

TWELFTH DAY

Monday, February 5, 2024

The Senate of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2024, convened at 11:37 a.m. with the President in the Chair.

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

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

At this time, Senator Shimabukuro introduced visitors from her alma mater, Wai'anae Elementary School, who were present in the gallery: students Roman, Z, Richard, Emily, Camren Isaac, Iricah, Alicezandrea, Asoula Jasmine, Paden, Tayd'nce, Anex, Le'jen, Jonah, Anointed, Leylahlen, Isabella - Sloane, Styran - Ace, Emmerey, Wailana, Sophia, Alohi, Penelope, Vincent, Rhyan, Nathanael, Alaka'i, Daisy, Ania, Sattal, Cheyanna, Naia, Mikilana, Jacob, Kahaku, Manuel, Reon, Myalene, Kekulia, Ayden, and Philleo; and teachers Ms. Hillstead, Ms. Anzai, Ms. Taasan, Ms. Arakaki, Mrs. Barco, Ms. Jo, and Mrs. Nakata.

The Chair noted that he had heard Ms. Hillstead giving the students instructions on decorum and behavior in the gallery, which the students had followed quite well.

Senator Dela Cruz recognized and honored former state senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran for his service to the State of Hawai'i, and presented the following remarks:

"I rise today with immense honor and heartfelt gratitude as we gather and celebrate the distinguished service of a dedicated public servant, Senator Keith-Agaran. While he officially retired last October, the interim prevented us from expressing our appreciation. Senator Keith-Agaran has been an invaluable member of this esteemed body, leaving an indelible mark on the legislative process and the lives of those he served. As a vice chair of the Ways and Means committee for many years, he demonstrated a profound commitment to fiscal responsibility and a deep understanding of the intricate details that shape our state's budget.

"Today, I have the privilege of presenting Senator Keith-Agaran with a certificate of recognition, a small token of our immense appreciation for his tireless dedication, expertise, and leadership. His contributions to the legislative process have undoubtedly left a lasting impact on the State of Hawai'i and its residents. Thank you, Senator Keith-Agaran, for your outstanding contributions to the Senate and to the people of our great state. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors. Congratulations."

Senator Dela Cruz then introduced Senator Keith-Agaran's former staff members who were seated in the gallery: Danielle Evangelista, Robert Nishimoto, Moya Gray, Colleen Jones, Wintehn Park, Sarah Akinaka, and James Nelson.

The Chair announced that former state senator Keith-Agaran would be greeted on the Senate floor immediately after adjournment.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

The following message from the Governor (Gov. Msg. No. 607) was read by the Clerk and was disposed of as follows:

Gov. Msg. No. 607, submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Administrator of the State Health Planning & Development Agency, the nomination of JOHN (JACK) LEWIN, term to expire December 7, 2026, was referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Senator Rhoads, for the majority of the Committee on Judiciary, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2127) recommending that S.B. No. 2377 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the report of the majority of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2377, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COMPENSATION FOR COURT-APPOINTED COUNSEL," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Shimabukuro, for the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2128) recommending that S.B. No. 2647 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2647, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Shimabukuro, for the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2129) recommending that S.B. No. 2655 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2655, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Shimabukuro, for the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2130) recommending that S.B. No. 2646 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2646, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Shimabukuro, for the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2131) recommending that S.B. No. 2921 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Judiciary.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2921, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Judiciary.

Senator Shimabukuro, for the majority of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2132) recommending that S.B. No. 2640, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Judiciary.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the report of the majority of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2640, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Judiciary.

Senator Shimabukuro, for the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2133) recommending that S.B. No. 2435, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2435, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Shimabukuro, for the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2134) recommending that S.B. No. 2780, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2780, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN BENEFICIARIES," 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. 2135) recommending that S.B. No. 2337, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2337, 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.

Senators Gabbard and DeCoite, for the Committee on Agriculture and Environment and the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism, presented a joint report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2136) recommending that S.B. No. 2498, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Water and Land and the Committee on Health and Human Services.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the joint report of the Committees was adopted and S.B. No. 2498, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FINANCING," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Water and Land and the Committee on Health and Human Services.

Senator Rhoads, for the majority of the Committee on Judiciary, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2137) recommending that H.B. No. 824, H.D. 2, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Third Reading.

By unanimous consent, action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2137 and H.B. No. 824, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MEDICAL RELEASE," was deferred until Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

ORDER OF THE DAY

RE-REFERRAL OF A SENATE BILL

The Chair re-referred the following Senate bill that was introduced:

S.B. No.: Re-referred to:

S.B. No. 2498, S.D. 1, Jointly to the Committee on Agriculture and Environment and the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism, then to the Committee on Ways and Means

At this time, the Chair remarked:

"I would just briefly say to Gil, thank you as well. You are dearly missed by me for your wise counsel and your dry wit. We'd have a lot more banter if the Bengals were playing this Sunday, but for the brevity of the program, they are not, and we have no more jokes."

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:44 a.m., on motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 6, 2024.