

## THIRTIETH DAY

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

The Senate of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2022, 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-Ninth Day.

At this time, Senator DeCoite introduced members of her staff who were seated in the gallery: Richard Oshiro, Sharon Lum Ho, and Aurielle Polynice. Senator DeCoite then acknowledged temporary office manager Annie Kauhane, office manager Rebecca Crall, and Ms. Crall's new addition to her family, baby Evie, who were not present in the gallery.

Senator Kim acknowledged Iowa State Senator Jesse Green, who was seated in the gallery. Senator Kim then recognized Hawai'i House of Representatives Minority Leader Representative Val Okimoto, who was accompanying Senator Green.

The Chair extended an additional welcome to Senator Green and noted that he had spent time in Des Moines at Drake University and had coached women's volleyball in Indianola at Simpson College for two years.

## MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The following messages from the Governor (Gov. Msg. Nos. 12 and 758) were read by the Clerk and were placed on file:

Gov. Msg. No. 12, letter dated March 11, 2022, as provided in Section 9, Article VII of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i, requesting the expeditious consideration of H.B. No. 2392, an Emergency Appropriation bill.

Gov. Msg. No. 758, informing the Senate that on March 11, 2022, the Governor withdrew the nomination of GLEN MIYASATO to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, under Gov. Msg. No. 572, from consideration by the Senate.

In compliance with Gov. Msg. No. 758, the nomination listed under Gov. Msg. No. 572 was returned.

## ORDER OF THE DAY

## ADVISE AND CONSENT

MATTERS DEFERRED FROM  
MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3218 (Gov. Msg. Nos. 559, 560, and 561):

Senator Wakai moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3218 be received and placed on file, seconded by Senator Misalucha and carried.

Senator Wakai then moved that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (Kalaeloa District) of the following:

DAVID RAE, term to expire June 30, 2022 (Gov. Msg. No. 559);

DAVID RAE, term to expire June 30, 2026 (Gov. Msg. No. 560); and

JOE LEWIS, term to expire June 30, 2025 (Gov. Msg. No. 561),

seconded by Senator Misalucha.

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

Ayes, 25. Noes, none.

## ADVISE AND CONSENT

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3220 (Gov. Msg. No. 552):

Senator Wakai moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3220 be received and placed on file, seconded by Senator Misalucha and carried.

Senator Wakai then moved that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of CLAIRE TAMAMOTO to the Stadium Authority, term to expire June 30, 2025, seconded by Senator Misalucha.

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

Ayes, 25. Noes, none.

## 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. 1239, Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs, then to the Committee on Judiciary

H.B. No. 1412, Jointly to the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Government Operations, then to the Committee on Judiciary

H.B. No. 1453, Committee on Judiciary  
H.D. 1

H.B. No. 1455, Committee on Judiciary  
H.D. 1

H.B. No. 1517, Jointly to the Committee on Agriculture and Environment and the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism, then jointly to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Ways and Means

H.B. No. 1670, Committee on Water and Land, then to the Committee on Judiciary

H.B. No. 1692, Committee on Transportation, then to the Committee on Judiciary

H.B. No. 1732, Committee on Judiciary  
H.D. 1

H.B. No. 1739, Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs, then to the Committee on Judiciary

H.B. No. 1787, Jointly to the Committee on Human Services and the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts, then jointly to the Committee on Judiciary and the Committee on Ways and Means

H.B. No. 1789, Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts, then to the Committee on Judiciary

H.B. No. 1883, Committee on Human Services, then to the Committee on Judiciary

- H.B. No. 1894, Jointly to the Committee on Health and the  
H.D. 3 Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, then to the  
Committee on Judiciary
- H.B. No. 1992, Committee on Agriculture and Environment,  
H.D. 3 then to the Committee on Ways and Means
- H.B. No. 2007, Committee on Government Operations, then  
H.D. 2 jointly to the Committee on Judiciary and the  
Committee on Ways and Means
- H.B. No. 2034, Jointly to the Committee on Water and Land  
H.D. 2 and the Committee on Government Operations,  
then jointly to the Committee on Judiciary and  
the Committee on Ways and Means
- H.B. No. 2042, Jointly to the Committee on Government  
H.D. 2 Operations and the Committee on Energy,  
Economic Development, and Tourism, then  
jointly to the Committee on Judiciary and the  
Committee on Ways and Means
- H.B. No. 2084, Jointly to the Committee on Agriculture and  
H.D. 3 Environment and the Committee on Water and  
Land and the Committee on Government  
Operations, then jointly to the Committee on  
Judiciary and the Committee on Ways and  
Means
- H.B. No. 2197, Committee on Judiciary  
H.D. 1
- H.B. No. 2273, Committee on Public Safety,  
H.D. 1 Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs, then  
jointly to the Committee on Judiciary and the  
Committee on Ways and Means
- H.B. No. 2293, Jointly to the Committee on Human Services  
H.D. 1 and the Committee on Health, then jointly to  
the Committee on Judiciary and the Committee  
on Ways and Means
- H.B. No. 2422, Committee on Human Services, then to the  
H.D. 1 Committee on Judiciary

At this time, Senator Kim, Chair of the Committee on Higher Education, requested a waiver of the public notice requirement pursuant to Senate Rule 21 for H.B. No. 2206, H.D. 1 and H.B. No. 1488, H.D. 1.

Senator Kim noted:

“Our office missed the hearing notice filing deadline by about an hour, and this waiver will allow the committee to hear and take up both measures this Thursday.”

The Chair granted the waiver.

Senator Kim announced that the Committee on Higher Education would be holding a public hearing on the measures on Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 3:10 p.m. in Conference Room 229.

Senator Kidani rose to present the following remarks:

“Mr. President, our 2022 Education Week presentations continue this morning. Yesterday, we heard inspiring stories about public school teachers of excellence on the neighbor islands. Today, we will hear about more of these superheroes from several O’ahu schools.

“During the school year, many of us place our trust in classroom teachers who spend hours each day with our children and grandchildren, our nieces and nephews, and other keiki in our ‘ohana. We entrust our young people to their care and nurturing with the expectation that they will prepare the future

good citizens of our neighborhoods to contribute to a safe, healthy, and productive life.

“To begin, I’m pleased to recognize someone from a school in my district. The Senate is proud to honor Ashley Ito-Macion, a second-grade teacher at Kanoelani Elementary School in the Pearl City-Waipahu complex area. In response to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, our Teacher of the Year established the Hawaii Distance Forum, a dynamic educational platform dedicated to breaking down walls of vulnerability, building community, and shoring up teacher voices. More than 1,200 teachers shared lesson plans and participated in collegial training programs, which Ashley updates and maintains daily in support of Hawai‘i’s educators. Ashley’s desire to address educational needs and foster support and connection for both teachers and students has been especially welcomed during the stressful months dealing with the pandemic. We are so grateful for her initiative and talent that have helped the Kanoelani campus thrive. Mahalo nui, Ashley Ito-Macion. I’d like to now turn the program over to Senator Kim.”

Senator Kim rose to present the following remarks:

“Teacher of the Year Jim Kunimitsu, from the Campbell–Kapolei complex, is a fifth-grade teacher at Pohakea Elementary. Now, I know what you’re saying—Pohakea is in Senator Fevella’s district, but I get this honor because Jim is in my Senate district.

“Jim has been a dedicated public school educator for more than a dozen years. His passion for teaching is manifested in ways that he helps his students to find joy in learning. His path to teaching was inspired by the tremendous example set by his parents, both of whom are retired teachers. He attributes his success to the support he has received from his family and a wide circle of friends, colleagues, teachers, and mentors who have been an integral part of his growth.

“Mahalo to Jim Kunimitsu for his excellent work and sustained commitment to our students and his communities. And now I turn it over to Senator Shimabukuro.”

Senator Shimabukuro rose to present the following remarks:

“Teacher of the Year from Nānākuli–Wai‘anae complex is Wendy Gumm, a passionate grade three special education teacher at Nānāikapono Elementary School. Wendy was inspired to become a teacher thanks to the example of her grandmother, who was a proud educator for 40 years. She loves to see the growth of her students as they overcome their challenges and to see them improve their math and reading skills. Wendy believes that their school’s success is attributed to the caring, ‘ohana-focused atmosphere and the commitment of school staff to provide the highest quality education to their students. Senator Keohokalole will now continue our program.”

Senator Keohokalole rose to present the following remarks:

“It is my honor to acknowledge a Windward District Teacher of the Year. She is Miyuki Sekimitsu, a third-grade teacher at Kāne‘ohe Elementary in the Castle–Kahuku complex. Although she resides in Senator Ihara’s district, I have the honor to introduce Miyuki, whose school is located in my district.

“Miyuki has a strong commitment to providing a well-balanced, hands-on classroom environment. She focuses on cultivating meaningful relationships with students, families, and the local community that promote social, emotional, and academic growth for her students. She is an enthusiastic lifelong learner who has taken advantage of a variety of professional development opportunities.

“Miyuki’s six years at Kāne‘ohe Elementary have endeared her to colleagues and students alike, and we are grateful for her commitment to teaching. I now yield to Senator Rhoads.”

Senator Rhoads rose to present the following remarks:

"I am very pleased to recognize another Windward District teacher: Richard Lau, Teacher of the Year from the Kailua-Kalāheo complex. Richard is a veteran DOE professional who has spent most of his career at Kalāheo and, as noted, in this case, Richard resides in District 13 (the beautiful area I represent) but makes the trip for his work through the Ko'olaus to Kailua.

"Richard is currently student activities coordinator and advisor to the student council. His recent work has been especially helpful in implementing more than a hundred virtual and in-person student activities to address the social and emotional needs of students during distance and hybrid learning. A few years ago, he also established the Kalāheo High School Transition Center for new students and families in partnership with the Mark Takai Transition Center Network.

"Richard is one of many dedicated education professionals whose work is invaluable to the successful functioning of the multiple parts of our school system, and we extend a mahalo and congratulations for this latest honor. I'd like to ask Senator Misalucha to continue. Mahalo."

Senator Misalucha rose to present the following remarks:

"Trisha Gibson has been both a general and special education teacher for nearly 20 years. She is currently the academic coach for 'Aiea Elementary School and was selected Teacher of the Year from the 'Aiea-Moanalua-Radford complex. And, again, she commutes to 'Aiea from Senator Moriwaki's district, where she resides.

"While she has worked in a broad variety of roles over the years, Trisha notes that teaching and advocating for students with disabilities has been one of the highlights of her career. She believes all students should have opportunities to grow, learn, and participate in their school communities.

"Trisha is also grateful to be able to learn and network with other education leaders through personal and professional development opportunities, school and complex initiatives, and school service projects.

"Mahalo to Trisha, whose students are the fortunate beneficiaries of her solid commitment to teaching. I now turn the floor to Senator Dela Cruz."

Senator Dela Cruz rose to present the following remarks:

"I am so pleased to acquaint you with Dr. Jeni Nishimura Miyahira, Teacher of the Year from Mililani High School in the Leilehua-Mililani-Waiialua complex. Dr. Miyahira is a curriculum coordinator at Mililani. She is acutely aware that it can often be difficult to support teachers in ways that align with practices that meet diverse school, complex, and state goals. With that in mind, Dr. Miyahira has focused on providing personalized professional development courses for her colleagues, a point of pride she considers one of her greatest accomplishments. Dr. Miyahira is also a lecturer for Early College opportunities at Leeward Community College. That program allows students to find a direct pathway to the University of Hawai'i System by completing college credits by the time they graduate from high school.

"Mahalo, Dr. Miyahira, for your work on behalf of fellow teachers and your students, and congratulations. I will now yield to Senator Ihara."

Senator Ihara rose to present the following remarks:

"Mr. President, Hawai'i's public charter schools have become a well-established and invaluable education resource for Hawai'i students because they offer educational choices, innovative curricular materials, and operate with substantial

flexibility. The 2022 Charter School's Teacher of the Year, Dr. Cara Chaudron, is in her seventh year of teaching sixth-grade math at the School for Examining Essential Questions of Sustainability, also known as SEEQS for short. Dr. Chaudron was blessed to be raised in a family that loved both teaching and learning. During her own student experience, she discovered that she sometimes needed a little time to get through some of the work, and she learned to become her own advocate for that accommodation. This is one of the reasons she is invaluable at SEEQS as she uses her own experience to work with each student to discover what their needs are and how to access their learning. Active listening, meeting students where they are, providing a safe space for them to learn, and empowering them to make their own inquiries and explorations fills Dr. Chaudron's days with energy and excitement.

"Congratulations and a big, big mahalo for Cara Chaudron. Mr. President, Senator Chang will make the next presentation. Thank you."

Senator Chang rose to present the following remarks:

"Teacher of the Year in the Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani complex this year is Wendy Shigeta from Haha'ione Elementary School. During her tenure as an educator for more than three decades, Wendy has worked as both a teacher and school counselor. She served a term as the Hawaii School Counselor Association president several years ago and was named Hawaii School Counselor of the Year in 1995. Recognizing her teaching excellence, she received the Thomas Okamura Outstanding Teacher Award in 2000. At Haha'ione, she is currently student services coordinator and student council advisor. Wendy comments that she has always viewed education as the foundation for our young people. She is justifiably proud that she has been able to contribute to strong foundations during her lifelong career commitment.

"Congratulations, Wendy Shigeta, Teacher of the Year! I now yield to Senator Moriwaki."

Senator Moriwaki rose to present the following remarks:

"It is my distinct honor and pleasure to acknowledge Corrie Izumoto from Kawanakoa Middle School as the 2022 Teacher of the Year for the Kaimuki-McKinley-Roosevelt complex. Corrie taught on the mainland and in Belgium before moving to Hawai'i many years ago. She has been a special and general education teacher for 10 years in various Hawai'i elementary and middle school grades and currently teaches grade six English at Kawanakoa. She now serves as advisor for the student council, drama and dance clubs, as well as taking on additional responsibilities as student activities coordinator. Corrie has become an invaluable asset to the school community, and I must say that I know firsthand of her commitment and passion to teaching our students because she does work with us, and she is the better half of my office manager, Charles, so I know that she works very hard.

"So, congratulations, Corrie. I'm very proud of you, and I'm very confident that we will be hearing more good things from you and Kawanakoa in the years ahead. I now turn the floor back to Senator Kidani."

Senator Kidani rose and stated:

"Thank you, colleagues. We have so far recognized just 17 of the several thousands of public school teachers in our state who each day go above and beyond to guide our youngsters, strengthen our families, and invest in successful communities. As I have said many times, they are superheroes, much like our healthcare workers and first responders, and we are so very grateful for their service. We will continue with our 2022 Education Week presentations tomorrow. Mahalo."

The Chair led the members in a round of applause for the recognized teachers.

The Chair then announced that there would be a leadership meeting immediately following adjournment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 11:50 a.m., on motion by Senator DeCoite, seconded by Senator Fevella and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 16, 2022.