

THIRTY-SEVENTH DAY

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

The Senate of the Twenty-Fifth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2010, convened at 11:45 a.m. with the President in the Chair.

The Divine Blessing was invoked by the Honorable Brickwood Galuteria, Hawai'i State Senate, after which the Roll was called showing all Senators present with the exception of Senator Hee who was excused.

The President announced that she had read and approved the Journal of the Thirty-Sixth Day.

At this time, the following introduction was made to the members of the Senate:

Senator Hooser introduced a group of 7th and 8th grade students from Chiefess Kamakahelei Middle School who were involved in Skills USA, including Kaiea Iwasaki, Gregie Delos Santos, Taylor Cabacungan, Race Nakamura, Kal Anacleto, Justin Doi, and their teacher Mr. Justin Carvalho. Skills USA is a non-profit national organization that is a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives working together to ensure America has a strong skilled workforce by helping students who are preparing for a career in trade, technical and skilled service occupations.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The following messages from the Governor (Gov. Msg. Nos. 377 to 379) were read by the Clerk and were disposed of as follows:

Gov. Msg. No. 377, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, the nomination of MATTHEW R. WILLIAMS, term to expire June 30, 2012, was referred to the Committee on Higher Education.

Gov. Msg. No. 378, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, the nomination of CHUCK Y. GEE, term to expire June 30, 2015, was referred to the Committee on Higher Education.

Gov. Msg. No. 379, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, the nomination of RONALD D. MONTGOMERY, term to expire June 30, 2015, was referred to the Committee on Higher Education.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

The following communication (Dept. Com. No. 77) was read by the Clerk and was placed on file:

Dept. Com. No. 77, from the University of Hawaii dated March 19, 2010, transmitting a report on a Security Breach at the University of Hawaii's Pacific Aviation Training Center, Honolulu Community College, Kalaeloa Site, pursuant to Section 487N-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications from the House (Hse. Com. Nos. 272 and 273) were read by the Clerk and were placed on file:

Hse. Com. No. 272, informing the Senate that on March 22, 2010, the House disagreed to the amendments proposed by the Senate to H.B. No. 2845, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1).

Hse. Com. No. 273, informing the Senate that on March 22, 2010, the House reconsidered its action taken on March 12, 2010, in disagreeing to the amendments proposed by the Senate to H.B. No. 2427, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1).

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Senator Ige, for the Committee on Health, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2830) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of GORDON M. DURANT to the State Council on Mental Health, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 218.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2830 and Gov. Msg. No. 218 was deferred until Wednesday, March 24, 2010.

Senator Ige, for the Committee on Health, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2831) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities of the following:

JOANN W.L. YUEN, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 208;

JOANN W.L. YUEN, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 209;

CAROLINE M.T. CADIRAO, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 257;

CAROLINE M.T. CADIRAO, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 258; and

JOSHUA I. SMALLEY-BOWER, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 259.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2831 and Gov. Msg. Nos. 208, 209, 257, 258, and 259 was deferred until Wednesday, March 24, 2010.

Senator Ige, for the Committee on Health, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2832) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Kaua'i Service Area Board of the following:

CRYSTAL LEE AGUINALDO, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 215;

THOMAS E. DORSEY PHD, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 216; and

BRENDA K. VIADO CRC, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 217.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2832 and Gov. Msg. Nos. 215, 216, and 217 was deferred until Wednesday, March 24, 2010.

Senator Ige, for the Committee on Health, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2833) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the Disability and Communication Access Board of the following:

LUCY MILLER PHD, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 289;

LYNN K. MURAKAMI-AKATSUKA, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 290; and

LYNN K. MURAKAMI-AKATSUKA, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 291.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2833 and Gov. Msg. Nos. 289, 290, and 291 was deferred until Wednesday, March 24, 2010.

Senator Ige, for the Committee on Health, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2834) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the Health Planning Council, Kaua'i Subarea of the following:

KATHLEEN A. CLARK, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 213; and

KATHLEEN A. CLARK, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 214.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2834 and Gov. Msg. Nos. 213 and 214 was deferred until Wednesday, March 24, 2010.

Senator Ige, for the Committee on Health, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2835) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the Health Planning Council, Tri-Isle Subarea of the following:

ANNE TRYGSTAD, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 260;

ANNE TRYGSTAD, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 261; and

MARTHA J. TURNER, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 262.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2835 and Gov. Msg. Nos. 260, 261, and 262 was deferred until Wednesday, March 24, 2010.

Senator Ige, for the Committee on Health, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2836) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of MARCIANO D. AQUINO to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 211.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2836 and Gov. Msg. No. 211 was deferred until Wednesday, March 24, 2010.

Senator Ige, for the Committee on Health, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2837) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities of the following:

JOAN M. BELLARD, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 204;

ANNEMARIE L. KALAMA, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 205;

ANNEMARIE L. KALAMA, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 206; and

JOSEPH CURTIS TYLER III, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 207.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2837 and Gov. Msg. Nos. 204, 205, 206, and 207 was deferred until Wednesday, March 24, 2010.

Senator Ige, for the Committee on Health, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2838) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of TAMAH-LANI S.K. NOH to the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 210.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2838 and Gov. Msg. No. 210 was deferred until Wednesday, March 24, 2010.

Senator Ige, for the Committee on Health, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2839) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of KEVIN D. CASSEL to the Board of Health, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 212.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2839 and Gov. Msg. No. 212 was deferred until Wednesday, March 24, 2010.

Senator Ige, for the Committee on Health, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2840) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the Health Planning Council, Windward Oahu Subarea of the following:

JOHN C. KEENE, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 263; and

JOHN C. KEENE, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 264.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2840 and Gov. Msg. Nos. 263 and 264 was deferred until Wednesday, March 24, 2010.

Senator Ige, for the Committee on Health, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2841) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of RICHARD E. MEIERS to the Statewide Health Coordinating Council, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 292.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2841 and Gov. Msg. No. 292 was deferred until Wednesday, March 24, 2010.

Senator Taniguchi, for the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2842) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of ELIZABETH KENT to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 220.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2842 and Gov. Msg. No. 220 was deferred until Wednesday, March 24, 2010.

Senator Espero, for the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2843) recommending that H.C.R. No. 70 be adopted.

By unanimous consent, action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2843 and H.C.R. No. 70, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THOSE WHO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THE FAMILIES OF DEPLOYED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES," was deferred until Wednesday, March 24, 2010.

Senators Espero and English, for the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs and the Committee on Transportation, International and Intergovernmental Affairs, presented a joint report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2844) recommending that H.B. No. 2351, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

On motion by Senator Sakamoto, seconded by Senator Slom and carried, the joint report of the Committees was adopted and H.B. No. 2351, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VETERANS," passed Second Reading and was placed on the calendar for Third Reading on Monday, March 29, 2010.

Senator Espero, for the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2845), recommending that S.C.R. No. 100 be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator Sakamoto, seconded by Senator Slom and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.C.R. No. 100, entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AEROSPACE AS A STRATEGIC AND TIMELY GROWTH INDUSTRY FOR HAWAII AND REQUESTING THE STATE ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE PROACTIVE, COORDINATED, AND SUSTAINED ACTION TO FULLY REALIZE THE SIGNIFICANT SCIENTIFIC, EDUCATIONAL, AND COMMERCIAL BENEFITS THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY CAN BRING TO THE STATE," was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

At this time, the Chair made the following announcements:

"Referrals and re-referrals are made in accordance with the referrals and re-referrals on the Order of the Day and the Supplemental Order of the Day that may be distributed to your offices later this afternoon.

"The Hawai'i Medal of Honor Joint Session will convene at 2:00 p.m. in the House Chambers. All members are asked to report to the House Chamber by 1:45 p.m."

At this time, Senator Hooser made a late introduction in order to recognize all the remaining students from Chiefess Kamakahahei Middle School involved in Skills USA.

At 11:52 a.m., on motion by Senator Sakamoto, seconded by Senator Slom and carried, the Senate stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair to meet in Joint Session with the House of Representatives, in accordance with House Concurrent Resolution No. 3, to award the Hawai'i Medal of Honor to United States military service members with Hawai'i connections who were killed in action while serving in dangerous, volatile, and unstable areas of the world, including Iraq and Afghanistan.

JOINT SESSION

The Joint Session of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fifth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2010, was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by the Honorable Calvin Say, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Speaker then addressed the Chamber, stating:

"This is indeed a monumental occasion. We honor the members of the Armed Forces of the United States with ties to Hawaii who fought and died bravely in a combat zone designated by Presidential Order.

"On behalf of the Senate President and all of the members of the Hawai'i State Legislature, I convey our deepest condolences to our very special guests—the family, the friends, and colleagues of loved ones who have lost their lives overseas in the Middle East. Our prayers are with you, and we are honored of your presence here today.

"At this time, please rise for the posting of the colors by the Joint Service Color Guard, the Hawai'i Air National Guard, and the Royal Guard; and remain standing for the singing of the National Anthem and 'Hawai'i Pono'i' by Ms. Tracy Toguchi, which will be followed by the invocation by Reverend William H. Kaina.

"Joint Service Color Guard and Royal Guard, please present the colors."

At this time, the members of the Twenty-Fifth Legislature and special guests rose for the Posting of Colors by the Joint Service Color Guard, the Hawai'i Air National Guard, and the Royal Guard.

The members of the Legislature and guests remained standing for the singing of the National Anthem and "Hawai'i Pono'i" by Ms. Tracy Toguchi.

The Divine Blessing was then invoked by Reverend William H. Kaina

At this time, the Speaker thanked the Joint Service Color Guard, the Royal Guard, Ms. Toguchi, and Reverend William H. Kaina for their participation in today's ceremony.

The Speaker then addressed the members of the Legislature and guests as follows:

"Good afternoon and aloha!

"This is the fifth year that I stand at this dais in tribute to the recipients of the Hawaii Medal of Honor. It has not gotten any easier. Each year, I cannot reflect on the lives prematurely lost in the Middle East without feeling profound sorrow. I see the faces of the loved ones they have left behind, etched with a sadness and pain that I cannot possibly assuage. I wish I could...

"All I can do is to tell you that each of you has lost a remarkable father, mother, son, daughter, uncle, aunt, cousin, or friend this past year...a true American patriot.

"While we take our everyday lives for granted, our soldiers are dying on foreign soil, under unforgiving conditions, to ensure that the rest of us may continue our lives and lifestyles. By their willingness to 'walk the walk', instead of just 'talk the talk, and by sacrificing their own personal security, they are giving us life's most precious gifts, that of liberty and freedom. We must always remember that these freedoms are not free—they have been paid for by the blood of our men and women in the armed forces.

"I only hope that you, who have lost loved ones, will be comforted in knowing that their sacrifice will not be forgotten. Many of you may not remember what was said today, but everyone will remember the brave men and women who perished in combat for the United States of America, and the ideals for which we stand. Each will be a part of a chapter in American history. Each will join the ranks of other gallant soldiers, who perished before them in conflicts dating back to our independence...all for the sake of democracy.

"President Abraham Lincoln expressed it best when he learned of Mrs. Bixby, a mother who lost two sons during the Civil War. He wrote to her to say, in part:

I cannot refrain from tendering you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

"I leave you with the knowledge that, one day, the name of your valiant soldier will be permanently inscribed in stone for future generations of Americans to know and appreciate. They will become eternal...like the light from the skies that brightly blesses our state and our country...forever.

"I wish you peace, comfort, and serenity in the memory of our fallen heroes. Aloha."

The Speaker then stated:

"Before proceeding any further, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the presence of our military and congressional leaders."

At this time, the Speaker welcomed and introduced the following distinguished guests to the members of the Twenty-Fifth Legislature:

The Honorable Linda Lingle, Governor of the State of Hawai'i;

Representing the Honorable Daniel K. Akaka, United States Senator—Mr. Ricky Oshiro;

Representing the Honorable Mazie Hirono, United States Congresswoman—Ms. Auli'i George;

Mr. Bill Paty, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army Emeritus;

Ms. Christina Kemmer, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army Emeritus;

Lieutenant General Keith Stalder, Commander, Marine Forces Pacific, and Mrs. Susan Stalder;

Major General Robert G. F. Lee, the Adjutant General, Hawai'i Department of Defense;

Major General Darryll D. M. Wong, Commander, Hawai'i Air National Guard;

Major General Michael J. Terry, Commanding General, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, and Mrs. Cathy Terry;

Representing Lieutenant General Benjamin Mixon and the United States Army Pacific—Brigadier General John Ma;

Brigadier General Gary M. Ishikawa, Deputy Adjutant General, Hawai'i Department of Defense;

Representing General Gary North and the Pacific Air Forces and 13th Air Force—Brigadier General H. Brent Baker, Sr.;

Brigadier General Stephen L. Jones, Commander, Tripler Army Medical Center;

Representing Major General Bernard S. Champoux and the 25th Infantry Division—Brigadier General James C. Nixon;

Brigadier General Alan Lynn, Commanding General, 331st SC (Theater), and Mrs. Brook Lynn;

Representing the Hawai'i Army National Guard—Brigadier General Gary M. Hara, Assistant Adjutant General, and Mrs. Dianne Hara;

Rear Admiral Dixon R. Smith, Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i, and Mrs. Kiki Smith;

Brigadier General Joseph Kim, Commander, 154th Wing, and Mrs. Kim;

Representing Rear Admiral Manson K. Brown, 14th Coast Guard District—Rear Admiral Steve Mehling;

Representing the Hawai'i Army National Guard—Colonel Arthur Logan and Mrs. Gaylene Logan; and

Representing Brigadier General Alexander Kozlov and the 9th Mission Support Command—Colonel Timothy Schroth.

At this time, the Speaker presented to the members of the Twenty-Fifth Legislature and special guests the Honorable Linda Lingle, Governor of the State of Hawai'i.

The Governor addressed the Joint Session and guests as follows:

“Senate President Colleen Hanabusa, House Speaker Calvin Say, legislators, Major General Bob Lee, all the military leaders here with us today, especially to the husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, sons and daughters, and other loved ones of the fallen: I regret that we had to gather

here today. Nonetheless, it's important that we do so in order to honor the 28 service members part of our Hawai'i 'ohana who gave the ultimate sacrifice of their life.

“I want to commend Representative Mark Takai and members of the Legislature for the formulation and initiation of this Medal of Honor ceremony and for it taking place each year. We need to come together to recognize the sacrifice that was made, and we need to put it into a historic, as well as a modern, context. These Americans who gave their lives so that we could be secure in our freedoms and free from terrorism did so much more than that for the people of Iraq so that they could be free, and for the people in Afghanistan and the freedoms that will follow there. I can't help but think as a woman what life was like for women in Afghanistan, in particular, before America's commitment; and while it's a huge price to pay, the fact is before America's involvement women were treated like pack animals—young girls not able to go to school, no woman able to reach her potential in that country. And in fact, that's what the terrorists want for the entire world: They want a place where women are no better than animals. So, this sacrifice is one that no words can ever equal; they pale in comparison to the sacrifice that was made, and yet we each want to offer specific words of gratitude to each of the family members and loved ones.

“The recent elections in Iraq tell a part of the story of the sacrifice of these men and women because the candidates in Iraq who were backed by the extremist religious groups did not get elected. There would have been no elections without the sacrifice of the men and women we honor today, as well as thousands of others who gave their lives. Our United States forces will continue to be drawn down in Iraq, projected to be down to 50,000 by the end of August of this year, with all troops expected to be out by the end of 2011; and by the grace of God that will occur so the people of Iraq will be able to defend their own new, stable, and democratic country in the middle of the Middle East. It was these American troops and their sacrifices that made this happen. Just like America did in World War I, World War II, and Korea, it was your loved ones who allowed people worldwide to enjoy freedom.

“I was asked yesterday by one of the members of my personal security detail who has children—we were talking about education issues—and this person asked me do I believe there should be a standard curriculum in America, that schools everywhere in America should be teaching exactly the same thing. And I told him that while I think schools on the east coast and the west coast may come at issues in a slightly different way because of the way our histories have developed, I believe as a fact every American child should grow up understanding the fact that if not for the sacrifices of tens of thousands of Americans as well as their families, the world today would not be free. Not only would America not be free, no nation on earth would be free had it not been for the sacrifices we made as Americans, and others made, in the Second World War. So yes, I believe American children need to be taught that in clear, unequivocal terms that it's our sacrifices, it's our sacrifices today that are enabling people to live in freedom where they wouldn't have freedom if not for these men and women and for the support of their families. America has always been a beacon for liberty. We have fought for those who could not fight for themselves. This is especially true about our Hawai'i-based troops—Kāne'ohe marines, soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division, and our own National Guard 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team—who have served and assisted Iraq in their national elections.

“To the families who are here today, I know I speak on behalf of Senate President Hanabusa, Speaker Say, indeed every elected official in the State, and all of the people who we represent that we owe you a tremendous debt of gratitude, that

we appreciate you taking the time and going through the effort to be here today. Your sacrifice is laudable and extremely honorable. We wanted you to know that from our perspective, although the loss can never be healed completely, your family members were not lost in vain. The fact that we believe that does not take away your pain, but future generations will look at these family members as heroes. All of you will remain in the hearts and in the thoughts of the people of Hawai'i. We all owe you, along with the rest of America, a tremendous debt of thanks and gratitude."

The Speaker thanked the Governor for her insights, then called upon Major General Robert Lee to deliver his remarks on behalf of the military.

General Lee addressed the Joint Session and guests as follows:

"Thank you, Speaker Say. Good afternoon and aloha. I want to thank everyone for coming to this Medal of Honor ceremony today. Your presence here is a strong testimony to the great support that Hawai'i has for our military personnel, our veterans, and their families.

"Again, we gather here at the State Capitol for this solemn ceremony, and this year we honor 28 soldiers, marines, sailors, and airmen, including members of our own Hawai'i Army National Guard's 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, who gave their lives for our nation.

"Our nation remains engaged on two fronts, Afghanistan and Iraq; and our brave men and women in our armed forces continue to serve in harm's way as they have done for these past nine years. In the combat zone, they sacrificed and they fought for their buddies. For their fellow Americans, they fought for the ideals found in our Constitution. They each swore to support and defend and to bear true faith and allegiance to our Constitution.

"Our 28 heroes we honor today more than fulfilled any obligations they owed to us. That is why it's so difficult for families and friends to comprehend their loss, taken in their prime of life and whose full potential will not be realized. We will lament the missed birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, and thousands of other daily events that could've been. We will continue to mourn this premature passing of our brothers and sisters in arms.

"The State Medal of Honor is Hawaii's way to remember our soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, and coast guardsmen who made the ultimate sacrifice, to show our appreciation to their families, to share their loss, and to assure them that they will always be part of our state's 'ohana, or family. It doesn't matter if a service member grew up in Hawai'i or first set foot upon these beautiful islands as part of a Hawai'i-based unit—they are still embraced as part of our 'ohana. We appreciate even more President Abraham Lincoln's humble wisdom at Gettysburg: 'When brave young men and women die, it is their deeds, not our words, that are remembered. It is their sacrifice, not our brief recollection, that will offer everlasting testimony to their love for others and their love for us.'

"So, to the family and friends of our fallen heroes, I humbly ask that you accept this Hawai'i Medal of Honor on behalf of the people of Hawai'i, who today and forever shall be your devoted 'ohana. May God bless all of you, and may God bless the United States of America."

The Speaker then stated:

"Thank you, Major General Lee for your leadership. Madam Clerk, please begin the announcement of the Hawai'i Medal of Honor recipients."

At this time, the House Clerk proceeded to read the names of the following individuals who were represented by family members, friends, and colleagues to receive their medals and certificates:

United States Army Specialist Cwislyn K. Walter;
 United States Army First Lieutenant Daniel B. Hyde;
 United States Army Sergeant Devin C. Poche;
 United States Army Corporal Michael J. Anaya;
 United States Air Force First Lieutenant Roslyn L. Schulte;
 United States Army Sergeant Jasper K. Obakrairur;
 United States Army Major Rocco M. Barnes;
 United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal Joshua R. Whittle;
 United States Army Corporal Casey L. Hills;
 United States Marine Corps Corporal Matthew R. Lembke;
 United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal James D. Argentine;
 United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal Travis T. Babine;
 United States Marine Corps Sergeant Jay M. Hoskins;
 United States Marine Corps Corporal Christian A. Guzman Rivera;
 United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal Joshua M. Bernard;
 United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal John J. Malone;
 United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal Zachary D. TenBrook;
 United States Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Earl R. Scott III;
 United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal Mark David Juarez; and
 United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal Jacob A. Meinert.

At this time, the Senate Clerk stated:

"We would also like to recognize the following service members who also served and sacrificed their lives."

The Senate Clerk proceeded to read the names of the following individuals whose families were not able to attend today's ceremony:

United States Army Specialist Christopher P. Sweet;
 United States Army Sergeant Raphael A. Futrell;
 United States Navy Lieutenant Junior Grade Francis L. Toner IV;
 United States Army Command Sergeant Major Benjamin Moore Jr.;
 United States Army Staff Sergeant Randy S. Agno;
 United States Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class (Hospital Corpsman) Anthony C. Garcia;
 United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal Alfonso Ochoa Jr.; and
 United States Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mathew C. Heffelfinger.

At this time, Speaker Say stated:

"Members of the House and members of the Senate, please recognize and thank the recipients' family members, friends and colleagues who have joined us in the Chamber today."

At this time, President Hanabusa made the following announcement:

"Members of the House and Senate and special guests, please rise and turn your attention to the rotunda level for the 21-gun Salute and the playing of 'Taps'. This will be followed by a moment of silence. Members of the Hickam Base Honor Guard, please proceed."

A 21-gun Salute and Taps were then carried out by the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Navy.

The President then gave her closing remarks as follows:

“In the 2005 legislative session, what has come to be known as Act 21 was passed into law. It is time for us to reflect as to what exactly the Legislature intended at that time. The preamble says, ‘The purpose of this Act is to provide for a Hawaii medal of honor that would help express the deep appreciation and gratitude of the people of Hawaii to the loved ones of members of the military who sacrificed their lives in defense of our nation and its freedoms.’ It is all but a small token of the appreciation of the people of this state for your loved ones who have touched us by either serving in our military establishments here or being one of our keiki o ka ‘āina, as we would say.

“Let’s look at what has been represented for the past five years: There have been 269 medals presented in these chambers. In the year 2006, there were 120. I remember the medals came after 9/11, and part of the 120 of that year reflected 83 who had died in combat in Afghanistan and Iraq since 9/11 up to the date February 14, 2005. In 2007, 67 medals were given. In 2008, 31. In 2009, 23; and this year, 28. For us, there are truly 269 medals too many, and we may not say that to the loved ones who are here to receive the medals. And for many of us, five years is too long. And each year, I know Speaker and I sit at this dais; we always look at each other say, ‘I hope this is the last year.’

“This is one of the most difficult things that we do as a legislative body, and this year Sergeant Hoskins’ two children made it very difficult. And I thought at that time, ‘What do you say to two young boys? What do you say to them?’ Then I reflected upon something that I recall: I was there when the Medal of Honor was presented to the 442nd in Washington, D.C. One of my classmates’ father was a recipient who never mentioned anything. When I asked him, ‘Why? Why did you not even mention that you were a Silver Star recipient, and that even to get him to go to the Medal of Honor ceremonies was a task.’ He said, ‘I did what I did for my country so that my children would never have to see war again.’ And I thought, today especially as we watched those two young children, that that is probably why everyone in uniform serves—so that we will never need to see war. But we need all of you because you are so willing, and many of them have given the ultimate sacrifice so the rest of us can sit here, stand here, and engage in open debate and open discussion because you have done the ultimate sacrifice and that’s to ensure our freedom and our ability to be Americans and our ability to appreciate all the freedoms that this country represents.

“So please, on behalf of the State of Hawai‘i, of the people of this wonderful place that we all call home, accept our deep-felt thanks to all of you, the loved ones, and all of you who are in uniform who will continue to serve so that we may benefit from the greatest freedoms on this earth and the wonderful right to be Americans and to call the United States our home. Thank you very much.”

The President then stated:

“Members of the House and Senate, and special guests, please rise for the retiring of the colors.”

At this time, the members of the Twenty-Fifth Legislature and special guests rose for the Retiring of the Colors by the Joint Service Color Guard and the Hawai‘i Air National Guard, Royal Guard.

The President stated:

“There being no further business, I declare this Joint Session adjourned.”

At 3:13 p.m., President Hanabusa declared the Joint Session adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3:13 p.m., the Senate adjourned until 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 24, 2010.