

TWENTY-FIRST DAY

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

The Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2019, convened at 11:35 a.m. with the President in the Chair.

The Roll was called showing all Senators present with the exception of Senators Chang, Harimoto, and Ruderman who were excused.

The President announced that he had read and approved the Journal of the Twentieth Day.

At this time, Senator Gabbard recognized RiceUp Farmers, Inc., and presented the following remarks:

“Colleagues, today we are honoring RiceUp Farmers, Inc. Colleagues, dreams can be made with only a handful of pesos: 88, to be exact, or \$1.68. Just ask Elvin Laceda, a young farm boy who traveled to the United States from the town of Lubao, Pampanga, Philippines, in 2016. He left the Philippines with a meager \$47.81 that his grandmother gave him and came to Hawai'i to study at BYU–Hawaii with the aid of a scholarship grant. And, in 2017, RiceUp Farmers, Inc., was born. The vision? To improve the livelihood of Filipino farmers and to help innovate agriculture. So, while the RiceUp story began with meager resources, it did not deter Elvin from starting a program that would become one of the best social enterprises in the United States. One month after he set foot on Hawaiian soil, RiceUp was born.

“I met the RiceUp students in 2017, and we've kept in touch on various ag issues. From the initial 50 farmers who joined the RiceUp network in his hometown in Pampanga, there are now more than 300 farmers benefiting from the program. By the end of this year, there will be 2,800 farmers who will be part of this social enterprise. RiceUp started with a very small team in Hawai'i; now, more than 40 students are part of the movement, with more than 30 local and international partners. One farmer, Mr. David, who has been farming for more than 40 years, said of the RiceUp program:

No other organization has ever produced such excitement within us to change our vision in farming than RiceUp. Initially, we did not believe these young people would help us improve our livelihood; we had been in the industry for decades, even before these kids were born! But as we discovered their sincerity and commitment, we feel this is unique. This is more than a business: We are a community; we are a family.

“An American dream that began with an 88-peso inspiration grew to become one of the leading social enterprises in the world. The RiceUp team has more than 88 things that they are grateful for. The RiceUp crew, now composed of a management team of BYU–Hawaii students and an on-site team in Pampanga, Philippines, has been recognized and has shared its story not only in the United States and the Philippines but throughout the whole world. RiceUp's mission is to innovate the system of farming through digital technology and to empower farmers through education while enriching communities through entrepreneurship and sustainable farming systems that benefit both the farmer and the consumer. The admirable mission of the RiceUp organization is to assist farmers so they can earn a sustainable income, to encourage young people to become proactively engaged in agriculture, to ensure farming is efficient and climate-resilient, to establish a strong partnership with the government, and to create farmer leaders in society. RiceUp envisions communities where farmers both young and old work together with technology to

create sustainable livelihoods. In just two short years, RiceUp has a long list of impressive accomplishments. They established a farm school with more than 60 farmers being educated in financial, technological, and business skills in Pampanga, Philippines. They created an app that helps farmers directly sell to consumers. They taught farmers vermiculture and hydroponics as another source of income and other climate-resilient ways of farming. RiceUp partnered with the mayor of Davao City, Philippines, to establish a farm school with more than 1,000 farmers. This will also help former rebels and indigenous people to turn to farming to establish peace. Additionally, RiceUp was invited and sponsored by the UN to speak at the World Youth Conference in Malaysia. RiceUp won the Enactus Social Entrepreneurship National Competition out of more than 400 universities, and they were semi-finalists at the Enactus World Cup held in Silicon Valley.

“Will you please stand when I call your name: CEO and founder Elvin Jerome Laceda; vice president of communications Princess Stephanie Donato; vice president of media Joan Rey; vice president for business Joseph Duano; chief technology officer Zenos Thoreson; director of social media Ruth Alvarado. The Hawai'i State Senate hereby honors and congratulates RiceUp Farmers, Inc. Mahalo for your dedication to creating sustainable farm systems by assisting our farmers in countless ways. Your work to encourage and train young people to become the next generation of sustainable growers is crucial to our healthy communities in the future. Would you please give them a big hand? And, finally, I would like to acknowledge, in the gallery, we have with us their mentors, Dr. Jason Earl and Bennette Misalucha, and the organization's members: Sabrina McQueen, Mark Rey Bulos, Rebecca Bulos, Paula Putong, Roane Purificacion, Anna Monica Fogavai, Cherie Moore, Cromwell Barredo, Kimball Heaton, Addison Hellum, Juna Magno. And, again, I want to acknowledge their efforts; thank you for coming, and aloha.”

At 11:43 a.m., the Senate stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The Senate reconvened at 11:50 a.m.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The following messages from the Governor (Gov. Msg. Nos. 596 to 603) were read by the Clerk and were disposed of as follows:

Gov. Msg. No. 596, submitting for consideration and confirmation as Board Chairperson, Department of Agriculture, the nomination of PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO, term to expire December 31, 2022, was referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

Gov. Msg. No. 597, submitting for consideration and confirmation as Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture, the nomination of GLENN K. MURANAKA, term to expire at noon on December 5, 2022, was referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

Gov. Msg. No. 598, submitting for consideration and confirmation as Attorney General, Department of the Attorney General, the nomination of CLARE E. CONNORS, term to expire at noon on December 5, 2022, was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Gov. Msg. No. 599, submitting for consideration and confirmation as Adjutant General, Department of Defense, the nomination of ARTHUR J. LOGAN, term to expire at noon on December 5, 2022, was referred to the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs.

Gov. Msg. No. 600, submitting for consideration and confirmation as Deputy Adjutant General, Department of Defense, the nomination of KENNETH S. HARA, term to expire at noon on December 5, 2022, was referred to the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs.

Gov. Msg. No. 601, submitting for consideration and confirmation as Director, Department of Human Resources Development, the nomination of RYKER WADA, term to expire at noon on December 5, 2022, was referred to the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts.

Gov. Msg. No. 602, submitting for consideration and confirmation as Director, Department of Taxation, the nomination of LINDA CHU TAKAYAMA, term to expire at noon on December 5, 2022, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Gov. Msg. No. 603, submitting for consideration and confirmation as Deputy Director, Department of Taxation, the nomination of DAMIEN A. ELEFANTE, term to expire at noon on December 5, 2022, was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Senator Dela Cruz, for the Committee on Ways and Means, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 666) recommending that S.B. No. 1471, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

On motion by Senator Kahele, seconded by Senator Fevella and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 1471, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI," passed Second Reading and was placed on the calendar for Third Reading on Thursday, February 28, 2019.

Senator Dela Cruz, for the Committee on Ways and Means, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 667) recommending that S.B. No. 935, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

On motion by Senator Kahele, seconded by Senator Fevella and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 935, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR WATER REUSE," passed Second Reading and was placed on the calendar for Third Reading on Thursday, February 28, 2019.

Senator Dela Cruz, for the Committee on Ways and Means, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 668) recommending that S.B. No. 77, as amended in S.D. 1, be recommitted to the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator Kahele, seconded by Senator Fevella and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 77, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS," was recommitted to the Committee on Ways and Means.

ORDER OF THE DAY

REFERRAL OF A SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

The President made the following committee assignment of a Senate concurrent resolution offered on Thursday, February 14, 2019:

S.C.R. No.: Referred to:

S.C.R. No. 23 Committee on Judiciary, then to the Committee on Ways and Means

REFERRAL OF A SENATE RESOLUTION

The President made the following committee assignment of a Senate resolution offered on Thursday, February 14, 2019:

S.R. No.: Referred to:

S.R. No. 16 Committee on Judiciary, then to the Committee on Ways and Means

At this time, the Chair directed all Senate members to meet in the Majority caucus room immediately following session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:52 a.m., on motion by Senator Kahele, seconded by Senator Fevella and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, February 20, 2019.