

## TWENTY-SECOND DAY

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

The Senate of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2024, convened at 11:34 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-First Day.

At this time, Senator DeCoite introduced the parents of Jessica Bartlett, who had offered a moment of contemplation prior to the Senate's floor session. Seated in the gallery were Zane Mukai and Carol Mukai, who hailed from Maui.

Senator Chang welcomed his college roommate Evan Lushing and his wife, Cecilia; and Cecilia's mother, who were present in the gallery and visiting from Manhattan, New York. Senator Chang noted that the Lushings had gotten married the previous summer and were on their honeymoon, visiting O'ahu and the Big Island.

## MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The following messages from the Governor (Gov. Msg. Nos. 621 to 625) were read by the Clerk and were disposed of as follows:

Gov. Msg. No. 621, informing the Senate that on February 16, 2024, the Governor withdrew the nomination of BENJAMIN KUDO to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority, under Gov. Msg. No. 587, from consideration by the Senate, was placed on file.

In compliance with Gov. Msg. No. 621, the nomination listed under Gov. Msg. No. 587 was returned.

Gov. Msg. No. 622, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hoisting Machine Operators Advisory Board, the nomination of GREG SCHER, term to expire June 30, 2028, was referred to the Committee on Labor and Technology.

Gov. Msg. No. 623, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Center for Nursing Advisory Board, the nomination of SONDR A LEIGGI BRANDON, term to expire June 30, 2028, was referred to the Committee on Higher Education.

Gov. Msg. No. 624, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects, the nomination of NANCY CASSANDRO, term to expire June 30, 2028, was referred to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

Gov. Msg. No. 625, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology, the nomination of KENNETH PUGH, term to expire June 30, 2028, was referred to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Senator Dela Cruz, for the Committee on Ways and Means, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2733) recommending that S.B. No. 2959, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2959, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING

TO TAXATION," passed Second Reading and was placed on the calendar for Third Reading on Thursday, February 29, 2024.

Senator Dela Cruz, for the Committee on Ways and Means, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2734) recommending that S.B. No. 2279, as amended in S.D. 1, be recommitted 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. 2279, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION," was recommitted to the Committee on Ways and Means.

## ORDER OF THE DAY

## THIRD READING

S.B. No. 2652, S.D. 1:

On motion by Senator Dela Cruz, seconded by Senator Moriawaki and carried, S.B. No. 2652, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE BUDGET," having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 25. Noes, none.

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2483 (S.B. No. 2927, S.D. 1):

On motion by Senator Dela Cruz, seconded by Senator Moriawaki and carried, Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2483 was adopted and S.B. No. 2927, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VI, SECTION 3 OF THE HAWAII CONSTITUTION TO MAKE THE SENATE CONFIRMATION PROCESS FOR JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS MORE UNIFORM," having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 25. Noes, none.

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2484 (S.B. No. 2240, S.D. 2):

On motion by Senator Dela Cruz, seconded by Senator Moriawaki and carried, Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2484 was adopted and S.B. No. 2240, S.D. 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS," having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 24. Noes, 1 (Awa).

S.B. No. 3289, S.D. 1:

On motion by Senator Dela Cruz, seconded by Senator Moriawaki and carried, S.B. No. 3289, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION," having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 25. Noes, none.

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2730 (H.B. No. 470, H.D. 2, S.D. 2):

On motion by Senator Rhoads, seconded by Senator Gabbard and carried, Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2730 was adopted and H.B. No. 470, H.D. 2, S.D. 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MINORS," having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 25. Noes, none.

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2731 (S.B. No. 2385, S.D. 1):

On motion by Senator Dela Cruz, seconded by Senator Moriwaki and carried, Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2731 was adopted and S.B. No. 2385, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VI, SECTION 3 OF THE HAWAII CONSTITUTION TO PLACE PROCEDURAL RESTRICTIONS ON THE TIMING OF JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS AND CONFIRMATIONS," having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 25. Noes, none.

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2732 (S.B. No. 2381, S.D. 2):

Senator Dela Cruz moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2732 be adopted and S.B. No. 2381, S.D. 2, having been read throughout, pass Third Reading, seconded by Senator Moriwaki.

Senator Rhoads rose to speak in support of the measure as follows:

"This bill has the potential for reducing the influence of special-interest money significantly because it provides a full public financing option for candidates who wish to run for office and requires a lot of grassroots support to get the money to run for office, but it does allow people who don't come from financial backgrounds where they're capable of raising a lot of money a chance also. So I hope my colleagues will support this; I think it could potentially be a very important addition to our campaign finance law. Mahalo."

The motion was put by the Chair and carried, Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2732 was adopted and S.B. No. 2381, S.D. 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING FOR CANDIDATES TO ELECTED OFFICE," having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 25. Noes, none.

At this time, Senator Dela Cruz announced that the Committee on Ways and Means would reconvene its informational briefing at noon.

Senator Kim rose to speak on a point of personal privilege as follows:

"I'd like to request that we adjourn on a rising moment of silence for Emme Tomimbang, who passed away unexpectedly while having heart surgery. Emme was a very active and renowned member of our community and a Filipino leader, and we will miss her dearly. Thank you."

The Chair announced that there would be a leadership meeting immediately following adjournment. The Chair clarified that certain members of leadership would be attending the Ways and Means briefing instead. The Chair then expressed the Senate's commitment to solving the issues faced by residents impacted by the Maui fires.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 11:43 a.m., on motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, February 21, 2024, on a rising vote, observing a moment of silence in recognition of the contributions made to the community by Emme Tomimbang, who had passed away the previous day.