was invoked by Lieutenant Dianna Doom, Salvation Army, after which the Roll was called showing all Senators present with the exception of Senators Aki and McCartney who were excused.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The following messages from the Governor (Gov. Msg. Nos. 126 to 130) were read by the Clerk and were placed on file:

Gov. Msg. No. 126, dated December 30, 1993, transmitting the 1993 Community Long Term Care Branch Annual Report, prepared by the Department of Human Services, Health Care Administration Division pursuant to Section 346D-2, HRS.

Gov. Msg. No. 127, dated January 11, 1994, transmitting a report prepared by the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust Individual Claims Review Panel, on claims received, investigated, and heard by the Panel.

Gov. Msg. No. 128, dated January 12, 1994, transmitting a report prepared by the Department of Land and Natural Resources in response to H.C.R. No. 180 (1993), on the relationship between fish feeding, artificial reefs and the risk from sharks on inshore recreational users at Waikiki Beach, Oahu.

Gov. Msg. No. 129, dated January 14, 1994, transmitting a report prepared by the Department of Agriculture pursuant to Act 69, SLH 1992, on the transfer of funds among the Agriculture Products Revolving Fund, the Agriculture Loan Revolving Fund and the Aquaculture Loan Revolving Fund during the preceding calendar year.

Gov. Msg. No. 130, informing the Senate that on February 2, 1994, he signed into law House Bill No. 2280 as Act 1, entitled: "MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE LEGISLATURE, THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR, THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU, AND THE OMBUDSMAN."

DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

Dept. Com. No. 36, from the Department of Agriculture dated January 28, 1994, transmitting the Department's Market Development Activity Report for the calendar year 1993, was read by the Clerk and was placed on file.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

The following concurrent resolution (S.C.R. No. 27) was read by the Clerk and was referred to committees:

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 27 "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE STATE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF THE HARBORS DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION."

Offered by: Senator Fernandes Salling.

Referred to: Jointly to the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Legislative Management

ORDER OF THE DAY

RE-REFERRAL OF SENATE BILLS

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

Senate Bill Referred to:

No. 2685 Committee on Higher Education, Culture and Arts and Historic Preservation, then to the Committee on Ways and Means

No. 2955 Committee on Government Operations, Environmental Protection and Hawaiian Programs, then to the Committee on Ways and Means

No. 3161 Jointly to the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Planning, Land and Water Use Management, then to the Committee on Ways and Means

No. 3167 Committee on Government Operations, Environmental Protection and Hawaiian Programs, then to the Committee on Ways and Means

No. 3176 Jointly to the Committee on Government Operations, Environmental Protection and Hawaiian Programs and the Committee on Consumer Protection

At this time, Senator Solomon rose on a point of personal privilege, as follows:

"Mr. President, today we read in the Advertiser of the steepest drop in tourist arrivals since the great depression. The year 1993 brought 6.1% fewer visitors than the previous year and was the third straight year of plunging annual figures. This at a time when tourism in the Asian and Pacific region on a whole is up 10% per annum. That makes Hawaii a net loser relative to the destination areas of its region of over 16%. The figures raise a presumption that there is something amiss with our tourism promotions, when our neighbors' tourism industries are growing and ours is drastically contracting. There is hardly a person in this state whose economic well-being is not to some degree dependent on tourism. Half of our labor force work in jobs are related to tourism. It is our largest industry and foreign arrivals constitute our biggest export affecting our state balance of payment.

"Mr. President, we all must focus our energies, time and intelligence to determine what we, the Senate and the state as a whole, can do to reverse the disastrous decline in our most important industry. This must be a total and pervasive commitment and it must start now.

"It is with these considerations in mind that the chairmen of the Tourism and of Transportation Committees have scheduled hearings regarding state restrictions on taxi services at the airport. In the days and weeks to follow, they and other committee chairmen will be searching for the means to resuscitate our premier industry. Thank you."

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:44 o'clock a.m., on motion by Senator Chang, seconded by Senator Reed and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 o'clock a.m., Friday, February 4, 1994.