

**THE  
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2021  
JOURNAL OF THE SENATE**

**FIRST DAY**

**Wednesday, January 20, 2021**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i, the Senate of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2021, was called to order at 10:11 a.m., by the Honorable Laura Acasio, Temporary Chair of the Senate.

Nominations now being in order for a temporary clerk, Senator Misalucha nominated Carol Taniguchi, seconded by Senator Kanuha.

Senator Taniguchi moved that the nominations be closed, seconded by Senator Kim and carried.

The Chair declared Carol Taniguchi as Temporary Clerk of the Senate.

**MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR**

The following message from the Governor (Gov. Msg. No. 501) was read by the Clerk and was placed on file:

Gov. Msg. No. 501, informing the Senate that on January 19, 2021, the Governor appointed Laura Acasio to serve as the Senator from the First Senatorial District for the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, to fill the Senate vacancy for Senate District 1 immediately, for the term to expire November 8, 2022.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

The following committee report (Spec. Com. Rpt. No. 1) was read by the Clerk and was disposed of as follows:

"SENATE SPEC. COM. REP. NO. 1  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
Jan 20 2021  
RE: CREDENTIALS

Honorable Laura Acasio  
Temporary Chair of the Senate  
Thirty-first State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2021  
State of Hawaii

Your Committee on Credentials begs leave to report that it has examined the Certificates of Election of the Senate of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, and finds that the following persons have been legally elected and are fully qualified to sit as members of the Senate.

The newly elected Senators whose respective terms of office will expire on November 8, 2022, are:

Second Senatorial District

Joy A. San Buenaventura

Fifth Senatorial District

Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

Eighth Senatorial District

Ronald D. Kouchi

Ninth Senatorial District

Stanley Chang

Tenth Senatorial District

Les Ihara, Jr.

Eleventh Senatorial District

Brian T. Taniguchi

Thirteenth Senatorial District

Karl Rhoads

Fourteenth Senatorial District

Donna Mercado Kim

Fifteenth Senatorial District

Glenn Wakai

Sixteenth Senatorial District

Bennette E. Misalucha

Nineteenth Senatorial District

Kurt Fevella

Twentieth Senatorial District

Mike Gabbard

Twenty-second Senatorial District

Donovan Dela Cruz

Twenty-fifth Senatorial District

Chris Lee

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Senator Michelle N. Kidani  
/s/Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha  
/s/Senator Jarrett Keohokalole"

On motion by Senator Kidani, seconded by Senator Kanuha and carried, Spec. Com. Rep. No. 1 was adopted.

The Committee on Credentials was thereupon discharged with the Chair's thanks.

The Chair then called upon Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald of the Supreme Court, State of Hawai'i, to the rostrum to administer the oath of office to the newly elected members of the Senate.

Chief Justice Recktenwald administered the oath of office to the newly elected members of the Senate, who were standing at their respective desks.

The Roll was then called by the Temporary Clerk showing all Senators present, with Senators Chang, Gabbard, Ihara, Keohokalole, Rhoads, and Shimabukuro present and participating via videoconference.

Nominations for officers of the Senate being next in order, Senator Kidani placed in nomination the name of Senator Ronald D. Kouchi for President of the Senate, seconded by Senator Nishihara.

Senator Kanuha moved that the nominations be closed, seconded by Senator Inouye.

The motion to close the nominations was then put by the Chair and carried unanimously, and the Temporary Clerk was directed to cast a unanimous ballot for Senator Ronald D. Kouchi as President of the Senate.

The ballot having been so cast, Senator Ronald D. Kouchi was declared elected President of the Senate of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2021.

The President then announced that nominations were in order for the office of Vice President of the Senate.

Senator Dela Cruz placed in nomination the name of Senator Michelle N. Kidani for Vice President of the Senate, seconded by Senator Baker.

Senator Chang moved that the nominations be closed, seconded by Senator Gabbard.

The motion was then put by the Chair and carried unanimously, and the Temporary Clerk was directed to cast a unanimous ballot for Senator Michelle N. Kidani as Vice President of the Senate.

The ballot having been so cast, Senator Michelle N. Kidani was declared elected as Vice President of the Senate of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2021.

At 10:20 a.m., the Senate stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The Senate reconvened at 10:20 a.m.

The Chair commented:

“I was just confirming that we have just witnessed and exercised an incredible, peaceful transition of power. Again, congratulations, members of the Senate.”

**SENATE RESOLUTION**

The following resolution (S.R. No. 1) was read by the Temporary Clerk and was disposed of as follows:

S.R. No. 1 “SENATE RESOLUTION ELECTING OFFICERS OF THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE.”

Offered by: Senator English.

On motion by Senator Keohokalole, seconded by Senator Fevella and carried, S.R. No. 1 was adopted.

The President thereupon administered the oath of office to the newly elected officers of the Senate: Clerk Carol T. Taniguchi, Assistant Clerk Jennifer T. Chow, Sergeant-at-Arms Bienvenido C. Villafior, and Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms C. M. Park Kaleiwahea.

**SENATE RESOLUTION**

The following resolution (S.R. No. 2) was read by the Clerk and was disposed of as follows:

S.R. No. 2 “SENATE RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE RULES OF THE SENATE OF THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE.”

Offered by: Senator English.

On motion by Senator Keohokalole, seconded by Senator Fevella and carried, S.R. No. 2 was adopted, and the Clerk was directed to place a copy of the Rules of the Senate in the Journal.

At this time, Senator Rhoads extended happy birthday wishes to Senator Gabbard.

The following Senate leadership assignments were then announced by Senate President Kouchi:

Majority Leader:  
Senator J. Kalani English

Majority Caucus Leader:  
Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha

Majority Policy Leader:  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr.

Majority Floor Leader:  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole

Majority Whip:  
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye

Assistant Majority Whip:  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

Assistant Majority Whip:  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi

Assistant Majority Whip:  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara

Minority Leader and Minority Floor Leader:  
Senator Kurt Fevella

The President also announced the following standing committees of the Senate and their respective chairs and members:

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Senator Laura Acasio  
Senator Karl Rhoads  
Senator Kurt Fevella

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Senator Bennette E. Misalucha  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara  
Senator Gil Riviere  
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura  
Senator Kurt Fevella

EDUCATION

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz  
Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha  
Senator Kurt Fevella

ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senator Bennette E. Misalucha, Vice Chair  
Senator Chris Lee  
Senator Gil Riviere  
Senator Kurt Fevella

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Chair  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang  
Senator Mike Gabbard  
Senator Kurt Fevella

HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair  
Senator Laura Acasio  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr.  
Senator Kurt Fevella

HEALTH

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair  
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki  
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura  
Senator Kurt Fevella

HIGHER EDUCATION

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran  
Senator Glenn Wakai  
Senator Kurt Fevella

HOUSING

Senator Stanley Chang, Chair  
Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair  
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki  
Senator Karl Rhoads  
Senator Kurt Fevella

HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
Senator Laura Acasio  
Senator Bennette E. Misalucha  
Senator Kurt Fevella

JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair  
Senator Laura Acasio  
Senator Mike Gabbard  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim  
Senator Chris Lee  
Senator Kurt Fevella

LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole  
Senator Kurt Fevella

PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND  
MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Senator Gil Riviere  
Senator Kurt Fevella

TRANSPORTATION

Senator Chris Lee, Chair  
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair  
Senator J. Kalani English  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro  
Senator Kurt Fevella

WATER AND LAND

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senator Bennette E. Misalucha  
Senator Gil Riviere  
Senator Kurt Fevella

WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senator J. Kalani English  
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye  
Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani  
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi  
Senator Glenn Wakai  
Senator Kurt Fevella

The Chair then made the following comments:

“First and foremost, to the Clerk and the Sergeant-at-Arms staff: As we have now reconvened in the chamber today, you have done an outstanding job in preparing the chamber, each of our offices, and the committee hearing rooms to try to ensure that each member and the staff and anyone from the public who is coming to the building can do so in a way that safeguards and protects everybody’s health, and so I really want you to know, on behalf of the members, how much we appreciate all of the work that you have done.

“Second, with the threats that have gone across our country, I just want to thank all of the different agencies who have worked together to ensure that everyone who came to work at the Capitol since the weekend, anybody who has business to transact, could get here and could do it in a safe way. And, as much as I appreciate all of the efforts of our law enforcement community, DAGS, and others, I really want to congratulate the people of Hawai‘i. I was confident, when interviewed by the press, that the people of Hawai‘i have continued to express their First Amendment rights, but they’ve done so in a way that is respectful and in a way that has been peaceful and in a way that reflects the aloha spirit, which embodies each and every one of us here in Hawai‘i, and I am so proud of the way the people of Hawai‘i conduct their business.

“Normally, this is when I give the remarks of the President, but as I’ve watched the info briefings that have been held, there have been very little details from the administration, and so I will reserve comments with the rest of the Senate after next Monday, when the governor delivers the State of the State address and hopefully fills in some of the blanks to the questions that each of you have been asking every day at the hearings, and we can lay out a more coherent plan of where we think we’re taking this state.

“But, on this first day, I would like to officially welcome Senators Misalucha, Lee, San Buenaventura, and Senator Acasio, who was just named yesterday and rushed to the

Capitol, did an excellent job in having to handle the gavel on her first day here. I think with the new additions that we will have an opportunity to create that better and brighter future for Hawai'i, for our nation. And on this auspicious day, where we no longer say 'President-elect Biden' but simply 'President Biden,' and the historic election of Vice President Harris as a woman, a woman of color, and a woman of Asian ancestry, and the barriers that have been broken down, it also pleases me to report that, with nine women, this is a new record for women who comprise the body of the Senate. And it is also because of that perspective and not just the new members, I firmly believe that we will create that better, brighter future for Hawai'i, so good luck to each and every one of the members. Thank you to all of our staff for everything you have done, including the staff of each of the members, SMA, LRB, Accounting, and Journal—I'm going to miss somebody, so, everybody, thank you."

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:28 a.m., on motion by Senator Keohokalole, seconded by Senator Fevella and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 a.m., Thursday, January 21, 2021.