

TWENTY-NINTH DAY

Tuesday, March 17, 2015

The Senate of the Twenty-Eighth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2015, convened at 11:33 a.m. with the President in the Chair.

The Roll was called showing all Senators present with the exception of Senator Inouye who was excused.

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

Senator Kidani honored and recognized the Teachers of the Year, and presented the following remarks:

"Thank you, Madam President and colleagues. The state's public school system employs 11,300 teachers in 289 schools around the state. Every day, parents entrust their children to the care of their teachers. Every day, our teachers take on what is a near-sacred responsibility of imparting knowledge; monitoring and setting standards for behavior and social interactions; and encouraging, challenging, incentivizing, and rewarding their students, whose futures and dreams are in their care.

"These teachers are among the best, and are more than up to the task. This school year, dozens of them were nominated by their colleagues and principals to be recognized as Teachers of the Year from their respective districts. From that number, seven were chosen for this honor, and we are more than delighted to have six of them with us on the floor this morning. These teachers are at the top of their game for their dedication and skills; ability to lead and inspire; their engagement with students, parents, and colleagues; and – this is from the official criteria – 'teachers possessing the energy to withstand a taxing schedule.' Tough standards, indeed.

"I have asked my fellow senators to introduce teachers from schools within their districts, beginning this morning with the Minority Leader, Senator Sam O'Slom."

Senator Slom recognized Catherine Caine, 2015 Hawai'i State Teacher of the Year, and presented the following remarks:

"Thank you, Madam President. It's a wonderful day to honor all of these teachers, but it is my great honor today to introduce our Hawai'i State Teacher of the Year, Catherine Caine.

"This is, of course, the foremost teaching award presented annually by the State of Hawai'i to one of over 11,000 educators within the Department of Education. Ms. Caine will represent Hawai'i in the National Teacher of the Year program, from which the President announces the national winner, and that will take place next month.

"Ms. Caine has been a second grade teacher at Waikiki Elementary School for the last 23 years, and for 11 years before coming to Waikiki Elementary, she worked at Iroquois Point Elementary and Ka'ewai Elementary.

"She is a deeply motivating and caring classroom teacher, and it shows in the classroom environment that she has headed. She has the ability to bring out the best in her students. She has had creative lessons from activities that integrate technology, and they concentrate on relevant issues from unique and exciting angles. Two examples: In math, the students collected coins for leukemia, and in writing, students crafted letters to their principal on how to improve playground equipment.

"She has tirelessly advanced the teaching profession as a member and learner. Locally, she mentors in the University of Hawai'i teachers development program. Internationally, our Teacher of the Year participates in conferences in Spain, Singapore, and Japan. She is on the National Board of certified

teachers with a bachelor's degree in child development from San Diego State University and a teacher's education diploma and master's degree in curriculum studies from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Please recognize again our State Teacher of the Year, Catherine Caine. And our guest in the gallery, Ms. Bonnie Tabor, who is the principal."

Senator Ihara rose to present the following remarks:

"Madam President, I wanted to add a few words of congratulations about Catherine Caine because many of her students live in my district.

"The goal of the Blue Ribbon Waikiki Elementary School is to provide an environment to encourage lifelong learning, and as we just heard, Ms. Caine is an outstanding example of a teacher who works tirelessly for this goal. She does this by making learning meaningful, memorable, and fun. In fact, I'm told that as a young girl, Catherine's favorite game was to play teacher in front of family members. Catherine presents each assignment as an opportunity for students to apply their knowledge to issues in their daily lives. For example, math lessons came from a class penny fundraiser to benefit leukemia research. Catherine sets her own lifelong learning example by looking for and taking advantage of opportunities to both increase her own knowledge as well as share her experiences with others.

"I know we all agree that we need more teachers like Catherine, who continues to find ways to motivate students from a young age to find joy in lifelong learning and then willingly shares that knowledge to help other teachers do the same. Congratulations, Catherine."

Senator Wakai congratulated Jamie Takamura, 2015 Central District Teacher of the Year, and presented the following remarks:

"Thank you, Madam President. As you can tell, Senator Slom and I shop at the same clothing stores. I rise on behalf of you, Senate President Donna Mercado Kim. Senate President is super lucky on this St. Patrick's Day, and every other day as well, to have Jamie Takamura as a teacher at Red Hill Elementary. Ms. Takamura is Teacher of the Year for the Department of Education's O'ahu Central District.

"When it comes to the quality of classroom education, devotion to students, and commitment to strengthening the educational process, Jamie Takamura has no equal. Ms. Takamura is an alumna of the University of Hawai'i College of Education with a bachelor's degree in education and art, and a certificate in Hawaiian language. She joined Red Hill Elementary in 2007 as a fifth grade teacher. She chairs the Red Hill School Community Council; is curriculum coordinator, Parent Teacher Student Organization representative, member of the academic review team, Title I coordinator, Play SMART coach, Moanalua complex area review team member; and when she has some extra time, serves as a University of Hawai'i dual certification program site coordinator. She is a busy woman.

"Jamie Takamura is a sterling example of the outstanding caliber of teachers we have in Hawai'i's public school system. She's an inspiring example of an educational leader who has an abiding commitment to improving the learning process, and an excellent selection for this well-deserved honor.

"In the gallery, we have her family and friends, a number of them. Thank you for supporting her. Congratulations again to you, Jamie."

Senator Harimoto honored Masaru Uchino, 2015 Leeward District Teacher of the Year, and presented the following remarks:

“Thank you. It is my privilege today to introduce our next honoree, Mr. Masaru Uchino, the Leeward District Teacher of the Year. Mr. Uchino is a third grade teacher at Momilani Elementary School, where he teaches math, science, and physical education.

“In addition to his work in the classroom, Mr. Uchino dedicates much of his personal time to youth development, including afterschool activities such as tutoring students and spearheading the Momilani dramatic arts program that conducts a musical play every year, as well as his Momilani Fit Factory, which educates students about the importance of leading a healthy, active lifestyle.

“Here in the gallery with us, supporting Mr. Uchino today, is Mrs. Doreen Higa, principal of Momilani Elementary School, and fellow teachers Mrs. Leona Uyesato and Mr. Wayne Yuen. And I need to give a special shout-out to Mr. Yuen, who is my granddaughter’s teacher, so, thank you, Mr. Yuen.

“Mr. Uchino, we’d really like to thank you for being such an awesome educator and such a blessing and inspiration to our students and to all of us. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition as the Leeward District Teacher of the Year. Mr. Masaru Uchino.”

Senator Tokuda commended Elizabeth Frilles, 2015 Windward District Teacher of the Year, and presented the following remarks:

“Thank you, Madam President. It’s my pleasure to introduce Elizabeth Frilles. Elizabeth has taught science and math at the Olomana School Ho’okipa Mauka site for the last five years. During this time, she has also served as the science department chair and has advised and supported students in preparation for the annual Windward Science and Engineering Fair. She is a member of the Olomana instructional leadership team, where her energy, devotion, and attention to detail have been infectious and resulted in substantial student learning and growth through a coordinated team effort.

“Elizabeth has received her bachelor of arts and a master of arts degree in teaching from Tokyo Gakugei University in Japan. Her prior teaching experience with the State of Hawai’i Department of Education spans nearly a decade, including teaching at ‘Aiea High School, Mililani High School, and the Moanalua/‘Aiea Community School for Adults.

“On behalf of our very proud Windward community, it’s my distinct pleasure to commend and congratulate Elizabeth Frilles on being chosen the 2015 Windward District Teacher of the Year, and extends its best wishes for continued success in all of her future endeavors.

“At this time, we do have a number of people here to cheer her on; she’s got quite the support group. If her husband Adrian Frilles could please stand to be recognized – I think he’s the one behind the camera. We also have Ms. Rhoda Lee. We have Principal Stacey Oshio and we have Vice Principal Lisa Mendonca as well. We have Vice Principal Thomas ‘Tee’ Swan and his wife Yulia Swan and their families. We also have John Wallman and Toby Wallman as well. And we’ve got a number of colleagues from Olomana who have joined us: Rene Iwamoto, Pam Tong, Sean Fenn, Ellen Schroeder, Debbie Heyler, and Ellen Nishioka. If everyone part of Elizabeth’s wonderful support group and cheering team could please rise to be acknowledged at this time, and mahalo for all the work you do as well. Thank you.”

Senator Green recognized David Huitt, 2015 Hawai’i District Teacher of the Year, and presented the following remarks:

“Thank you, Madam President, colleagues. It’s my pleasure to introduce David Huitt, who is the Hawai’i District Teacher of the Year. Mr. Huitt is a teacher at Kealakehe High School, in my district. David decided in his senior year that he wanted to pursue a career as an educator, thanks in large part to the motivations he received from a no-nonsense teacher. David has been returning the favor for more than 20 years since then, inspiring his students to go after their dreams.

“David chairs the history department at Kealakehe, where he also sits on the school’s leadership team – it’s got a very robust program in leadership. He’s co-authored a state-approved social studies course in addition to instructing his students in more traditional academic areas of study.

“He also uses his curriculum as a means to teach his students about the importance of community service. Again, Kealakehe has been a leader in this field thanks to David. His students have raised some \$50,000 for orphans in India; they’ve cooked 6,000 meals for the needy; they’ve collected hundreds of bags of trash from our roads, parks, and beaches, which are beautiful in Kona. So, I wanted us all to welcome David Huitt, who, from my perspective, is a generous role model and a winner in my book.

“Members, joining us in the gallery are Erin Thompson, a fellow teacher, and the Chief Justice has come to support my teacher from my district.”

Senator Kouchi congratulated Marly Madayag, 2015 Kaua’i District Teacher of the Year, and presented the following remarks:

“Thank you, Madam President. It’s my pleasure and honor to introduce Marly Madayag, the Kaua’i District Teacher of the Year. She’s guided by her belief that teaching is about fostering students’ ability to think for themselves, to seek out information and find answers to their own questions. She is establishing and cultivating a lifelong passion for learning in her students. And this is hard for me to grasp, as someone who learned so long ago when everybody had to be on the same page in the chapter or too bad; the new teaching is about having people learn at their own pace. Marly understands that each student learns differently, and she nurtures and invokes the best efforts of her students by tailoring and synthesizing her teaching skills, methods, and instructional materials to the students’ individual learning capabilities.

“In addition to chairing the fifth grade at Kalaheo Elementary, Marly directs a popular volunteer drama program and has been involved with the Hawaii Children’s Theatre for the past 15 years. Please join me again in congratulating the 2015 Kaua’i District Teacher of the Year recipient, Marly Madayag.”

Senator Keith-Agaran acknowledged Richard Arase, 2015 Maui District Teacher of the Year, and presented the following remarks:

“Thank you, Madam President. Although the district Teacher of the Year from Maui is not here, thank you for allowing me to at least say some words on his behalf to honor him.

“Maui Waena Intermediate School teacher Richard Arase has been a social studies teacher for 16 years, and he’s always encouraged his students to reach for the top and to always strive for their best. His love for teaching is reflected in the performance of his seventh grade students and their educational achievements. He’s one of those teachers who really believes that students need to take charge of their education.

"We can all appreciate the dedication and support he provides our children in Maui Nui, and for setting an example for the future leaders of our state. So I'm proud to stand to recognize Richard Arase's accomplishments as a significant educator for the State of Hawai'i, and to extend our best wishes to him in his future endeavors. Thank you."

Senator Kidani rose and stated:

"Thank you, Madam President and colleagues. While we have extended our commendations and congratulations to these Teachers of the Year, it is we who are honored to have these exceptional educators with us today. Thank you all for being here."

Senator Kidani then honored and recognized the Prudential Spirit of Community Award recipients, and presented the following remarks:

"Madam President and colleagues, also with us today are four students from public and private schools who are recipients of this year's Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. This is the twentieth year of this program that recognizes young people for projects they are involved in outside the classroom, sometimes off-campus. These students in middle and high schools are truly inspirational.

"The person who has coordinated the Hawai'i region awards for the past 15 years is also with us on the floor today. Please welcome Mr. Todd Thakar. Thank you, Todd, for all that you have done for us on behalf of our outstanding students. Now, to introduce the first of our honorees this morning is Senator O'Wakai."

Senator Wakai commended Alexandra Skrocki, recipient of the Prudential Spirit of Community Award, and presented the following remarks:

"Thank you, Madam President and colleagues. Please join me in welcoming an extraordinary young lady, Alexandra Skrocki. She's one of the Prudential Spirit of Community Award's 2015 Hawai'i State honorees.

"Alexandra is a senior at Radford High School; as we heard from Senator Slom yesterday, 60 percent of the students at Radford are military dependents. Alexandra knows firsthand the difficulties of being part of a military family, having attended eight different schools over the past 13 years. As a result, she decided to start her own service project to help students transition into their new community and school.

"For the past four years, Alexandra has been hosting an annual back-to-school teen party for new and current students in her backyard on the afternoon before the first day of school. The event provides food and encourages students to go and get to know one another. During the last hour of this three-hour event, parents are invited to meet each other and meet other parents and learn more about Radford High School.

"Alexandra not only shares her time with teenagers; she also prepares home-cooked meals for single airmen, mentors children of deployed parents, and bakes holiday cookies for active duty men and women.

"In the gallery, we have Alexandra's parents, Tom and Cheryl Skrocki; her sister, Madeline Skrocki; and Vice Principal Mr. Shimabukuro. Congratulations, Alexandra."

Senator Kouchi recognized Kaytlen Akau, recipient of the Prudential Spirit of Community Award, and presented the following remarks:

"Thank you, Madam President. It's my privilege to introduce Kaytlen Akau. I re-read this twice, but Kaytlen is just 14, and as an eighth grader at Chiefess Kamakaha Middle School, she's an avid volunteer in her community and has logged more than

300 hours last year working with children as a dance studio assistant and a junior leader at County of Kaua'i Summer Fun Program. She also participates in events to combat diseases, such as cancer with the American Cancer Relay for Life and with her Girl Scout troop in a walk to fundraise for Alzheimer's disease. She said she was inspired by her oldest sister, who is going to college at Eastern Washington now, and she says, 'I watched her juggle school, work, family, cheerleading, and volunteering, and I want to be like her.'

"In summing up her collective volunteering undertakings, Kaytlen concludes, 'Knowing that I've been able to contribute to make a positive difference in my community gives me the best feeling ever. It far surpasses the feeling I get when I'm actually paid to do a job.' Kaytlen Akau.

"Joining us and Kaytlen, in the gallery, are her mother, Teresa; her sister Britnee, who is a freshman at Kamehameha Kapālama; and her grandmother Susan. Thank you."

Senator Keith-Agaran recognized Jasmine Doan, recipient of the Prudential Spirit of Community Award, and presented the following remarks:

"Thank you, Madam President. It's my pleasure to introduce Jasmine Doan. Jasmine's a Kahului resident, but she's a senior at Seabury Hall in Upcountry Maui, where she exemplifies leadership and serves as a shining role model for her peers and community.

"I think we in this body and throughout the state and education system have been talking about STEM education for a long time. Jasmine is the founder and president of Maui Math Circle, a math enrichment community service program, where she and a group of trained teens (30) volunteer their time to help Maui elementary school students with advanced math concepts. Jasmine has also displayed an entrepreneurial spirit in successfully launching the 'TEDxYouth@SeaburyHall' event within her community, an event which is geared toward inspiring students of all ages to think positively and progressively.

"So, we're very proud to welcome Jasmine Doan to our chambers and to congratulate her on her excellence in leadership, her personal achievements, as well as bringing great pride to the people of this state. I wish her continued success in her future prospects and pursuits.

"Joining us in the gallery to support her are her father, Jason Doan; her uncle Thom and aunt Katherine Doan; and Headmaster of Seabury Hall Joe Schmidt."

Senator Slom recognized Jillian Madanay, recipient of the Prudential Spirit of Community Award, and presented the following remarks:

"Thank you, Madam President and colleagues. Just a reminder, this is the twentieth year of the Prudential awards. They've been presenting these wonderful awards to our wonderful youth since 1995, and they do this in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals. It's for exceptional commitment to community service. We all in this body value community service; we know the time and the effort that it takes, and we appreciate it. The Prudential program is the largest community service-based youth recognition program in the United States.

"Now, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to introduce a truly wonderful and inspiring young woman, Jillian Madanay. Jillian is a junior at Lutheran High School, and she has given generously of her time to the Children's Justice Center of O'ahu, which helps organize, pack, and stock clothing, stuffed animals, books, and other materials for child victims of both

physical and sexual abuse. It's children helping children, truly a great commitment.

"In her personal life, Jillian has been battling cerebral palsy; she also helps with the annual fundraiser for HUGS, a great organization, which stands for 'Help, Understanding & Group Support.' The organization assists families of medically fragile children, including Jillian when she was a baby. But she's not fragile any more. She's adapted to her own personal challenges and continually strives to give back to her community, and she has genuine compassion relating specifically to young children on a unique level of empathy, developing communications skills, fortitude, and cultural understanding in the process. Please, again, recognize Jillian Madanay.

"In the gallery are her proud parents, Dr. Lynn and Lauri Madanay; grandparents Dave and Betti Myers; and her aunt Yvonne Reese. Welcome to all. Now, back to the queen and top cheerleader for Mililani, our Education chair, Senator Kidani."

Senator Kidani rose and stated:

"Thank you, Madam President and colleagues. Thank you for helping us to honor these wonderful and inspiring teachers and students this morning. Thank you, honorees, for helping us to keep Hawai'i a beautiful place to live because of your inspiring work."

At 12:02 p.m., the Senate stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The Senate reconvened at 12:08 p.m.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Senator Thielen, for the majority of the Committee on Water and Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 913) recommending that the Senate not advise and consent to the nomination of CARLETON CHING as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 514.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 913 and Gov. Msg. No. 514 was deferred until Wednesday, March 18, 2015.

ORDER OF THE DAY

REFERRAL OF SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

The President made the following committee assignments of Senate concurrent resolutions offered on Thursday, March 12, 2015:

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| S.C.R. No.: | Referred to: |
| S.C.R. No. 75 | Committee on Higher Education and the Arts, then to the Committee on Ways and Means |
| S.C.R. No. 76 | Committee on Water and Land |

REFERRAL OF A SENATE RESOLUTION

The President made the following committee assignments of a Senate resolution offered on Thursday, March 12, 2015:

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| S.R. No.: | Referred to: |
| S.R. No. 36 | Committee on Water and Land |

RE-REFERRAL OF HOUSE BILLS

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

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| H.B. No.: | Re-referred to: |
| H.B. No. 759, H.D. 1 | Jointly to the Committee on Education and the Committee on Energy and Environment and the Committee on Government Operations, then to the Committee on Ways and Means |
| H.B. No. 1040, H.D. 1 | Committee on Energy and Environment, then to the Committee on Ways and Means |
| H.B. No. 1230, H.D. 1 | Jointly to the Committee on Education and the Committee on Government Operations, then to the Committee on Ways and Means |

Senator Kidani announced that Education Week activities would continue the following day with the Friends of the Library of Hawai'i book sale, and encouraged the members and staff to participate.

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

"Madam President, you know there was a publication that came out this morning, and everybody had fancy names, and it sounded like a consultancy group: 'the Tokuda group.' So we're just saying that, you know, our names could be something else, but 'Opihi' sounds good for one group, you know, whatever, but 'Tokuda group'? Thank you."

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

"I just want to put everybody on notice that my Internet has not been working, so I have not been able to watch the latest versions of *House of Cards*, so please do not give me any spoilers. Thank you."

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:11 p.m., on motion by Senator Green, seconded by Senator Slom and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 18, 2015.