

TWENTY-SECOND DAY

Wednesday, February 22, 2017

The Senate of the Twenty-Ninth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2017, convened at 11:32 a.m. with the President in the Chair.

The Roll was called showing all Senators present.

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

At this time, Senator Gabbard honored and congratulated Auntie Debs Dudoit, and presented the following remarks:

"Colleagues, we have with us today Debs Dudoit, or Auntie Debs, as the old-timers call her. When we called to tell Auntie Debs she was being honored on the Senate floor, there was a brief silence on the other end of the phone, followed by tears of disbelief. Auntie Debs immediately said she wanted to share the limelight, and so family and friends are joining her today. Next to her is her husband, Mitch; and her dad, Jack; and also we have Carmelo Santiago-Lopez and Jessica; and also we have U'i Kuie'e.

"Over 10 years ago, Debs and her husband, Mitch, helped a friend's son get into the U.S. Veterans transitional home in Kalaeloa, Barber's Point, on Shangrila Road, which is just a few blocks from my home. Bringing a simple meal and basic household items to their hanai son gradually evolved into full-on celebrations at the Vets Center, with food for all and a live band. Over the years, Auntie Debs and her friends added enhancements to their holiday celebrations, including live music, lion dances, taiko drums, and hula hālau. Sponsored by friends and family from various churches and ministry groups, Debs and her friends currently serve the veterans two to six times a year. They celebrated their 10th annual Christmas event in December with over 70 veterans. When asked what keeps her coming back every year to serve the vets, Debs says she does it from her heart; she loves seeing the smiles on their faces, not to mention all the hugs and kisses she gets. This special lady has even received three marriage proposals from the vets – I don't know what, Mitch, you got to say about that.

"As co-founder of My Father's House Hawaii, a nonprofit charitable ministry, their vision is to heal hearts and restore lives. Some of the vets have no one to encourage and support them during their traumatic transition into the community from war-torn experiences and weary hearts and souls. Jack Gaidos, Debs's dad, who's also a veteran, loves joining the parties as well, especially getting to share war stories with the guys.

"As Debs Dudoit insists on not taking all the credit, we'd be remiss not to mention her other friends and groups that have helped her over the years – as I mentioned, U'i Kuie'e, Ron and Momi Szypulski, and Ulu Crowell. For the past seven years, Debs's friends, including the Lopezes, have also been cooking and serving meals to the vets. So, Auntie Debs, Mitch, and friends, mahalo nui for sharing your aloha and making a difference in the lives of so many. The Senate thanks you for your inspiring efforts to bring love and caring to our vets who might otherwise be forgotten. Your selfless acts of aloha bring a smile to our faces and warmth to our hearts. Please give them a hand."

At 11:37 a.m., the Senate stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The Senate reconvened at 11:42 a.m.

At this time, Senator Kidani welcomed members of the Hawaii State Teachers Association – Retired from Kaua'i, who

were present in the gallery: Kevin Nunn, Marianne Busher, Sandra Gage, and Beverly Gotelli.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions (S.C.R. Nos. 53 to 56) were read by the Clerk and were deferred:

S.C.R. No. 53 "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING A STUDY ON THE PER-PUPIL FUNDING SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE SYSTEM FULFILLS ITS STATUTORY PURPOSE OF EQUALIZING OPERATIONAL FUNDING AMONG PUBLIC SCHOOLS."

Offered by: Senators Kidani, Baker, English, Inouye, Kahele, Nishihara, Riviere, Ruderman, Chang, Dela Cruz, Espero, Galuteria, Shimabukuro.

S.C.R. No. 54 "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS TO TAKE CERTAIN ACTIONS TO PROVIDE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION VETERANS EQUAL QUALITY AND ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AS VETERANS IN UNITED STATES TERRITORIES."

Offered by: Senators Green, Chang, Kidani, Rhoads, Espero.

S.C.R. No. 55 "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO NAME A STREET AFTER MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR."

Offered by: Senators Green, Chang, Espero, Kidani, Rhoads.

S.C.R. No. 56 "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF USING MEDICAID FUNDS TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR THE TREATMENT FOR HOMELESSNESS."

Offered by: Senators Green, Chang, Espero, Kidani, Keith-Agaran.

SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions (S.R. Nos. 16 and 17) were read by the Clerk and were deferred:

S.R. No. 16 "SENATE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS TO TAKE CERTAIN ACTIONS TO PROVIDE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION VETERANS EQUAL QUALITY AND ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AS VETERANS IN UNITED STATES TERRITORIES."

Offered by: Senators Green, Chang, Espero, Kidani, Rhoads.

S.R. No. 17 "SENATE RESOLUTION URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO NAME A STREET AFTER MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR."

Offered by: Senators Green, Chang, Espero, Kidani, Rhoads.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Senator Kidani, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 540) recommending that S.B. No. 618 pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

On motion by Senator Espero, seconded by Senator English and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 618, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION," passed Second Reading and was placed on the calendar for Third Reading on Thursday, March 2, 2017.

Senators Nishihara and Inouye, for the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs and the Committee on Transportation and Energy, presented a joint report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 541) recommending that S.B. No. 975, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

On motion by Senator Espero, seconded by Senator English and carried, the joint report of the Committees was adopted and S.B. No. 975, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PARKING FOR DISABLED PERSONS," passed Second Reading and was placed on the calendar for Third Reading on Thursday, March 2, 2017.

ORDER OF THE DAY

RE-REFERRAL OF A HOUSE BILL

The Chair re-referred the following House bill that was received:

H.B. No.:	Re-referred to:
H.B. No. 717, H.D. 1	Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health, then to the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

At this time, Senator Kim announced that the public dedication of the new Edward 'Skipppa' Diaz Stadium at Governor Wallace Rider Farrington High School would take place the following day at 6:00 p.m., and invited the members to share in the celebration with her and fellow Farrington alumna Senator Kidani.

Senator Kahele announced that it was Aviation Day at the State Capitol, and invited the members to view informational displays on the fourth floor until 1:00 p.m. featuring Civil Air Patrol and aviation-related businesses in Hawai'i.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:45 a.m., on motion by Senator Espero, seconded by Senator English and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 a.m., Thursday, March 2, 2017.