

THIRTY-FOURTH DAY

Monday, March 18, 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, with the exception of Senator Rhoads who was excused.

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

At this time, Senator DeCoite introduced Mr. Gene Ross Davis, from Moloka'i, who had offered a moment of contemplation prior to the Senate's floor session. Accompanying him in the gallery were members of Senator DeCoite's staff: office manager Rebecca Crall, session staff member Madi Kalahui, Javen Alania, and Richard Oshiro.

Senator Kidani congratulated the State Teacher of the Year and Complex Area Teachers of the Year, and presented the following remarks:

"Colleagues, each spring, the chairs of the Senate and House Education committees designate a week during which we invite teachers, students, and education professionals to our capitol to be recognized with floor presentations and education-related events. Our annual Education Week celebration is an event that I look forward to each year.

"Today, we recognize individuals who have demonstrated teaching excellence, student achievement, and campus leadership. Those whose names are entered into the official record in each of these categories are just a few of the thousands whose contributions comprise the collective educational efforts in our state. As chair of your Committee on Education, I am deeply moved and inspired by the hard work of each of these awardees and the determination and resilience of our education system.

"Mr. President and colleagues, you have each received a program booklet for this year's Education Week. I urge you to read about the remarkable individuals we are recognizing this year. These deserving students, teachers, and campus leaders represent the broad spectrum of excellence in our education system.

"I also request that the names and accomplishments of all of our honorees that my office will provide be entered into the Senate Journal each day to ensure that the 2024 Education Week recipients are rightfully recognized." (The Chair so ordered.)

The Chair having so ordered, the names and accomplishments of the honorees read as follows:

"HI DOE- 2024 Hawai'i State Teacher of the Year: Jackie Freitas, Leilehua High School; HI DOE- 2024 Honolulu District's Kaimukī-McKinley-Roosevelt Complex Teacher of the Year: Laurie Chang, Ali'iolani Elementary School; HI DOE- 2024 Honolulu District's Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani Complex Teacher of the Year: Norman Ray Sales, Professional Development and Educational Research Institute (PDERI); HI DOE- 2024 Leeward District's Campbell-Kapolei Complex Teacher of the Year: Ariel Villanueva, 'Ewa Makai Middle School; HI DOE- 2024 Leeward District's Nānākuli-Wai'anae Complex Teacher of the Year: Donna Soriano, Wai'anae Elementary School; and HI DOE- 2024 Windward District's Kailua-Kalāheo Complex Teacher of the Year: Gregory Kent, Kailua Elementary School."

Senator Kidani continued:

"Our state Department of Education each year solicits nominations for classroom educators to be honored as Teachers of the Year. One teacher is selected by a committee from each of the DOE school complex areas and one from public charter school campuses. Our guests this morning include several of our deserving Complex Area Teachers of the Year.

"I yield the floor to Senator Dela Cruz to introduce our first honoree from District 17."

Senator Dela Cruz rose to present the following remarks:

"As a resident of my district, it is a great honor to open this year's Education Week by recognizing our 2024 State Teacher of the Year honoree, Jackie Freitas. Please stand.

"Jackie is a dedicated educator at Leilehua High School and has significantly contributed to agricultural education during her 14-year career. Returning to serve in her alma mater as the natural resources teacher and Future Farmers of America advisor, she has transformed the curriculum by introducing hands-on learning and advanced agricultural technologies, such as smart farms, farm bots, aeroponic vertical towers, and many other techniques. Jackie extends her influence beyond the classroom through community engagement initiatives, such as the 'Buy 1, Give 1' produce box program and the annual fall festival. Jackie's commitment to her students and her innovative approach to education have not only earned her statewide recognition but also the admiration and respect of her community, embodying the spirit of leadership, humility, and service.

"Jackie is truly inspiring. Please join me in congratulating Leilehua High School's Jackie Freitas as the 2024 Hawai'i State Teacher of the Year. Here to support her are Complex Area Superintendent Davis (if you can please stand), Principal Nakamoto, and Vice Principals Ferrara and Atonio. Welcome to the Senate.

"I now yield the floor to Senator Ihara."

Senator Ihara rose to present the following remarks:

"Mr. President, as the senator for the school of the 2024 Kaimukī-McKinley-Roosevelt Complex Area Teacher of the Year, I would like to recognize Laurie Chang as this year's honoree.

"Laurie Chang has built an impressive career in education since 1994, transitioning from a general education teacher to a champion for students with disabilities before moving into leadership roles as a curriculum coordinator and student services coordinator at Ali'iolani Elementary School. Her journey reflects a deep commitment to enhancing educational experiences and outcomes for all students.

"Laurie holds a bachelor of science in fashion design, a professional diploma in elementary education, and a certification in special education from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Her work and educational background exemplifies the profound influence that passionate and versatile educational leaders can have on their communities, making a lasting difference in the lives of students and teachers alike.

"It is my honor to join the Senate in recognizing Laurie Chang as the 2024 Kaimukī-McKinley-Roosevelt Complex Area Teacher of the Year.

"I now turn the floor over to Senator Fevella."

Senator Fevella rose to present the following remarks:

“As the residents of District 20, I am privileged in recognizing two outstanding awardees. First, I would like to call upon Norman Sales as the 2024 Farrington–Kaiser–Kalani Complex Area Teacher of the Year.

“Norman Sales has made significant strides in the Hawai‘i Department of Education. Before his current role as the educational specialist for the Na Kumu Alaka‘i - Teacher Leader Academy, his 10-year tenure at Farrington High School was marked by notable achievements, including publication of the award-winning multilingual poetry anthology *Voice: Poetry by the Youth of Kalihi*. Norman was instrumental in establishing the school’s Seal of Biliteracy program and has ongoing mentorship in the Filipino Curriculum Project. Norman’s diverse career reflects a deep commitment to fostering educational excellence and leadership within Hawai‘i’s school system. Through his work, Norman continues to demonstrate the powerful role educators play in shaping the future of education.

“Colleagues, join me in congratulating the 2024 Farrington–Kaiser–Kalani Complex Teacher of the Year, Norman Sales. Mahalo.

“Next, I would like to also recognize Ariel Villanueva as the 2024 Campbell–Kapolei Complex Area Teacher of the Year.

“Ariel has dedicated 27 years to industrial engineering and technology as an educator and advisor. His journey has taken him through various schools, including Roosevelt High School, Niu Valley Middle School, Kapolei Middle School, and currently (rah, rah) Ewa Makai Middle School. Ariel’s approach to teaching industrial engineering and technology, particularly through engineering design and modeling in the wood lab, offering students hands-on learning experiences that are engaging. This unique teaching style enables him to prepare students not just for future careers in engineering and technology but also for thoughtful engagement with the world around them.

“Please join me in recognizing Ariel Villanueva as the 2024 Campbell–Kapolei Complex Area Teacher of the Year.

“I now yield the floor to Senator Shimabukuro.”

Senator Shimabukuro rose to present the following remarks:

“As a resident of District 22, I am honored to recognize Donna Soriano as the 2024 Nānākuli–Wai‘anae Complex Area Teacher of the Year.

“Donna Soriano is a dedicated teacher who teaches STEM and computer science at Wai‘anae Elementary School and has spent nearly a decade nurturing the minds of students from pre-K through sixth grade. She has been instrumental in pioneering the school’s STEM and computer science programs. Donna has also played a key role in organizing Wai‘anae Elementary School’s Seahorse Media program, design lab, and the robotics team. Donna’s commitment to professional growth is evident in her continuous pursuit of professional development, underscored by her receipt of the Hawaii Education Association Ronald K. Toma Scholarship Award for Professional Development and her achievement of receiving National Board Teaching Certification in middle childhood.

“Please join me in recognizing 2024 Nānākuli–Wai‘anae Complex Area Teacher of the Year Donna Soriano.

“I now yield the floor to Senator Lee.”

Senator Lee rose to present the following remarks:

“Mahalo, everybody, and congratulations. I’d also like to introduce our final awardee today: Gregory Kent, who’s the 2024 Kailua–Kalāheo Complex Area Teacher of the Year. Congratulations, Mr. Kent.

“Gregory Kent has been the technology coordinator at Kailua Elementary School for 21 years, which has prepared him to engage students in creative problem-solving and design-thinking. His teaching experience spans several schools, including the Myron B. Thompson Academy, Wailupe Elementary School, and Koko Head Elementary School. He oversees the Kailua EleMakery, a makerspace that encourages hands-on learning and creativity by providing students access to advanced tools, such as 3D printers, lasers, and other building materials. He is a seasoned FIRST LEGO League robotics coach and mentor as well as an education ambassador for the Ko‘olaupoko FIRST Robotics Competition community team. He has demonstrated a profound commitment to fostering innovation and critical thinking among students. And I just, from a personal standpoint, have to say, I’ve been to his classroom, and there is no other classroom on this island that I think I would rather find myself volunteering to go spend time because there’s so much fun tools and toys in there, and the learning experience is second to none.

“So, with that, please join me in recognizing our final honoree for today, the 2024 Kailua–Kalāheo Complex Area Teacher of the Year, Gregory Kent.

“I now yield the floor back to Senator Kidani.”

Senator Kidani rose and stated:

“Colleagues, as you can see, we have a wealth of educational excellence in our midst that I am thrilled to celebrate. These outstanding teachers represent the tremendous talent, dedication, and accomplishments of our educators here in Hawai‘i, and I am grateful to have this opportunity to honor them. Can we have one more round of applause for all of them?

“I would also like to take a moment to recognize our longtime community partner, Friends of the Library, for their continued support of Education Week. Is anyone here from Friends of the Library? Many of us look forward to their annual book fair at the Capitol during this exciting week of celebrations. I would like to mahalo Nainoa Mau and the Friends of the Library volunteers for bringing the book fair to the Capitol. It is a fantastic way to kick off the start of Education Week and to welcome all of our honored guests for a joyous occasion. Will you all please stand and be recognized again? Mahalo.

“Senate President, I now yield the floor back to you.”

The Chair announced that the honorees would be greeted on the Senate floor immediately after adjournment.

The Chair then explained that, that morning, he had had a visit from his daughter-in-law, a science teacher at Chiefess Kamakahelei Middle School on Kaua‘i, who would be part of the following day’s science fair. The Chair expressed his hope that his daughter-in-law would be bringing a special guest with her and that he would get to see his grandson at the Capitol the following day. The Chair repeated his thanks to Senator Kidani and her staff for their work in organizing Education Week.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

The following message from the Governor (Gov. Msg. No. 7) was read by the Clerk and was placed on file:

Gov. Msg. No. 7, dated March 15, 2024, providing updates on Maui wildfire recovery efforts.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Senator Shimabukuro, for the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3104) recommending that H.B. No. 2772, 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 Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2772, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE STATE SEAL," 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. 3105) recommending that H.B. No. 1529, H.D. 2, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1529, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO BURIAL COUNCILS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Senator Shimabukuro, for the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3106) recommending that H.B. No. 2420, H.D. 2, 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 H.B. No. 2420, H.D. 2, 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 Ways and Means.

Senator Rhoads, for the majority of the Committee on Judiciary, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3107) recommending that H.B. No. 1913, 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 Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the report of the majority of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1913, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COMPENSATION FOR COURT-APPOINTED REPRESENTATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Rhoads, for the majority of the Committee on Judiciary, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3108) recommending that H.B. No. 1914, 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 Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the report of the majority of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1914, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, 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 Rhoads, for the majority of the Committee on Judiciary, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3109) recommending that H.B. No. 2485, 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 Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the report of the majority of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2485, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO STATE TAX ADMINISTRATION," 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. 3110) recommending that H.B. No. 1912, 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 Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1912, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO JUDGES FOR THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Rhoads, for the majority of the Committee on Judiciary, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3111) recommending that H.B. No. 2509, 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 Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the report of the majority of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2509, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VI, SECTION 3 OF THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION TO INCREASE THE MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGE FOR STATE JUSTICES AND JUDGES," 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. 3112) recommending that H.B. No. 1881, 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 Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1881, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE FINES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senators Wakai and San Buenaventura, for the Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs and the Committee on Health and Human Services, presented a joint report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3113) recommending that H.B. No. 2230, 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 Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the joint report of the Committees was adopted and H.B. No. 2230, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT," 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. 3114) recommending that H.B. No. 2787, H.D. 2, 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 H.B. No. 2787, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE INDIVIDUAL HOUSING ACCOUNT PROGRAM," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senators San Buenaventura and Wakai, for the Committee on Health and Human Services and the Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, presented a joint report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3115) recommending that H.B. No. 2253, 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 Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the joint report of the Committees was adopted and H.B. No. 2253, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH," passed Second Reading and

was referred to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senators San Buenaventura and Wakai, for the Committee on Health and Human Services and the Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, presented a joint report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3116) recommending that H.B. No. 2227, H.D. 2, 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 joint report of the Committees was adopted and H.B. No. 2227, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CHILD CARE," 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. 3117) recommending that H.B. No. 1953, 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 Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1953, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE PENAL CODE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

ORDER OF THE DAY

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. 1936, H.D. 2	Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts, then to the Committee on Ways and Means
H.B. No. 2083, H.D. 3	Committee on Agriculture and Environment, then to the Committee on Ways and Means

RE-REFERRAL OF A SENATE RESOLUTION

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

S.R. No.:	Re-referred to:
S.R. No. 174	Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

At this time, Senator Fevella rose to speak on a point of personal privilege as follows:

"As you may know, every year since I've been here for the last five years or so, Senator Kidani really encouraged me into participating in various activities. I'm very proud to do this, and I'll always be a participant of Education Week. It is something that I think is very important to our children, especially when it comes to reading. And for those of you who know me—knows that I don't like to use the word 'hate'—I dislike reading, so I thank Senator Kidani and all of my colleagues; appreciate you all. Thank you for Education Week."

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:52 a.m., on motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 19, 2024.