

THE  
 TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
 STATE OF HAWAI‘I  
 REGULAR SESSION OF 2008  
 JOURNAL OF THE SENATE  
 FIRST DAY

**Wednesday, January 16, 2008**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawai‘i, the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2008, was called to order at 10:17 a.m., by the Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President of the Senate.

At this time, the members of the Senate and guests rose to sing the National Anthem, “Hawai‘i Pono‘i,” and the Queen’s Prayer led by the Kawaiaha‘o Church Choir and the Kawaiolaonapukanileo Adult Choral Ensemble, under the direction of Choral Director Nola Nahulu.

The President then directed the Senate Clerk to call the Roll. The Clerk called the Roll showing all Senators present.

President Hanabusa addressed the members of the Senate and guests as follows:

“Governor Lingle, Chief Justice Moon, Senator Akaka, Mayor Baptiste, Mayor and Mrs. Hannemann, Mayor and Mrs. Kim, Mayor Tavares, Governor and Mrs. Ariyoshi, Governor and Mrs. Waihee, esteemed colleagues, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen—Aloha.

“I stood here before you a year ago, having assumed the Presidency of the Senate for the first time. On that day I informed you that the overarching theme of the Senate was *sustainability* for the future of our state. I asked you to remember that this journey would not be quick or easy, and that it would require all of us to remain focused and patient in achieving our goals.

“Since then, the Sustainability 2050 Task Force has completed another year of work and has published its report. We expect the standard litany of criticism like, ‘There they go again, doing another report, spending more taxpayer dollars.’

“This standard criticism would be valid if we, as policy makers, do nothing with the wealth of facts and concerns provided by those who took the time and responsibility to get involved in our work and share their views of sustainability.

“We are taking action on the work of the task force. Our Senate majority package includes bills that will help address our housing needs and our educational needs. Bills that will help our kupuna. Bills that help build sustainable communities and to help improve our tax base. Bills that reflect the needs and desires of our state and our people.

“The 2050 Task Force reached out to our community as no other working group has before. They solicited and received thoughts and input of individuals, groups, and businesses. From the corner offices of Bishop Street to the corner store in Ka‘u. From the construction worker in Wai‘anae who relies on the building boom to feed his family, to the taro farmer in Hanalei who relies on the land to feed his community.

“The task force heard the concerns of parents who fear their children will have to find lives and careers away from their ohana, away from the state. Developers who sincerely want to

find a way to preserve our open space and agricultural enterprises while providing homes for our people. Environmentalists who recognize the tension between the need for economic development, and for ensuring our precious quality of life. We talked about every aspect of our lives that will contribute to building our *preferred* future, sustaining our environment, our housing, and our educational opportunities.

“Thirty years ago we also looked at the need to plan for our future. And we must recognize the person who had the foresight to lead that effort—Governor George Ariyoshi.

“Governor, will you please rise so we may thank you and be recognized. (Former Governor George Ariyoshi rose to be recognized.)

“In his 1978 State of State Address, Governor Ariyoshi presented what was then called the State Plan. Today we call it sustainability, but what he said then we must still heed today. The governor said: ‘*The fundamental question underlying everything we do is whether we have the spiritual determination to be the masters of our destiny.*’ That is our challenge, and our time to meet it is now.

“Over this past year, two events came together to show me—in very stark terms—the crossroads that we stand at today.

“The first was some concern over what we all came to lovingly refer to as ‘that darn boat.’ Love it or hate it, the Superferry was the lightning-rod question of the year.

“Up here with me today we have representatives of all three branches of state government: the Judiciary, the Governor, and the Legislature. Each of us were both applauded and vilified by the public. Now that has got to be a first.

“On its face, the Superferry issue seemed only whether or not the state should have granted an environmental exemption to allow the ferry to operate. But the Superferry controversy was not about a boat, or a mode of transportation, or about the environmental laws of this State. It was about how that single question—like a pebble hitting a rock hitting a boulder—created an avalanche.

“It was about people feeling irrelevant, ignored, and helpless. It was about communities dividing, positions hardening, people losing hope.

“But worst of all, it was about fear. The fear that one’s future was no longer within one’s control. The fear that tomorrow belongs to *them*—and not to *us*. The fear that that ferry somehow symbolized our future, good or bad, and whether we like it or not. The fear of what *is* the future? What is the Hawai‘i that we will have in twenty to forty years?

“This manifested itself in what we Legislators had to deal with in the Special Session. The questions of Honolulu-centrism. Us versus them. Neighbor islands versus Oahu. Locals versus new arrivals. And then what was not said but clearly there: Growth versus the status quo. Development versus agriculture. Urban egotism versus rural reverse-elitism.

“These labels showed us the division in our community. But how deep or how hardened it is—how long we allow it to remain—will determine how we address the challenge of our shared future.

“For those of us who heard the Superferry testimony on the neighbor islands, we asked ourselves, ‘Can we cure this divide over all of those polarized positions?’

“But then, just as the Superferry erupted, seemingly out of nowhere, we experienced another phenomenon. A phenomenon that made it clear that the people of this State *can* pull together. The phenomenon of Warrior fever. The shared experience of watching our football team go undefeated in the regular season.

“You know, the deep shadows of Superferry battles faded in the bright light shone by our pride and ownership in every win of the UH Warriors. In the gallery this morning we are honored to have some of the UH Warriors players who made this dream season a reality for us.

“Gentlemen, please stand to be recognized. (Members of the UH football team who were seated in the gallery rose to be recognized.)

“Governor, our speeches never get that reception. (Laughter.)

“Joined together by this unprecedented string of victories, united in our admiration and gratitude for the talent, commitment, and determination of those young men and the coaches who showed them the way, we were again one community. This is a thing we shared, a unique expression of what we are together, and what we can accomplish when we share a goal.

“Of course, the football team was not alone in bringing home a WAC championship. Later today, the House and Senate will honor our WAC champion women’s soccer and women’s volleyball teams, along with the football team. By the way, for those of you who are keeping score, that’s one championship for the men, and *two* for the women.

“Each team has shared the pride of our community. On the court and on the field, they brought us together, united us by being united themselves. They demonstrate to us the potential of a shared commitment.

“Every player on each of those teams has brought his or her own talents and abilities to the table and integrated them into a common effort. Each is a part of an indivisible and undeniable whole. And they know that while being a winner takes effort, being a champion takes even more. It is that *extra something* that propels the player, the team, and the community to the next level.

“I am proud that we are joined today by President David McClain and representatives of the University of Hawai‘i Athletic Department—Interim Athletic Director Carl Clapp; and Associate Athletic Directors John McNamara and Marilyn Moniz-Kaho‘ohanohano; the legendary Coach Dave Shoji of the University of Hawai‘i Women’s Volleyball Team; Assistant Coach Derrick Kato of the Women’s Soccer Team; Associate Head Football Coach George Lumpkin; and as of this morning, Head Football Coach Greg McMackin and his wife Heather McMackin.

“Please stand all of you to be recognized. All of the UH people, please stand to be recognized, please. (Representatives of the University of Hawai‘i rose to be recognized.)

“These coaches and their counterparts across the UH athletic program know the importance of looking at the long term. For them, the concern is not just with this game—or even this season. They are already looking to the future, to the players

they will need for the *next* great team, and the strategies that will allow them to compete in new ways among the changing roster of opponents. So while a coach can never lose focus on what the team needs now, he or she also can also never lose sight of what they will need in the seasons to come.

“So the sense of pride and ownership and hope that we shared, the victories and championships that brought us all together, are the product of vision, commitment, and toughness. And the question is: Can we as policy makers live up to this example?

“The answer is ‘Yes,’ because we *must*.

“A few months ago, at a meeting of the Hawai‘i 2050 Task Force, someone asked a group of nine student participants how many of them saw themselves in Hawai‘i at the age 35. Now, the student members are all in Hawai‘i public and private schools and represent some of our finest young minds. And faced with that question, not one raised their hand—not one. None of them saw a future here at home.

“Now, I have nothing but respect for these young men and women. I think I share the opinion of the entire task force that they are doing our state a great service by participating in developing our Hawai‘i of tomorrow. But I tell you: I intend to prove them wrong.

“If we cannot make Hawai‘i a place where our best and brightest can build a rewarding future, then we will have failed. And we will not fail, and we cannot fail.

“Last year, I told you about a photo I kept next to my computer. It’s a photo of Nick Smith, who graduated from Wai‘anae High School after participating in the highly acclaimed Searider Productions program. Nick went off to college at the Art Institute in Santa Monica to pursue a career in media production. Well, Nick has graduated from the Art Institute. He is an extremely talented young man, and I have no doubt that he has many opportunities on the mainland to build a great career.

“But Nick is here today. And not only Nick, but the rest of what I call the Searider Kids. They went off to college and are also joining us today. They are Sam Kapoi and Solomon Alfapada.

“Nick, Sam and Solomon, please rise to be recognized. (The gentlemen all rose to be recognized.)

“Nick, Sam and Solomon came home to Hawai‘i. And it is not just because they truly believe that they can find careers here, but because they are dedicated to helping build an industry that will offer similar opportunities to other talented young people in the future. They will be among those who will help instill that sense of pride, that sense of ownership, and most importantly that sense of hope in their generation and the next. They are here, making that extra effort.

“Also joining us are student leaders from 32 middle and high schools across our state. They are here today at the invitations of their respective Senators. These are the leaders of tomorrow.

“Will our student leaders please stand to be recognized. (The student leaders all rose to be recognized.)

“When we talk about sustainability, when we look at the future and plan for our preferred Hawai‘i, *they* are what we are really talking about. The Hawai‘i of *their* future. A Hawai‘i that provides for them and the families they will raise. A Hawai‘i with strong economic opportunities, a clean supportive natural environment, a place to live and a place to work—for these young people and the generations that come after them.

“We are not going to let them down. We cannot let them down. I am not going to let Nick, Sam, and Solomon down.

We as policymakers and community leaders can bring this state together to overcome the fear that divides us and instead we need to ignite the pride, the shared purpose, and the hope. That is the driving force behind our efforts.

“For the leaders of tomorrow, we must provide leadership today. This is truly a time for great leaders. A time to demonstrate the determination to master our destiny. A time for a vision that extends beyond our immediate needs and our petty differences. And the effort cannot be limited to this room or this square Capitol building.

“A sustainable Hawai‘i is a Hawai‘i that we will share. This time, there is no ‘them’; it is all ‘us.’ This time, we all play for the same team.

“The victory is *our* future. Thank you very much.”

Senator Hemmings addressed the Senate as follows:

“Madam President, looking back on my lifetime, it seems now I should have probably stayed at the University of Hawai‘i and played football rather than go surfing. It’s been a wonderful ride.

“Governor Lingle, leaders of the executive branch of government, Chief Justice Moon, members of the State Judiciary, former governors, Madam President and my respected colleagues, distinguished mayors, Senator Akaka, leaders of our military in the Pacific and our enlisted men and women—thank you. We are a grateful nation, we are a grateful state—distinguished guests, beloved family, people of Hawai‘i:

“Republicans are prepared and eager to work constructively with the Majority Party.

“Madam President, we have read over the last several days the priorities your caucus has set, and we join you. We think they’re laudable goals, and first and foremost we do want to work with you in rebuilding the University to the respected institution it should be for all of us, and it is a respected institution.

“But we also challenge the status quo by seeking to solve enduring problems facing us now rather than pursuing business as usual. The obstacles we face cannot be overcome by legislation alone. There is a need for bipartisanship. There is a need for cooperation with the executive branch of government. We need more public and private partnerships, unleashing the talents and the better angels of our citizens. And we wish to make the people’s government efficient by setting realistic goals and living by them. We know that we cannot be all things to all people. I enjoyed your concern, Madam President, in your speech with how we deal with growth.

“Our state and the world for that matter is at an unprecedented juncture in history. Many of the principles that humankind has lived by since the dawn of civilization may no longer be practical. Evidence of a global meltdown should be troubling all of us no matter what political label we have.

“Headlines like these validate concerns: ‘Massive ocean dead zone’; ‘On top our majestic Mauna Loa, soaring carbon dioxide levels show human imprint’; ‘Coral reefs headed for doom’; and ‘114 of 394 primate species court extinction’.

“Can you imagine a world where we have allowed a regal animal like a Bengal tiger to become extinct? A recent photo in the newspaper says a thousand words. It depicts standing room only on the fertile crescent of our biggest industry—Waikiki Beach.

“We must, we must, in talking about sustainability, heed the warnings of the collapse of past societies as today’s global community is so interconnected. In the millenniums that have preceded us, entire societies have collapsed with no impact on

the world. The world has become a very small place. Hawai‘i’s treasures are so finite. Demands on our resources are strained. Competition and cost for water, energy, land, grows and grows and grows, oftentimes reaching beyond our ability for our citizens to pay for it. Our ability to safely dispense of our own waste has become stunted by misplaced political priorities. I know, and you know, we can realize a future where growth in these beautiful islands has been stabilized, where transportation gridlock has become alleviated, where energy independence is real—not a goal for 20 or 30 years from now, and where Hawai‘i’s natural beauty is protected and nourished. I know, colleagues, we all share the dreams of a sustainable future.

“Several hundred years ago on Rapa Nui, another Pacific island, they cut down their last tree. What were they thinking? Here in Hawai‘i we still measure economic success by construction starts, increased visitor arrivals, and exponential growth. The visitor industry is a treasure, but it has its limits. From time immemorial, growth has been the hallmark for success and prosperity. We cannot wait until 2050 to achieve sustainability. With the partnership of private enterprise and good public policy, we should now work to institute preferred growth, economic equilibrium, and a steady state economy that allows our people to continue to live and flourish in our islands. The magic of free enterprise should be our tool. With incentives to moderate demand, we can contain cost and conserve supply. No doubt if we chose, we could call ‘sustainable’ paving over Oahu like Manhattan. We could probably live; ship everything in—we’d be like Manhattan. What are we thinking? Some proposals have already been advanced to stabilize Hawai‘i’s biggest industry and have languished. I ask a serious question again and I hope this Legislature can answer it: what is the carrying capacity of our wonderful industry tourism? Seven and a half million a year? Ten, fifteen, twenty million visitors a year? Do we build visitor accommodations in our neighborhoods, like the North Shore, at the expense of our lifestyle? I think not. If we are to achieve a steady state economy with selected growth and measured consumption of our most valuable resource—land—we need action now. We must all rethink how we operate and make small adjustments in addition to expediting the big changes such as making fossil fuels obsolete within ten years.

“The Senate’s paper reduction acts are to be lauded—thank you, Madam President. Governor Lingle must be applauded for her commitment to renewable energy by expediting the development of photovoltaic systems for 12 public buildings. Speaking of the Governor, she should be our biggest ally. Together we can make wonderful things happen. We must not let petty politics deter us from working constructively with the executive branch of government.

“Many of the challenges in Hawai‘i are not going to be solved by passing a new law or throwing more money at old problems. Several years ago a provocative woman suggested that the best legislators are the ones that get the job done by introducing the least number of bills.

“Senate Republicans, though small in number, do represent the hopes; we represent the aspirations of the people of Hawai‘i that feel more of the same from this Legislature is not good enough. We are better. We can achieve everyone’s dreams. We are not going to acquiesce from this goal for our own convenience. Hawai‘i deserves the best from each of us.

“We are proud of who we are. We stand undaunted in the face of the Goliath you are, hoping that we can work together consolidating our talents. We believe our \$2.4 billion public education system should educate. Our economy should reward hard work and not tax excessively—especially the working poor. Our laws should protect citizens from crime, and victims should have priority over criminals. We acknowledge that the

rights of all humans are ordained by our Creator—not by government. These are some of the values that represent the very soul of who we are. These are the principles that are our bond. They are relevant now, as they always have been and always will be.

“As we begin this Legislative Session, the best future we can imagine, the best future we can dream of when we work together can become a reality. In this quest we must stand united. Madam President, let’s begin now. Aloha.”

At 10:56 a.m., the Senate stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair. At this time, the members of the Senate and their guests were entertained by Mr. Darren Benitez.

The Senate reconvened at 11:25 a.m.

#### INTRODUCTION OF SENATE BILLS

On motion by Senator Ige, seconded by Senator Whalen and carried, the following bills passed First Reading by title and were deferred:

##### Senate Bill

S.B. No. 2001 “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SOLID WASTE.”

Introduced by: Senators Ige, Chun Oakland, Fukunaga.

S.B. No. 2002 “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INCOME TAX.”

Introduced by: Senator Chun Oakland.

S.B. No. 2003 “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION.”

Introduced by: Senator Chun Oakland.

S.B. No. 2004 “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION.”

Introduced by: Senator Chun Oakland.

S.B. No. 2005 “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION FOR FOSTER CHILDREN.”

Introduced by: Senator Chun Oakland.

S.B. No. 2006 “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION.”

Introduced by: Senator Chun Oakland.

S.B. No. 2007 “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HAWAII’S ECONOMY.”

Introduced by: Senator Chun Oakland.

S.B. No. 2008 “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONDOMINIUMS.”

Introduced by: Senators Nishihara, Trimble.

S.B. No. 2009 “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO GAMBLING.”

Introduced by: Senators Nishihara, Espero, Trimble.

S.B. No. 2010 “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WITNESSES.”

Introduced by: Senators Nishihara, Chun Oakland, Espero, Taniguchi.

S.B. No. 2011 “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PROCUREMENT.”

Introduced by: Senators Nishihara, Espero.

S.B. No. 2012 “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPOSIT BEVERAGE CONTAINER PROGRAM.”

Introduced by: Senator Nishihara.

S.B. No. 2013 “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY.”

Introduced by: Senators Nishihara, Trimble.

S.B. No. 2014 “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE SUPERVISION OF CHARITABLE TRUSTS AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS ACT.”

Introduced by: Senators Nishihara, Espero.

S.B. No. 2015 “A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PACIFIC AVIATION MUSEUM PEARL HARBOR.”

Introduced by: Senator Nishihara.

S.B. No. 2016 “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO GLOBAL WARMING.”

Introduced by: Senators Nishihara, Espero, Chun Oakland, Taniguchi.

S.B. No. 2017 “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FERAL CATS.”

Introduced by: Senator Nishihara.

S.B. No. 2018 “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES TAX CREDIT.”

Introduced by: Senators Nishihara, Chun Oakland, Espero.

S.B. No. 2019 “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PEDESTRIAN SAFETY.”

Introduced by: Senators Nishihara, Chun Oakland, Espero, Hooser.

S.B. No. 2020 “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FIREARM AMMUNITION.”

Introduced by: Senators Nishihara, Espero.

S.B. No. 2021 “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROPERTY DAMAGE.”

Introduced by: Senators Nishihara, Espero.

S.B. No. 2022 “A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A GRANT-IN-AID TO THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT A SIDEWALK ON THE NORTH SIDE OF WAIPAHU STREET, OAHU.”

Introduced by: Senators Nishihara, Espero.

S.B. No. 2023 “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC AGENCY MEETINGS.”

Introduced by: Senators Nishihara, Taniguchi.

S.B. No. 2024 “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SALARY PAY PERIODS.”

Introduced by: Senators Nishihara, Trimble.

S.B. No. 2025 “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.”

Introduced by: Senator Nishihara.

S.B. No. 2026 “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TIME SHARE PLANS.”

Introduced by: Senator Nishihara.

S.B. No. 2027 "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FIREWORKS."

Introduced by: Senator Nishihara, by request.

S.B. No. 2028 "A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND A VETERANS CENTER."

Introduced by: Senators Inouye, Chun Oakland, Tsutsui, Espero, Fukunaga, Ige, Kokubun, Nishihara, Sakamoto, Tokuda.

S.B. No. 2029 "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO GENERAL EXCISE TAX."

Introduced by: Senators Inouye, Ige, Nishihara, Tsutsui.

S.B. No. 2030 "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE GENERAL EXCISE TAX."

Introduced by: Senators Inouye, Chun Oakland, Espero, Ige, Kokubun, Nishihara, Sakamoto, Tokuda, Tsutsui.

S.B. No. 2031 "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CRIME."

Introduced by: Senators Inouye, by request, Espero, Fukunaga, Sakamoto.

S.B. No. 2032 "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INCOME TAX."

Introduced by: Senators Inouye, Baker, Chun Oakland, Espero, Fukunaga, Ige, Nishihara, Sakamoto, Tsutsui.

S.B. No. 2033 "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO STATE BONDS."

Introduced by: Senators Baker, Tsutsui.

S.B. No. 2034 "A BILL FOR AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS TO ASSIST OCEANLINX HAWAII LLC."

Introduced by: Senators Baker, English, Tsutsui.

S.B. No. 2035 "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS FOR MAUI PREPARATORY ACADEMY."

Introduced by: Senators Baker, English, Tsutsui, Sakamoto.

S.B. No. 2036 "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE LEGISLATURE."

Introduced by: Senators Baker, Kim, Tsutsui.

S.B. No. 2037 "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS."

Introduced by: Senator Menor, by request.

S.B. No. 2038 "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES."

Introduced by: Senator Menor, by request.

S.B. No. 2039 "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM."

Introduced by: Senators Baker, Tsutsui, English, Fukunaga, Taniguchi.

S.B. No. 2040 "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CANCER SURVEILLANCE."

Introduced by: Senators Baker, Ige.

S.B. No. 2041 "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH."

Introduced by: Senators Baker, Chun Oakland, Ige.

S.B. No. 2042 "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CAREGIVING."

Introduced by: Senators Ihara, Baker, Chun Oakland, English, Hanabusa, Sakamoto, Tokuda, Hee.

S.B. No. 2043 "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII CENTER ON AGING EDUCATION AND RESEARCH."

Introduced by: Senators Ihara, Baker, Chun Oakland, English, Hanabusa, Sakamoto, Tokuda, Hee.

S.B. No. 2044 "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CAREGIVERS."

Introduced by: Senators Ihara, Baker, Chun Oakland, Hanabusa, Tokuda, English, Espero, Hee, Sakamoto.

S.B. No. 2045 "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CAREGIVING."

Introduced by: Senators Ihara, Baker, Chun Oakland, English, Hanabusa, Sakamoto, Tokuda, Hee.

S.B. No. 2046 "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MULTI-UNIT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS."

Introduced by: Senators Ihara, Baker, Chun Oakland, Tokuda, Hanabusa.

S.B. No. 2047 "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION."

Introduced by: Senators Ihara, Baker, Chun Oakland, English, Espero, Sakamoto, Tokuda, Hanabusa, Hee.

S.B. No. 2048 "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CAREGIVING."

Introduced by: Senators Ihara, Baker, Chun Oakland, Tokuda, English, Hanabusa, Hee, Sakamoto.

S.B. No. 2049 "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION."

Introduced by: Senators Ihara, Baker, Chun Oakland, Tokuda, English, Espero, Hanabusa, Hee, Sakamoto.

S.B. No. 2050 "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE NUMBER OF BLIND, DEAF, AND DEAF-BLIND PERSONS IN THE STATE OF HAWAII."

Introduced by: Senators Chun Oakland, Bunda, Inouye, Nishihara.

S.B. No. 2051 "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH."

Introduced by: Senators Chun Oakland, Bunda, Inouye, Nishihara.

S.B. No. 2052 "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE."

Introduced by: Senators Chun Oakland, Baker, Bunda, Inouye, Nishihara.

S.B. No. 2053 "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED."

Introduced by: Senator Chun Oakland.

S.B. No. 2054 "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FAMILY COURT."

Introduced by: Senator Chun Oakland.

S.B. No. 2055 "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FAMILY COURT."

Introduced by: Senator Chun Oakland.

Senator Ige rose to make the following announcement:

"Madam President, I have two announcements to make to the members. I just would like to remind the members that tomorrow starts the first day of business in the new paperless Senate, so I would like to remind all the senators to bring their laptops to Session. IT staff will be available thirty minutes prior to Session for those that have not been through the training and may be unfamiliar. I would also like to announce that from this point forward all documents will be distributed electronically rather than in hard copy. So for those Senators who may need to see the hard copy, they need to make a specific request to the Clerk's office. And the second announcement I just wanted to make was available today is the very first Senate CDs, which will be distributed to the public containing all of the pre-filed bills, and they should be available right after session."

At 11:27 a.m., the Senate stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair. Mr. Gordon Mark then entertained the members of the Senate and their guests.

The Senate reconvened at 11:47 a.m.

At this time, the President then stated:

"The Chair is going to make a point of personal privilege at this time, and this is because we are embarking on a very important mission in the Senate. As we have said, and we've spoken about sustainability, one of the things that we have done is we looked inward, meaning we looked at ourselves and we looked at what we can and cannot do to try and make a difference. And what Senator Ige mentioned earlier was our efforts to go paperless.

"I would like to take this opportunity to inform the public about that paperless journey that we are embarked upon. First of all, I need to say that if it isn't for, and if it wasn't for Senator David Ige, we would not be where we are today. We talk about fiscal management. I want you to know how smart we are in the Senate. We picked the electrical engineer, somebody who is undisputed, just a master in his field. I have a good friend who also reminds me that Senator Ige was valedictorian of his graduating class and showed me how smart he is. Let me tell you, Senator Ige is very smart. He figured this whole thing out, and if it wasn't for him we wouldn't be where we are here today.

"Under Senator Ige's leadership, we have moved great, great strides. But in order for us to do so, we need the people who are going to make sure that the ideas get implemented. And I must recognize the Senate Clerk Carol Taniguchi and the Assistant Clerk Laurel Johnston. They have had to be tactful, patient—very, very patient—because they are responsible for a group called the Senate Data Systems who are the ones who really make this all happen. And they have been affectionately referred to by some of us as our little gnomes because they sort of stay down here and then they're puttering around. But if it wasn't for their talent, led by Jon Shimabuku, we would not be as far as we are.

"But even with all of that, the main thing we need is buy in—buy in. And we got buy in not only from the Senators but more importantly from their staff. The one thing I have come to learn as Senate President is that the Senators may be hard to deal with, but if the staff aren't with you, forget it, just forget it, hang it up, hang it up. And for me, my staffer who has led the charge and has kept me in check—because I'm the kind of

person who says 'Why can't we do it? Why can't we just go and do it? Put everybody on computers, and if they don't want to come along, leave them behind'—but he's very reasoned, and he says 'No, we must take this step by step.' And that is Rod Tanonaka, my Chief of Staff.

"We must also recognize two other permanent staffers who really took this issue, and they are Senator Kim's Ross Tsukenjo, and Senator Baker's Jennifer Chow. Without them, I don't think we would have had the universal buy in that we've had within the Senate. They may not be here, but I'd really appreciate it if you'd recognize them.

"As well, we have two Committee Chairs—two Committee Chairs who in my opinion have the most paper—who are going to take this adventure on. They are going to do the paperless, and they've started. And they are Senator Baker from Ways and Means—everyone knows that Ways and Means has a lot of paper, and they are going paperless—and Senator Ige of the Health Committee. Those two we have to applaud because they are taking us forward.

"And we cannot forget our other staff who are going to be behind the-scenes and do it all for us. They are our Sergeant-at-Arms Ben Villafior and his techy, that's what I call Jayson Watts, the Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms. The two of them will do it.

"And we must not forget the people who are actually going to scan this, and that is the Print Shop led by our good Tia. Without Tia and her faithful staff, we could not do this. And they are also part of this effort and they must also be thanked.

"But most of all, I want to thank the Senators who we may have some grouching about, but for the most part everyone has taken that leap of faith and have bought in to what we are going to do. And we'd like to say to the public that you are the ones that are going to benefit from this because you will be able to, when a committee hearing starts, have all the information, all the testimony before you. You will be able to link, if you have a computer; or you will be able to be at home and link to us. And we must acknowledge the Public Access Room, who has been with us on this journey, encouraging us and telling us what we need.

"Ladies and gentlemen, without all the people, and many more, many other staffers who have joined in, we could not be doing what we're doing. So please watch us. Tell us where it works and where it doesn't work. But this is what the Senate has done during the interim, in addition to three Special Sessions and letting the boat sail. In addition to that, we actually did other stuff, believe it or not, and we've done it successfully, all thanks to everyone's effort. But those that I have recognized in particular, we in leadership owe them all a great deal of gratitude, and in particular Senator Ige. What a deal, man, getting Senator Ige at a Senator's pay to do all of this. That's got to be smart planning, at the very least.

"In any event, I must call upon Senator Ige now to make the motion. Senator Ige."

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 11:54 a.m., on motion by Senator Ige, seconded by Senator Whalen and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 a.m., Thursday, January 17, 2008.