

TWELFTH DAY

Monday, February 5, 1996

The Senate of the Eighteenth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 1996, convened at 11:34 o'clock a.m. with the President in the Chair.

The Divine Blessing was invoked by Pastor Rick Lazor, Nuuanu Baptist Church, after which the Roll was called showing all Senators present with the exception of Senators Solomon and Tam who were excused.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The following messages from the Governor (Gov. Msg. Nos. 127 to 134) were read by the Clerk and were placed on file:

Gov. Msg. No. 127, dated January 8, 1996, transmitting a report prepared by the Department of Accounting and General Services, State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, in response to S.C.R. No. 181 (1995), requesting the Department of Budget and Finance, the Department of Accounting and General Services, and the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts to suggest and implement changes to expedite the processing of grants and contracts with artists' organizations.

Gov. Msg. No. 128, dated January 10, 1996, transmitting a report prepared by the Department of Health pursuant to Act 169, SLH 1994, on the activities of the Environmental Health Program Enhancement and Education Fund.

Gov. Msg. No. 129, dated January 12, 1996, transmitting a report prepared by the Department of Agriculture in response to S.C.R. No. 305 (1995), requesting the establishment of a temporary protocol to allow resident guide dogs to re-enter the state without quarantine under certain conditions.

Gov. Msg. No. 130, dated January 16, 1996, transmitting a revised Financial Report of the Special Unemployment Insurance Fund Revenues and Expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1995, pursuant to Section 383-127, HRS.

Gov. Msg. No. 131, dated January 25, 1996, transmitting a report prepared by the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, Clean Hawaii Center, pursuant to Act 202, SLH 1994, on the progress of the Clean Hawaii Center.

Gov. Msg. No. 132, dated January 5, 1996, transmitting a report prepared by the Agribusiness Development Corporation in response to H.C.R. No. 210 (1995), requesting the Agribusiness Development Corporation to develop a pilot project for agricultural and economic development ventures on vacant sugar lands.

Gov. Msg. No. 133, dated January 10, 1996, transmitting the "1995 Annual Report," prepared by the Hawaii Community Development Authority pursuant to Chapter 206E, HRS.

Gov. Msg. No. 134, dated January 12, 1996, transmitting the 1995 Annual Report of the Employment and Training Fund Program, prepared by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations pursuant to Section 383-128, HRS.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

The following concurrent resolution (S.C.R. No. 15) was read by the Clerk and was referred to committee:

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 15 "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REVIEWING ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES ON THE EXCHANGE OF PUBLIC LAND FOR PRIVATE LAND."

Offered by: Senator Mizuguchi, by request.

Referred to: Committee on Planning, Land and Water Use Management

SENATE RESOLUTION

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

Senate Resolution

No. 9 "SENATE RESOLUTION REVIEWING ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES ON THE EXCHANGE OF PUBLIC LAND FOR PRIVATE LAND."

Offered by: Senator Mizuguchi, by request.

Referred to: Committee on Planning, Land and Water Use Management

ORDER OF THE DAY

THIRD READING

H.B. No. 1, H.D. 1:

Senator Ikeda moved that H.B. No. 1, H.D. 1, having been read throughout, pass Third Reading, seconded by Senator Baker.

Senator Ikeda rose to speak in support of the measure as follows:

"Mr. President, I rise to speak in favor of this bill

"Mr. President, on opening day you remarked that hard times require sacrifices by all branches of government. I could not agree with you more wholeheartedly. If we are to find savings of \$200 million, particularly without affecting those who are the neediest and least fortunate, we must exercise careful restraint in our legislative spending. We have the power of the purse. And in your words, Mr. President, 'it is only fair that we lead by example.'

"Mr. President, we have before us the legislative budget bill. In recommending its passage, I believe the public will be ill-served if we did not recognize the hardship being experienced by the government and private sectors alike. Although we are by far the smallest branch of government, representing less than 1 percent of the State's budget, I believe we were elected to provide responsive leadership in discharging our fiscal responsibilities. Accordingly, your Committee on Ways and Means has recommended reducing the Senate's portion of the legislative budget bill by 5 percent, or a little over \$253,000. Unfortunately, the House is not in

accord. It has, nevertheless, agreed to freeze its portion of the budget at current fiscal year levels.

"No policy is convincing as leadership by example. That is what the Senate undertakes in this bill; that is what we expect to achieve in the course of this session.

"Thank you, Mr. President."

Senator Baker also rose in support of the measure and stated:

"Mr. President, I rise also to speak in support of this measure.

"Today we have before us the bill to fund legislative operations. By tradition and necessity, this is the first bill we pass each session. It does not normally attract much public attention except when there is disagreement between the House and the Senate and the passage of this measure is prolonged. This year historical precedents no longer hold true.

"Mr. President, in response to your call to do more with less in these hard economic times, we are recommending that the Senate reduce its share of the legislative appropriation by 5 percent.

"This is not a large amount relative to the overall State budget -- the legislature's appropriation is by far the smallest -- but it does signal the Senate's intent to economize and to make sacrifices in the face of continuing budget shortfalls. There can be, Mr. President, no better way for us to lead, than by example.

"Our action also serves notice that we need to pay more attention to cost-effective management of our legislative resources. Our computer system, for instance, needs an overhaul if we are to continue to serve the foreseeable needs of the public and lawmakers alike. It will require resources in the short term, but generate savings through greater productivity and efficiency over the long haul.

"In brief, Mr. President, the challenge is for us to make do with less, to work smarter, to be innovative without losing accessibility, to automate support functions where feasible, and perhaps, even change the way in which the Senate conducts its business.

"We have entered into an era of dynamic political change, coupled by difficult economic times. We began last session by rejecting the salary increase recommended by the Commission on Legislative Salary. We moved the 'High 3' retirement reform bill to the House earlier last week. Let us today continue the momentum for responsive political leadership by passing House Bill No. 1.

"Mr. President, the task is before us. Let us proceed without delay. Mahalo."

The motion was put by the Chair and carried, and H.B. No. 1, H.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE LEGISLATURE, THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR, THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU, AND THE OMBUDSMAN," having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 23. Noes, none. Excused, 2 (Solomon, Tam).

RE-REFERRAL OF SENATE BILLS

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

Senate Bill Referred to:

No. 2003 Jointly to the Committee on Planning, Land and Water Use Management and the Committee on Housing

No. 2019 Jointly to the Committee on Transportation and Government Affairs and the Committee on Judiciary

No. 2542 Jointly to the Committee on Planning, Land and Water Use Management and the Committee on Housing

No. 2859 Committee on Human Services, then to the Committee on Ways and Means

At this time, Senator Fukunaga, for the Committee on Communications and Public Utilities, requested a waiver of the 72-hour Notice of a Public Hearing on the following bills: S.B. No. 640, S.B. No. 641, S.B. No. 646, S.B. No. 2754, S.B. No. 2798, S.B. No. 3055 and S.B. No. 3268; and the Chair granted the waiver.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:49 o'clock a.m., on motion by Senator Ihara, seconded by Senator Liu and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 o'clock a.m., Tuesday, February 6, 1996.