

TWENTY-FIFTH DAY

Thursday, March 5, 1998

The Senate of the Nineteenth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 1998, convened at 11:39 o'clock a.m. with the President in the Chair.

The Divine Blessing was invoked by the Reverend Pam Vessels, The Life Foundation, after which the Roll was called showing all Senators present with the exception of Senators Aki and Tanaka who were excused.

The President announced that he had read and approved the Journal of the Twenty-Fourth Day.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Msg. No. 183, dated February 24, 1998, transmitting the 1997 Annual Report, Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Facilities in Compliance with Section 340B-12, HRS, prepared by the Department of Health, was read by the Clerk and was placed on file.

HOUSE COMMUNICATION

Hse. Com. No. 34, informing the Senate of the passage on Final Reading in the House of Representatives of H.B. No. 397, H.D. 2, on March 4, 1998, was read by the Clerk and was placed on file.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions (S.C.R. Nos. 41 to 45) were read by the Clerk and were referred to committees:

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 41 "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE RETURN OF MAKUA MILITARY RESERVATION."

Offered by: Senator McCartney, by request.

Referred to: Committee on Transportation and Intergovernmental Affairs, then to the Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs

No. 42 "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RELATING TO A FIVE-DAY RECESS TO ALLOW THE LEGISLATURE TO SEEK COMMUNITY INPUT AND GENERATE A BROAD CONSENSUS ON THE LEGISLATURE'S 1998 ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION PROGRAM."

Offered by: Senators Ihara, by request, McCartney, by request.

Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

No. 43 "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO PASS THE MARRIAGE TAX ELIMINATION ACT."

Offered by: Senators Slom, Aki, Anderson, Bunda, Fukunaga, Ige, D., Iwase, Kawamoto, Matsunaga, McCartney, Sakamoto, Solomon, Tam, Tanaka, Taniguchi.

Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

No. 44 "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS OF THE STATE OF HAWAII IMPLEMENT REGULATIONS TO ASSURE

THAT APPRAISERS OF PERSONAL PROPERTY MEET CERTAIN QUALIFICATIONS AND CONFORM TO PROVISIONS OF UNIFORM STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL APPRAISAL PRACTICE."

Offered by: Senator Slom.

Referred to: Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Information Technology

No. 45 "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE DEMOCRATIC ELECTION OF PUBLIC ACCESS TELEVISION BOARD MEMBERS BY THE CABLE SUBSCRIBERS WHO FUND IT."

Offered by: Senator Slom.

Referred to: Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Information Technology

SENATE RESOLUTION

The following resolution (S.R. No. 14) was read by the Clerk and was referred to committees:

Senate Resolution

No. 14 "SENATE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE RETURN OF MAKUA MILITARY RESERVATION."

Offered by: Senator McCartney, by request.

Referred to: Committee on Transportation and Intergovernmental Affairs, then to the Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Senators D. Ige and Metcalf, for the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Information Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2432) recommending that S.B. No. 2840, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

On motion by Senator McCartney, seconded by Senator Slom and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2840, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CAPTIVE INSURANCE," passed Second Reading and was placed on the calendar for Third Reading on Tuesday, March 10, 1998.

Senators D. Ige and Metcalf, for the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Information Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2433) recommending that S.B. No. 2981, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

On motion by Senator McCartney, seconded by Senator Slom and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2981, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE," passed Second Reading and was placed on the calendar for Third Reading on Tuesday, March 10, 1998.

Senators D. Ige and Metcalf, for the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Information Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2434) recommending that S.B. No. 2586, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

On motion by Senator McCartney, seconded by Senator Slom and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2586, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CAPTIVE INSURANCE COMPANIES," passed Second Reading and was placed on the calendar for Third Reading on Tuesday, March 10, 1998.

Senators Chun Oakland and Kanno, for the Committee on Human Resources, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2435) recommending that S.B. No. 1465 pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

On motion by Senator McCartney, seconded by Senator Slom and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 1465, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES," passed Second Reading and was placed on the calendar for Third Reading on Tuesday, March 10, 1998.

Senators Chun Oakland and Kanno, for the Committee on Human Resources, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2436) recommending that S.B. No. 2885 pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

On motion by Senator McCartney, seconded by Senator Slom and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2885, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT ON PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS," passed Second Reading and was placed on the calendar for Third Reading on Tuesday, March 10, 1998.

Senators Chun Oakland and Kanno, for the Committee on Human Resources, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2437) recommending that S.B. No. 2889, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

On motion by Senator McCartney, seconded by Senator Slom and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2889, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS," passed Second Reading and was placed on the calendar for Third Reading on Tuesday, March 10, 1998.

Senators Bunda and M. Ige, for the Committee on Government Operations and Housing, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2438) recommending that S.B. No. 2963, S.D. 1, as amended in S.D. 2, pass Third Reading.

By unanimous consent, action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2438 and S.B. No. 2963, S.D. 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII PUBLIC PROCUREMENT CODE," was deferred until Tuesday, March 10, 1998.

ORDER OF THE DAY

ADVISE AND CONSENT

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2430 (Gov. Msg. No. 135):

Senator Bunda moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2430 be received and placed on file, seconded by Senator M. Ige and carried.

Senator Bunda then moved that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of LLOYD I. UNEBASAMI as Administrator of the State Procurement Office, term to expire June 30, 2002, seconded by Senator M. Ige.

Senator M. Ige rose in support of the nominee and said:

"Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of Gov. Msg. No. 135, the nomination of Mr. Unebasami, gubernatorial nominee as Administrator for the State Procurement Office for a term to expire June 30, 2002.

"Upon review of Mr. Unebasami's resume and other background information, the Committee on Government

Operations and Housing found that he was a former graduate of McKinley High School, attended and earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from the University of Hawaii. He is a licensed certified public accountant in the state and has been serving as the administrator of the State Procurement Office since 1994. Prior to 1994, he gained experience as a deputy comptroller for the Department of Accounting and General Services and as deputy director for the Department of Taxation.

"Based on these findings and numerous testimonies in support of the nominee, the Committee on Government Operations and Housing finds that Mr. Unebasami has an exemplary and distinguished background in accounting, administration, taxation, and finance. Testimony in support of the nominee strongly indicates that he has performed his responsibilities with integrity, understanding and superior judgment. He has demonstrated his effectiveness as a leader who encourages efficient, honest, and thorough collaboration by implementing valuable training classes for government employees, as well as for individual private organizations. It is his goal to further enhance public confidence in our state procurement system.

"After full consideration of the background, character, experience, and qualifications of the nominee, we have found the nominee to be qualified for the position and recommends that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination.

"Thank you."

The motion was put by the Chair and carried on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 23. Noes, none. Excused, 2 (Aki, Tanaka).

REFERRAL OF SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

The President made the following committee assignments of concurrent resolutions that were offered on Wednesday, March 4, 1998:

Senate Concurrent Resolution	Referred to:
No. 35	Committee on Ways and Means
No. 36	Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Information Technology, then to the Committee on Ways and Means
No. 37	Committee on Transportation and Intergovernmental Affairs
No. 38	Jointly to the Committee on Health and Environment and the Committee on Education
No. 39	Committee on Education, then to the Committee on Ways and Means
No. 40	Committee on Economic Development, then to the Committee on Ways and Means

REFERRAL OF SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The President made the following committee assignments of resolutions that were offered on Wednesday, March 4, 1998:

Senate Resolution	Referred to:
No. 9	Committee on Ways and Means

No. 10 Committee on Transportation and Intergovernmental Affairs

No. 11 Jointly to the Committee on Health and Environment and the Committee on Education

No. 12 Committee on Education, then to the Committee on Ways and Means

No. 13 Committee on Economic Development, then to the Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Solomon rose on a point of personal privilege and stated:

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

"Mr. President, I was relieved by our co-chairs' commitment in human resources yesterday to look at the House bills as vehicles to help invigorate the business climate here in Hawaii. Also, Mr. President, I speak in support of the Senator from Moanalua and Salt Lake and to reiterate his position because I feel that they are my concerns too.

"Mr. President, if we were able just to provide relief for small businesses throughout our state through workmen's comp reform and insurance relief, we can expand on what is approximately 24,000 businesses. If we were to allow those businesses to help themselves by just hiring one more person, we are immediately talking 24,000 jobs. If they can expand by two, we're talking 48,000 jobs. I have approximately 5,000 businesses in my West Hawaii, Waimea and Hilo districts, and of course you know that the Big Island has been in a severe economic depression. If they were just given some relief and if they could expand by one more employee, we're talking 5,000 jobs; two employees, we're talking 10,000 jobs.

"The bottom line is, Mr. President, I think all of our challenge, as we proceed with our work here, is to change the negative headlines. We don't want to read, 'Sick economy's human faces.' We want to read, 'Healthy economy's human faces.' We don't want to read in the newspaper about two who have lost their jobs and their stories. We want to read about economic expansion and job opportunities. We want to read, Mr. President, about our grandchildren and our children having new opportunities here in Hawaii. This has been the strength of our Democrat Party. This has been what we have stood for, for over 30-plus years, Mr. President, and I am hoping that as we proceed with the business at hand, that we will come together and come up with legislation that works for Hawaii.

"And with that, Mr. President, I would like to end my remarks and invite all of my colleagues to please enjoy the displays upstairs. There is an agricultural commodity show going on which depicts a tremendously successful story for us here in Hawaii, a significant part of which can be attributed to the help from this Legislature. We have been the champions of diversified agriculture. We have been the champions of joint ventures between private business and the public. We have been creative and innovative in helping to diversify our economy and we must continue to do so.

"So, as you stroll among those tables enjoying all of the delicacies that they offer and enjoying the protea flowers, remember that most of that comes from the neighbor islands. I want you all to realize that our people are trying and working hard out there. They want a future for themselves and their families; they want to be able to stand on their own feet. If the corporations in Hawaii decide that maybe Hawaii has become too small for them, and that maybe they should look to other parts of the global economy, so be it. Our strength is our people, that is the na'au of this state. What we see at the displays upstairs are families who have struggled for generations to build a niche for themselves by helping themselves, by pulling themselves up by their bootstraps, and they are proud of who they are. Mr. President, we owe them all

the support and the kako'o to help them realize their dreams. And this is what the Democrat Party has been all these years.

"So with that, Mr. President, I'd like to thank you for this opportunity to express my concerns. I look forward to working on those House vehicles when they come over, and to lend my expertise in agriculture or whatever areas that I possibly can, so we can help fulfill these dreams that we definitely owe to our people.

"Mahalo."

Senator Taniguchi then rose on a point of personal privilege and said:

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

"I'd like to support the comments made by my colleague from Kohala, and ask that some additional comments that I have on Agriculture Awareness Day be included in the Journal."

The Chair having so ordered, Senator Taniguchi's remarks read as follows:

"Agriculture: Hawaii's Growth Industry

DID YOU KNOW...

Hawaii's agriculture contributes \$2.91 billion to Hawaii's economy and supports more than 42,000 jobs statewide;

Hawaii's coffee industry produced seven million pounds of green coffee beans in 1997, a 40 percent increase from the previous year;

In addition to the \$96 million farm-level value posted in 1996, Hawaii's pineapple industry contributes more than \$58 million in state taxes and purchasing of goods and services such as transportation, construction and distribution;

Ranked by value, macadamia nut is the number one diversified crop in Hawaii and encompasses 20,200 acres statewide;

A recent Omni Track Group research revealed that Hawaii-grown flowers are universally recognized for their high quality, brilliant color and variety, yet half the population has not actually seen tropical flowers -- at most, half of those surveyed have seen exotic tropicals, while only one in four have seen Proteas;

Tropical fruits which include guava, mango, rambutan, lychee, atemoya/cherimoya, carambola and specialty pineapple are grown across the state with production expected to double in the next five to ten years;

Approximately 10,000 acres of forests are currently being managed for timber, with most popular native woods being Koa, Kamani and Milo.

On March 5, in a show of unity, the state's agricultural community is holding an 'Agriculture Awareness Day' to show policy makers that Hawaii's agriculture is alive and thriving. In fact, from 1994 - 1996, Hawaii's diversified agriculture is the only sector of the economy that has seen growth with coffee, seed crops, macadamia nuts, and pineapple posting increases of over 20 percent. Vegetables, fruits, and flowers & nursery products also saw gains."

Senator Slom then rose on a point of personal privilege and stated:

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

"One of the resolutions that we have just passed on for referral is S.C.R. No. 42, and S.C.R. No. 42 proposes a five-day recess so that the Legislature may gain a consensus from the community for the support of the Economic Revitalization Task Force. Mr. President, I would urge my colleagues to reject this concurrent resolution.

"We have just come back from a five-day recess. I don't think the public wants us to go into another five-day recess and I don't think that we need to have more community meetings on the ERTF because we've already had more than 19 town and community meetings. We've had all kinds of things. The ERTF is spending between a half-million and a million dollars to propagandize us with television and newsprint commercials. The public has demonstrated that they will support changes. They want changes now. They want us to act, but they will not support increases in taxes. They will not support the status quo. And as long as the ERTF proposals continue to try to tax our citizens more, every single mom, every family, every small business, every retiree, and as long as the ERTF proposals are based on the idea that we'll have to try to get more revenues so that we can shift the burden from some people and some businesses to others, then we will not have a consensus.

"So, Mr. President, I would urge that we listen to the comments that have already been made very loud and clear by our citizens, and that we not take an additional time off, instead use the time to act more expeditiously and solve the problems so we don't have any more of the headlines that the good Senator from the Big Island was referring to.

"Thank you, Mr. President."

Senator Baker, for the Committee on Ways and Means, requested a waiver to Senate Rule 20 on S.B. Nos. 2278, 2558, 2727, 3127, 3191 and 3220, and the Chair granted the waiver.

Senator Iwase also rose on a point of personal privilege and stated:

"Mr. President, I am rising on a point of personal privilege.

"Mr. President, I did not intend to say anything today, but I wanted to rise to express support for the comments made by the Senator from Hawaii Kai. I think, as politicians, particularly those who are running, I think we know when we sit here today what the public feels -- at least we should. We have our antennas up; we have our networks in our communities. And I think each one of us who sits here probably knows more than anyone else -- the newspaper editorial writers, lobbyists from special interest groups -- we know, more than anyone else, what the community feels.

"I think there is already consensus on the Economic Revitalization Task Force goals -- cut taxes, streamline government, create business-friendly laws. Those are the goals of the Economic Revitalization Task Force. Grant more autonomy, or flexibility, to the University of Hawaii to insure that the University will be an industry for the State of Hawaii, as well as a resource for the State of Hawaii. Improve the educational system in the State of Hawaii so that our children will have the opportunity to participate in a job market. They don't have to leave this state that we are fortunate enough to live in today. To create an environment so that someone like Jeanne Tamura doesn't have to have her face on the front page of the Honolulu Advertiser telling us that she hopes that in two months she will have a job so that she doesn't go bankrupt. Those are the goals of the Economic Revitalization Task Force.

"The challenge to us is not so much the goals, but the specifics. And that's where we are called upon. The brain power in this Legislature, the feelings of those of us who are here, we are called upon to act; we are called upon to meet the challenge. And we should come up with proposals that achieve those goals. We may diverge from the Economic Revitalization Task Force -- eliminate the Land Use Commission, for

example, no; but streamline the land use process, yes. And that's what we should be doing. We should spend the time ... hopefully, we have spent the time understanding what the heck this place is all about and the problems we face, how we're going to address it, and come forward with proposals. We do not need to defer anymore. We've deferred bills. We've not acted on bills. And the public is frustrated.

"Everyone in this chamber knows just how angry the public is. Everyone in this chamber knows that and everyone in this chamber knows that we'd better damn well go home with something to improve this economy or we are not going to be coming back. We don't need to be having any more delays. We'd better come forward with proposals. We'd better come forward with calls for action. We'd better be concrete. We'd better be specific. If we're going to deny something, we'd better be able to justify it, and if we're going to support something, we'd better be sure that we're going to have the courage to go out and defend it because it's going to be controversial. Changing paradigms in this state require strong actions. It's going to be controversial and we are not going to be able to hide behind shields anymore. And I hope we will do that, Mr. President.

"Thank you."

Senator Solomon rose again on a point of personal privilege and stated:

"Mr. President, I'm rising on a point of personal privilege.

"I just would like to support the remarks of the previous speaker and incorporate them as though they were my own. Thank you."

Senator Chun Oakland rose on a point of personal privilege and said:

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

"With regard to the comments made by the Senator from Kohala, I would also like to incorporate her words as if they were my own. I also, though, wanted to respond to some of the previous Senator's remarks with regard to the resolution.

"I believe that there were health and human service organizations, persons that are being representative of those on fixed incomes, those that have not been at the table with the Economic Revitalization Task Force like the environmentalists, some of the community associations of small businesses, and, as I mentioned, the health and human service sectors that feel things are going too quickly. And I believe this resolution was in response to that.

"So, I hope that if you understand where it came from and heed, I guess, to their concerns as well, some of the impacts of the proposals may have negative influence on those that have not been to the table. That is basically why I think the resolution was introduced."

Senator Iwase rose again and said:

"Mr. President, I'm rising again on a point of personal privilege.

"I appreciate the comments of the Senator from Nuuuanu, and I know that they've worked very hard to achieve consensus in a very difficult area which is human service.

"But to go back to Jeanne Tamura again, when we talk about a delay of one day, Mr. President, that to her is almost a life time when she's talking two months left of savings in her bank account. When we talk about the people, and there were articles about people in last night's paper in the city government who are going to lose their jobs, the people at Foodland, the people at Amfac (I'm glad they're going to

probably hire back 100), the people at Bank of Hawaii, the people at the companies that are going down -- one day makes a big difference. One day may be when their mortgage is due; one day may be when their car payment is due.

"This economic doldrums that we're in has a great, great impact on the middle class of this state, and the middle class is the backbone of this state. The middle class has been the most affected, the most affected by the economic downturn. They're not asking for handouts -- they're asking for jobs. They're asking us for action. They're not asking for time anymore. They want us to act. The middle class in this state, the working people of this state -- and Miss Tamura is one of them, Miss Miller was one of them -- they're on the front pages now, not Bill Gates, not someone on welfare, but someone who was working. And this person who was working is now two months away from bankrupting herself.

"We cannot wait. I hope we understand the urgency. I hope we understand the need for action. I know many in this Legislature do. And that's what we have to deal with, Mr. President -- to help these people. That's what we're about. That's what we're supposed to be about.

"Thank you."

Senator Chun Oakland responded:

"Mr. President, to the former speaker, I couldn't agree more, and I think those concerns, in fact, are embraced by these particular organizations that are putting this forth. They would like to make sure that, for example, where corporate taxes, franchise taxes are reduced, that there be direct results. Corporate taxes being reduced equates to jobs created. Franchise taxes equated to small business loans. Venture capital that should be provided to small business. But we need to do it thoughtfully. We hope that, in fact, we can move forward unified, in a unified manner. So, I couldn't agree with the Senator from Mililani's comments. I just hope that by this particular measure and other efforts, that we keep those things in mind.

"Thank you."

Senator McCartney then rose on a point of personal privilege and said:

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

"Mr. President, just for the record, I think what you're hearing today is that we all know there's a problem. We all know that our economy is in dire straits. We all know that bold decisions need to be made. We all know that tough decisions need to be made, and soon. And we're talking about people's lives.

"Mr. President, I want to assure the members that I'm clear and I believe that the majority is ready to make some bold and tough decisions. Maybe not everybody will agree with those decisions, but they will be bold; they will be tough. And we are committed to moving forward because we know that's what we have to do for the people of Hawaii. And as the Senator from Kohala said, and I agree wholeheartedly, that we owe the people our support. We owe the people our effort and we owe the people a decision.

"It's easy, Mr. President, to make speeches. It's easy to throw stones. It's much harder to take those stones and build a house. And that's what we're committed to do, Mr. President, is building a house that everybody in Hawaii can be proud of.

"Thank you."

Senator Anderson then rose on a point of personal privilege and said:

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

"In the beginning when the Minority Floor Leader stood up on the resolution, it was primarily to say that there's money being spent to take care of the concerns in the newspapers. They're spending \$500,000 to \$1 million to let us know about the revitalization program for the task force.

"We did just come off a five-day recess. Most of us have talked to the community, or at least some of us have. Those of us who have talked to members in the community know very, very well what taxes are going to be raised, how they're going to give us a reduction on one side and raise the other. That's why we said we're putting in one pocket and pulling out of the other. They're quite aware of that, and I don't think anybody is throwing stones.

"And for the Senator from Nuuanu, we're not moving fast. We're moving so slow that we're going down the tubes.

"I wasn't even planning on standing this morning, but I read the paper about the good Representative from Hilo who had a meeting in his office that wasn't going to benefit him, but, however, he was trying to take care of the hospital system that has been costing us millions every year. And yet because he used his office, we find that offensive. I think that we deserve to take care of every problem that we can. I don't care if you use your office, your home, a bar, wherever we can take care of a problem and help the people of this state, that's what we're supposed to be doing.

"And five more days of recess and deferring bills and saying next year will get better, maybe ... and as I said yesterday, it's an election year. We can't afford to do certain things. That's not what we're here for. We are here to take care of the problems. We're here to make decisions, and we haven't been making them. And the people deserve a lot more than what we have been giving, Mr. President.

"I thank you, very much."

Senator Sakamoto then rose on a point of personal privilege as follows:

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

"I'm supportive of the Senator from Liliha and Nuuanu on her concerns about people that may get hurt from some of the proposals. I believe the alternative we need to look at, as opposed to a recess, is to hurriedly, hurriedly, quickly pass some bills that deal with duplication of services, that deal with efficiency in government. We can leave the tax proposals to last, Mr. President, but let's not leave everything to the last.

"I'm a building contractor and I agree with our Senator from the Kaneohe area about building, we need to start one stone at a time. And I don't stand to throw stones; I stand to say let's start building. And I don't feel we can hold all of these measures captive until conference committee and attempt to build a sensible house in the last week of April, Mr. President. I believe we should lay the foundation, piece by piece. That can start today. That can start tonight. I think there are bills that we can pass, that the House can pass, unamended, that are good bills, that will not deal with hurting anybody, but will give an opportunity for the Senator from Kohala to say we passed a bill that will enable small businesses to attempt to hire one person -- 5,000 jobs. We can pass some of those bills this very afternoon, Mr. President.

"So, I ask my colleagues to all work together, and again, I don't stand to throw stones; I stand to say let's start putting down the foundation and let's not keep all the stones on the side for the last week of this session."

Senator McCartney rose again on a point of personal privilege and said:

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

"I don't mean to be Pollyannish, but you know what, Mr. President, today's discussion and debate is good; it's healthy. I think everybody wants to get something done and everybody is moving in a direction where we need to go. I sense the energy, enthusiasm and commitment from all the members from both sides of the aisle, different persuasions, that something good is beginning and we need to become more optimistic. So I'm encouraged by the discussion and debate that has taken place on this floor today and I'm confident that we'll move forward to make a difference for the people of Hawaii."

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:20 o'clock p.m., on motion by Senator McCartney, seconded by Senator Slom and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 o'clock a.m., Friday, March 6, 1998.