

TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY

Monday, March 16, 2015

The Senate of the Twenty-Eighth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2015, convened at 11:38 a.m. with the President in the Chair.

The Roll was called showing all Senators present.

The President announced that she had read and approved the Journal of the Twenty-Seventh Day.

Senator Chun Oakland, on behalf of Senator Harimoto and Senator Nishihara, introduced students from Pearl City Elementary School who were accompanied in the gallery by their parents and teacher Mr. Russell Minobe: Regan Samsell and his father, Aaron Samsell; Reina Aaron and her father, Johan Aaron; Mikyla Campo and her father, Romeo Campo; Carly Hope and her father, Ricardo Hope; and Evan Rivera and his mother, Tina Kekaoha.

Senator Slom celebrated the Radford High School Transition Center, and presented the following remarks:

"Yes, good morning, Madam President and colleagues. As part of Education Week, we have very special guests in the gallery and also on the floor today. We are recognizing the Radford High School Transition Center, and it's interesting because they, too, have given up their spring break to be with us and to visit with you.

"But I wanted to share some information about this transition center that many of you may not have heard of or known about before. Sixty-five percent of Radford High School's student body consists of students who are military dependents, and as a result, each year, there's almost 300 new students who transfer into Radford's programs for the first time. Some students are transfers from other Hawai'i schools, but the majority have moved from schools on the mainland or from overseas. In 2003, this transition center was started by former principal Mr. Robert Stevens and Mrs. Janice Ikeda, a former transition center coordinator. It's a novel idea, and in the 2014 fall semester alone, 238 students transferred into Radford, including my own staff member Noelani Bonifacio, who was one of these student transfer leaders several years ago, and she's instrumental in bringing us our students and parents today.

"The program is run entirely by student facilitators who are volunteers. They give all new students a personalized campus tour; they also are lunch buddies. You know, this would be a good idea for the Senate; I've been looking for some lunch buddies for a long time now. They accompany new students to get lunch in the cafeteria, which is one of the most uncomfortable parts of the day, or could be, for a new student. They also get involved in a number of specific programs for the new students. There are four specific areas of focus: one is looking at Radford, looking at the school itself, knowing the rules and regulations; dealing with the stress of change, and for many, that can be quite a bit; the uniqueness of Hawai'i and our new home state and culture and background; and finally, charting their course and their academic passport. The student facilitators have presented their programs to many prestigious visitors, VIPs, school officials, and the military, including former First Lady Laura Bush.

"It has been a tremendously successful program, has helped many students, and so this year, Radford is celebrating the tenth anniversary of the program itself. They continue to positively impact all of the students at Radford. As proof of the program's effectiveness, about 90 percent of the student facilitators have been through the transition center before, themselves, as a new student. The transition center currently has 12 student

facilitators who have volunteered both their time and their talents to carry on the legacy of the transition center. Facilitators are active in other areas on campus as well: some in academic clubs like National Honor Society or Mu Alpha Theta, others as student athletes, or involved in activities on campus in the band and ROTC. This helps all new students transition into the many types of extracurricular activities that Radford offers."

Senator Wakai rose to present the following remarks:

"Thank you, members. The Radford campus is really like a mini United Nations, and it's really refreshing to see the cosmopolitan faces that we have there at Radford. For those of you who are unfamiliar, Radford is right near the airport outside of the gates of Pearl Harbor and Hickam.

"As Senator Slom mentioned, we'd like to introduce a number of the outstanding students involved in the transition center. First, we'd like to introduce Transition Coordinator Cindy Schrock. Mrs. Schrock has been coordinator for the last five years; this is her tenth year at Radford. She previously served as a counselor, senior project coordinator, and career and technical education coordinator.

"Next to her, we have five outstanding young students. First, senior Jamie Beesley-Wadzinski – welcome, Jamie. She's a transfer from Texas and a member of the National Honor Society and the Radford band. Next to her is Tala Chavis; she's a transfer from Pennsylvania and a member of the honors French club. Next to her is junior Sarah Brekhus, a transfer from Texas and a member of the National Honor Society and junior ROTC staff member. Joining them on the floor is junior Autumn Ollice, a transfer from 'Aiea Intermediate School; she is a member of the National Honor Society, a senior Girl Scout, and captain of the wrestling team. Finally, the man amongst the beautiful ladies: sophomore Trenton Hirschi, a transfer from Turkey and a junior ROTC staff member. Welcome to the floor of the Senate."

Senator Slom continued:

"Thank you, Senator Wakai. Seated in the gallery are: Janice Cortez, who's a part-time teacher in the transition center who has been there for about 10 years; Joy McElhaney, parent community networking coordinator and part-time teacher in the transition center; and Kari Wells, part-time teacher in the transition center. Welcome to all of you."

Senator Tokuda recognized Richard Lau, student activities coordinator at Kalaheo High School, and Sarah Benzing, a Kalaheo High School student who would be presenting testimony at a hearing later that afternoon along with her classmates.

At 11:48 a.m., the Senate stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The Senate reconvened at 11:53 a.m.

At this time, Senator Chun Oakland introduced Cari Ann Oshino, a student at Pearl City Elementary School.

ORDER OF THE DAY

ADVISE AND CONSENT

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 912 (Gov. Msg. No. 536):

Senator Keith-Agaran moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 912 be received and placed on file, seconded by Senator Espero and carried.

Senator Keith-Agaran then moved that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of LEONARD HOSHIJO as Deputy Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, term to expire December 3, 2018, seconded by Senator Espero.

Senator Keith-Agaran rose to speak in support of the nominee as follows:

“Mr. Hoshijo brings to the state experience dealing with labor and employment issues in a career that spans decades, including his most recent position at the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters, where he was the education and political director and ran member education programs.

“Prior to joining the carpenters, he spent 25 years with the ILWU, where he was a leader. He spearheaded development of the ILWU’s six affordable rental housing projects statewide for low-income seniors and families as well as the transformation of plantation housing to homeownership. He led the ILWU’s Organizing Department, helping to organize thousands of workers into the union. He was a negotiator, a teacher, an administrator, and a community leader.

“Throughout his career, Leonard has developed a reputation of working collaboratively with employers, government officials, and community organizations and has earned their respect and trust. Despite his clear advocacy for labor, he is viewed as fair, balanced, and will look at issues analytically, consider all viewpoints, and try to find common ground. As one testifier observed, Mr. Hoshijo appreciates the role the employers have in solving workplace issues and contributing to our economy. In short, the committee was satisfied that he brings a balanced temperament well suited to this appointment, integrity, strong work ethic, and communication skills necessary to step right in and effectively lead the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations until a permanent director is appointed and confirmed.

“I do want to mention that I may have been remiss in not asking if he would show any favoritism to any attached agencies that employ one of his relatives, but I think we are well-satisfied that I would ask all of my colleagues to vote in support of this nomination.”

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

Ayes, 24. Noes, none. Excused, 1 (Shimabukuro).

Senator Keith-Agaran introduced newly confirmed Deputy Director Leonard Hoshijo, who was accompanied in the gallery by his brother Bill Hoshijo and representatives from the Governor’s office and Department of Labor and Industrial Relations including Acting Director Elaine Young and Bill Kuntzman.

At 11:57 a.m., the Senate stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The Senate reconvened at 12:02 p.m.

RE-REFERRAL OF HOUSE BILLS

The Chair re-referred the following House bills that were received:

H.B. No.: Re-referred to:

H.B. No. 314, H.D. 1 Jointly to the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs and the Committee on Water and Land and the Committee on Government Operations, then to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

H.B. No. 853, H.D. 1 Jointly to the Committee on Judiciary and Labor and the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Education, then to the Committee on Ways and Means

H.B. No. 1286, H.D. 2 Jointly to the Committee on Energy and Environment and the Committee on Water and Land, then to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Senator Kouchi rose to speak on a point of personal privilege as follows:

“As we have Education Week and today seems to be the shortest day, I wanted to stand to talk about bullying this afternoon. In the Education Committee, when we talked about it, I shared this poster that was the result of a contest on Kaua’i. The graphic designer is Kalae Suhut, a kindergarten student at Wilcox Elementary School, and the slogan was by Julie Goldberg, a ninth grader at Kaua’i High School. It says, ‘Mauka to Makai, Bully-Free Kaua’i.’

“Kalae is a young man of Filipino and Hawaiian ancestry, and in doing the poster, in making the people, he apparently drew the people that he saw at home, and he chose to color them brown. When we were celebrating the poster, he became the victim of cyberbullying by adults who claimed that he was a racist young man because there were only brown-colored people in the poster. A fantastic ending to what was turning out to be a horrible story is when teachers and parents at Wilcox decided for their open house, where this was being rolled out, to create a banner and cut out the faces and invite students and parents to put their faces in the cutout to show that they were the face of anti-bullying. This banner with the cutouts is going around the island of Kaua’i so that we can continue to show the faces who are against bullying.

“So, it is an honor to have such great people in our education system who know how to see the opportunity in the disasters that are out there and continue to help make this a great state and a great place to live. Thank you.”

Senator Kidani announced that Education Week activities would be continuing the following day with a film presentation on early childhood education, and invited the members and staff to attend.

Senator Gabbard rose to speak on a point of personal privilege as follows:

“I would like to congratulate our Communications director, Ms. Jill Kuramoto. For some of you who missed the episode of *Hawaii Five-0* on Friday night, Jill had a starring role. I belong to an exclusive club of this august body, along with Senator Galuteria and Senator Kidani, who have had cameo appearances on this wonderful show. I did talk to Ms. Kuramoto, and she’s assured me that she’s not going to quit her day job. Congratulations, Jill.”

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:07 p.m., on motion by Senator Green, seconded by Senator Slom and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 17, 2015.