

THIRTY-THIRD DAY

Friday, March 18, 2022

The Senate of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2022, convened at 11:34 a.m. with the President in the Chair.

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

The President announced that he had read and approved the Journal of the Thirty-Second Day.

At this time, Senator Lee recognized colleagues from the Department of Transportation who were seated in the gallery.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Senator Wakai, for the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3235) recommending that H.B. No. 1983, H.D. 1, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator DeCoite, seconded by Senator Kanuha and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1983, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Wakai, for the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3236) recommending that H.B. No. 1552, H.D. 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator DeCoite, seconded by Senator Kanuha and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1552, H.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE STADIUM DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Wakai, for the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3237) recommending that H.B. No. 2225, H.D. 1, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator DeCoite, seconded by Senator Kanuha and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2225, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Keohokalole, for the Committee on Health, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3238) recommending that H.B. No. 2392, H.D. 1, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator DeCoite, seconded by Senator Kanuha and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2392, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Wakai, for the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3239) recommending that H.B. No. 2089, H.D. 1, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

On motion by Senator DeCoite, seconded by Senator Kanuha and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2089, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARDS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

Senator Rhoads, for the Committee on Judiciary, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3240) recommending that H.B. No. 1423, H.D. 1, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator DeCoite, seconded by Senator Kanuha and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1423, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VIOLATIONS OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAW," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Rhoads, for the Committee on Judiciary, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3241) recommending that H.B. No. 1426, H.D. 1, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator DeCoite, seconded by Senator Kanuha and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1426, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ORDERS OF THE CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Gabbard, for the Committee on Agriculture and Environment, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3242) recommending that H.B. No. 2256, H.D. 1, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism.

On motion by Senator DeCoite, seconded by Senator Kanuha and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2256, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO A DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism.

Senator Rhoads, for the Committee on Judiciary, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3243) recommending that H.B. No. 1541 pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

On motion by Senator DeCoite, seconded by Senator Kanuha and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1541, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS," passed Second Reading and was placed on the calendar for Third Reading on Monday, March 21, 2022.

Senators Inouye and Shimabukuro, for the Committee on Water and Land and the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, presented a joint report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3244) recommending that H.B. No. 1577, H.D. 1, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator DeCoite, seconded by Senator Kanuha and carried, the joint report of the Committees was adopted and H.B. No. 1577, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE KAHOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Chang, for the Committee on Housing, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3245) recommending that H.B. No. 2020, H.D. 1, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator DeCoite, seconded by Senator Kanuha and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2020, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOUSING," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Chang, for the Committee on Housing, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3246) recommending that H.B. No. 1748, H.D. 1, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator DeCoite, seconded by Senator Kanuha and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1748, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Chang, for the Committee on Housing, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3247) recommending that H.B. No. 2239, H.D. 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

On motion by Senator DeCoite, seconded by Senator Kanuha and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2239, H.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONDOMINIUMS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

Senator Chang, for the Committee on Housing, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3248) recommending that H.B. No. 1859, H.D. 1, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator DeCoite, seconded by Senator Kanuha and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1859, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOUSING," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Lee, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3249) recommending that H.B. No. 1681, H.D. 2, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator DeCoite, seconded by Senator Kanuha and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1681, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Lee, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3250) recommending that H.B. No. 1692, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

On motion by Senator DeCoite, seconded by Senator Kanuha and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1692, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MOBILE ELECTRONIC DEVICES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Senator Lee, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3251) recommending that H.B.

No. 1761, H.D. 1, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

On motion by Senator DeCoite, seconded by Senator Kanuha and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1761, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO IDENTIFICATION CARDS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Senator Baker, for the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3252) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of MARTA REBELLA to the Board of Acupuncture, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 501.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3252 and Gov. Msg. No. 501 was deferred until Monday, March 21, 2022.

Senator Baker, for the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3253) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of STACIE KELIINOI to the Board of Physical Therapy, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 505.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3253 and Gov. Msg. No. 505 was deferred until Monday, March 21, 2022.

Senator Baker, for the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3254) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of TOBY KAKEHI to the Motor Vehicle Repair Industry Board, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 511.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3254 and Gov. Msg. No. 511 was deferred until Monday, March 21, 2022.

Senator Baker, for the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3255) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of ALANNA ISOBE to the Board of Pharmacy, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 623.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3255 and Gov. Msg. No. 623 was deferred until Monday, March 21, 2022.

Senator Baker, for the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3256) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of ERIN FIRMIN to the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 625.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3256 and Gov. Msg. No. 625 was deferred until Monday, March 21, 2022.

Senator Baker, for the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3257) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of ALICE OGAWA to the Hawai'i Board of Chiropractic, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 626.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3257 and Gov. Msg. No. 626 was deferred until Monday, March 21, 2022.

Senator Baker, for the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3258) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of JOHN UEKAWA to the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 629.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3258 and Gov. Msg. No. 629 was deferred until Monday, March 21, 2022.

Senator Baker, for the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3259) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the Board of Massage Therapy of the following:

OLIVIA NAGASHIMA, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 502;

DARCI FRANKEL, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 503; and

JAYCE ARAKAKI, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 504.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3259 and Gov. Msg. Nos. 502, 503, and 504 was deferred until Monday, March 21, 2022.

Senator Baker, for the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3260) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the Board of Psychology of the following:

JAMES SPIRA, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 506; and

JUNE CHING, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 507.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3260 and Gov. Msg. Nos. 506 and 507 was deferred until Monday, March 21, 2022.

Senator Baker, for the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3261) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the Hawai'i Board of Veterinary Medicine of the following:

NATHANIEL LAM, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 508;

MARCELLA CHOCK, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 509; and

MARCELLA CHOCK, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 510.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3261 and Gov. Msg. Nos. 508, 509, and 510 was deferred until Monday, March 21, 2022.

Senator Baker, for the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3262) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the State Board of Barbering and Cosmetology of the following:

LESLIE MURATA, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 512; and

JAMIE YAP, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 513.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3262 and Gov. Msg. Nos. 512 and 513 was deferred until Monday, March 21, 2022.

Senator Baker, for the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3263) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the State Board of Nursing of the following:

KAREN BOYER, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 514; and

LUZVIMINDA MIGUEL, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 515.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3263 and Gov. Msg. Nos. 514 and 515 was deferred until Monday, March 21, 2022.

Senator Baker, for the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3264) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the State Board of Public Accountancy of the following:

ZACHARY JOHNSON, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 516; and

ALEXANDER SMITH, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 517.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3264 and Gov. Msg. Nos. 516 and 517 was deferred until Monday, March 21, 2022.

Senator Baker, for the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3265) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the Hawai'i Board of Optometry of the following:

GAYLE CHANG, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 627; and

KENNETH CHIN, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 628.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3265 and Gov. Msg. Nos. 627 and 628 was deferred until Monday, March 21, 2022.

ORDER OF THE DAY

ADVISE AND CONSENT

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3229 (Gov. Msg. Nos. 568, 569, 570, 571, and 573):

Senator Kidani moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3229 be received and placed on file, seconded by Senator Kim and carried.

Senator Kidani then moved that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board of the following:

KRISTI MIYAMAE, term to expire June 30, 2025 (Gov. Msg. No. 568);

DAWN RAYMOND, term to expire June 30, 2025 (Gov. Msg. No. 569);

BRANDEN KAWAZOE, term to expire June 30, 2024 (Gov. Msg. No. 570);

KIM SANDERS, term to expire June 30, 2025 (Gov. Msg. No. 571); and

KATINA SOARES, term to expire June 30, 2025 (Gov. Msg. No. 573),

seconded by Senator Kim.

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

Ayes, 24. Noes, none. Excused, 1 (Fevella).

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3230 (Gov. Msg. No. 587):

Senator Lee moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3230 be received and placed on file, seconded by Senator Inouye and carried.

Senator Lee then moved that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of CARROLL DIEBOLD to the Medical

Advisory Board, term to expire June 30, 2025, seconded by Senator Inouye.

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

Ayes, 24. Noes, none. Excused, 1 (Fevella).

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3231 (Gov. Msg. No. 597):

Senator Lee moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3231 be received and placed on file, seconded by Senator Inouye and carried.

Senator Lee then moved that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of PATRICK MCCAIN as Deputy Director of the Department of Transportation, term to expire at noon on December 5, 2022, seconded by Senator Inouye.

Senator Lee rose to speak in support of the nominee as follows:

“Mr. McCain, who’s joining us this morning, has been serving in his role currently at the Department of Transportation admirably. Our committee found that he has a lengthy history serving as chief of staff for U.S. Congressman Neil Abercrombie; executive assistant, City and County of Honolulu; and even here in the Hawai‘i State Senate. Most recently, he’s worked at the United States Department of Homeland Security and previously headed the Hawai‘i Restaurant Association. He’s been active in our communities and his community in numerous roles and, most of all, he seems committed, and has been committed, in his service thus far to forwarding the efforts of the Department of Transportation. I strongly recommend his adoption.”

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

Ayes, 24. Noes, none. Excused, 1 (Fevella).

At this time, Senator Lee introduced Deputy Director Patrick McCain, who was present in the gallery with Director Jade Butay, Grace Ichikawa, and David Rodriguez from the Department of Transportation.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

MATTERS DEFERRED FROM THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2022

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3227 (S.C.R. No. 15, S.D. 1):

On motion by Senator DeCoite, seconded by Senator Kanuha and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.C.R. No. 15, S.D. 1, entitled: “SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT VERY LOW INCOME NATIVE HAWAIIAN BENEFICIARIES,” was adopted.

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3228 (S.R. No. 9, S.D. 1):

On motion by Senator DeCoite, seconded by Senator Kanuha and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.R. No. 9, S.D. 1, entitled: “SENATE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT VERY LOW INCOME NATIVE HAWAIIAN BENEFICIARIES,” was adopted.

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. 2329, Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts, H.D. 2 then to the Committee on Ways and Means

RE-REFERRAL OF A SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

The Chair re-referred the following Senate concurrent resolution that was offered:

S.C.R. No.: Re-referred to:

S.C.R. No. 64 Committee on Water and Land, then to the Committee on Ways and Means

At this time, Senator Kidani rose to present the following remarks:

“Mahalo, colleagues. We are recognizing educators this week for their accomplishments that demonstrate outstanding dedication to their chosen profession. We all benefit from their commitment and are grateful for the opportunity to share their stories. Beginning our presentations today on the last day of this week, Education Week, I call on Senator DeCoite.”

Senator DeCoite rose to present the following remarks:

“Each year, the *School Library Journal* and Scholastic celebrate extraordinary K–12 library professionals with their School Librarian of the Year award. Honorees are distinguished by their accomplishments and use of technology to engage students in a wide range of literacies. Librarian of the Year for Hawai‘i is Diane Mokuau from Moloka‘i High School. I should note, Mr. President, that this award was announced a year ago, but it was too late for us to include Diane in the Education Week honors in 2021. I should also note that this is truly a big deal: Diane is one of only two librarians selected for this honor nationwide.

“Diane has been a dedicated leader at Moloka‘i High for the past two decades, serving not only as the school librarian but also as the district’s curriculum coordinator and union representative. She has received notable recognition over her illustrious career, including a 2016 Golden Key Award from the Hawai‘i Association of School Librarians. In 2019, Diane was named NEA Foundation Hawai‘i Teacher of the Year. Diane was the first National Board Certified Teacher librarian on Moloka‘i. Our honoree has always tried to create a safe and welcoming environment for students, families, and community members. She loves creating meaningful connections through reading and special events such as book fairs, poetry slams, author visits, and ‘ohana nights. As a national award recipient, Diane appeared on the cover of the April 2021 issue of *School Library Journal*. The award included a \$2,500 cash prize, digital and print resources, and a collection of books for the school library, and an additional gift of one book for every student at Moloka‘i High.

“Congratulations to Diane; we are so grateful for your work that benefits our students and the Moloka‘i community. Here is Senator Dela Cruz to continue our presentations.”

Senator Dela Cruz rose to present the following remarks:

“The National Blue Ribbon Schools program was established in 1982 to recognize the state’s top performing public and non-public schools across the country who have successfully closed achievement gaps in English and math as measured by state assessments. Three Hawai‘i campuses earned distinction as

Blue Ribbon Schools this year, and I am pleased that one of them is in my district.

“We salute Major Sheldon Wheeler Middle School, located at Wheeler Army Airfield just outside of Wahiawā. Wheeler Middle School exceeded statewide averages in English language arts and math by more than 15 percentage points in the selection year. A first-time Blue Ribbon School, Wheeler Middle attributes its academic success to a dynamic and adaptive school culture shaped by the administrative team led by Principal Brenda Vierra-Chun. The school includes a highly transient military student population, with 97 percent of students coming from military families, which can sometimes be very challenging. Principal Vierra-Chun and her team have successfully met academic and social-emotional wellbeing goals to earn this singular honor.

“Congratulations to Major Sheldon Wheeler Middle School, another Blue Ribbon School of excellence in our public school network. I yield to Senator Taniguchi.”

Senator Taniguchi rose to present the following remarks:

“Big congratulations to my alma mater, Mānoa Elementary School, a U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School, led by then-principal Ryan Kusuda at the time of nomination. Under his leadership, math and English scores improved significantly over the evaluated time period, far exceeding statewide averages in English language arts by more than 20 percent and in math by 26 percent.

“Now led by Principal Jason Okamoto, Mānoa Elementary School is a vibrant campus due to a diverse range of enrichment opportunities, including the gifted and talented program, an active student government, and an award-winning robotics program. Mr. President, I should note that Mānoa Elementary was also named a Blue Ribbon School in 1986, and so there’s a long tradition of excellence at this legacy public school. Another key to success is that the Mānoa Association of Parents & Teachers has provided strong support and resources to keep parents and students engaged with the greater community.

“We are proud of our schools in the valley and expect to hear more of their successes in the years ahead. I now yield to Senator Rhoads.”

Senator Rhoads rose to present the following remarks:

“Colleagues, Ma’ema’e Elementary School is a first-time National Blue Ribbon School this year. The campus is a consistent top-performing public school and earned its current accolades by improving English language arts assessment scores by more than 18 percent and scores in math by 27 percent. Ma’ema’e attributes its academic success to an innovative and nurturing school culture as well as their focus on technology. With a goal of nurturing 21st century learners, Ma’ema’e has been able to encourage critical thinking skills related to information, media, and digital technology. The systems in place have helped to improve an already-strong foundation of parent engagement and community support to new levels of success. Campus leadership is provided by Principal Lenn Uyeda, and we are grateful for the school’s whole-campus and community commitment to excellence. I would like to yield the floor to Senator Kidani. Mahalo.”

Senator Kidani rose and stated:

“Thank you, Senate President, colleagues. Can we please give a round of applause to all of our awardees today? Mr. President, as you can imagine, the challenge for Education Week each year is not being able to acknowledge the full scope of teacher, student, and campus leadership accomplishments. As noted, our honorees this year represent just a few of the

dedicated educators and students who work so hard on our behalf to create Hawai’i’s futures.

“Good news about our public schools is reported almost daily by the media. We relish the attention they bring and, as keepers of the budget, we try to commit sufficient resources to make sure our education leaders are able to do more and to do it better. Mahalo for your participation again this year, colleagues and Senate President. We look forward to the time ahead when we can congratulate and express our thanks to our honorees once again in person. Mahalo.”

The Chair thanked Senator Kidani and led the members and guests in the chamber in a round of applause to recognize the hard work of Senator Kidani and her staff in putting together an outstanding program for Education Week.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:48 a.m., on motion by Senator DeCoite, seconded by Senator Kanuha and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 a.m., Monday, March 21, 2022.