

SIXTIETH DAY

Friday, May 3, 2024

The Senate of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2024, convened at 10:39 a.m. with the President in the Chair.

The Roll was called showing all Senators present, with the exception of Senators Awa and Fukunaga who were excused.

The President announced that he had read and approved the Journal of the Fifty-Ninth Day.

At this time, Senator Shimabukuro introduced Representative Darius K. Kila, Lorna and David Strand, Phyllis Shimabukuro, and Hinalaimoana Wong-Kalu, who were present in the gallery.

Senator Rhoads acknowledged and thanked members of his staff who were seated in the gallery: attorneys Moya Gray and Jessie Faige, legal researcher Dave Nagaji, committee clerk Christine Nguyen, and University of Hawai‘i – West O‘ahu intern and former military man Paul Mendez.

The Chair added his thanks.

Senator San Buenaventura recognized and thanked members of her staff who were present in the gallery: legislative clerk Baron Sekiya; committee clerk Elizabeth Rush; UH West O‘ahu intern Camilia Epa; and office manager Amelia Castro, who had sometimes stayed up until 3:30 a.m.

The Chair added his thanks.

Senator Inouye welcomed and thanked members of her staff who were seated in the gallery: longtime session hire Mel Ah Ching, who was from Honoka‘a and later lived on O‘ahu; office manager Tammie Kotani; and committee clerk Brad Knowlton.

The Chair added his thanks.

Senator Fevella introduced and thanked Tesha Malama and Nia Tafofi, staff members of the Senate Minority Research Office; and Matthew Elgarico and session hire Joyce Oliveira, members of his staff. Senator Fevella also thanked his parents. Senator Fevella then acknowledged members of the Neighborhood Security Watch (NSW) who were present in the gallery: Aunty Iwalani McBrayer from the Kaupe‘a Homestead NSW; Aunty Loke Neitzel, Aunty Ruth Kepo‘o, and Aunty Jodi Akau from the Kānehili NSW; and Aunty Haunani from the ‘Ewa Beach NSW.

The Chair added his thanks.

Senator Kim acknowledged and thanked members of her staff: Keola Kahikina; Rachel Weaver, whose last day was that day; and her office manager.

The Chair added his thanks.

Senator Gabbard recognized and thanked members of his staff: committee clerk Lia Bellord, community liaison Nanouk Denis, and office manager Meg Turner.

The Chair added his thanks.

Senator Lee welcomed and thanked members of his staff who were seated in the gallery: Anthony Miranda, Danielle Evangelista, and Kula Kukonu.

The Chair added his thanks.

Senator McKelvey acknowledged and thanked members of his staff: Wendee Wilson, Beth MacKenzie, and Hulu Umiamaka.

The Chair added his thanks.

Senator Rhoads welcomed neighbor and constituent Marc Alexander, who was present in the gallery.

Senator DeCoite introduced and thanked members of her staff: office manager Rebecca Crall, Javen Alania, Richard Oshiro, and Madi Kalahui. Senator DeCoite also thanked the members for their support throughout session, the President, all Senate staff, and anyone who played a “huge role” during session.

The Chair added his thanks.

Senator Ihara recognized and thanked session staff member Robin Graff, a member of the military police; and the rest of his staff, headed by Melissa Vomvoris.

The Chair added his thanks.

The Chair then addressed and thanked the interns from UH West O‘ahu, noting that the members must have put them to hard work and that the Senate made an effort to give them meaningful session experiences. The Chair added that the Senate appreciated the partnership with UH West O‘ahu and the quality of the interns and the help they have provided.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

The following message from the Governor (Gov. Msg. No. 1110) was read by the Clerk and was placed on file:

Gov. Msg. No. 1110, informing the Senate that on May 2, 2024, the Governor signed into law Senate Bill No. 582, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1 as Act 10, entitled: “RELATING TO STATE BUDGET.”

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications from the House (Hse. Com. Nos. 827 to 830) were read by the Clerk and were placed on file:

Hse. Com. No. 827, informing the Senate that on April 30, 2024, the House discharged all conferees to H.B. No. 2159, H.D. 2 (S.D. 2).

Hse. Com. No. 828, informing the Senate that on May 1, 2024, the House reconsidered its action taken on April 11, 2024, in disagreeing to the amendments proposed by the Senate to the following House bills:

H.B. No. 1861, H.D. 2 (S.D. 2); and
H.B. No. 2159, H.D. 2 (S.D. 2).

Hse. Com. No. 829, informing the Senate that on May 1, 2024, the House agreed to the amendments proposed by the Senate and passed the following House bills on Final Reading:

H.B. No. 1922, H.D. 2, S.D. 1;
H.B. No. 2218, H.D. 1, S.D. 2;
H.B. No. 2227, H.D. 2, S.D. 1;
H.B. No. 2394, H.D. 1, S.D. 1; and
H.B. No. 2501, H.D. 1, S.D. 2.

Hse. Com. No. 830, informing the Senate that on May 1, 2024, the following bills passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives:

H.B. No. 982, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1;
H.B. No. 1148, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1;
H.B. No. 1533, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
H.B. No. 1577, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1;
H.B. No. 1633, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;

H.B. No. 1640, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 1686, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 1760, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 1763, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 1800, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 1801, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 1827, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 1830, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 1832, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 1836, H.D. 2, S.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 1902, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 1911, H.D. 2, S.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 1916, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 1925, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 1932, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 1944, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 1953, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2020, H.D. 2, S.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2042, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2058, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2070, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2074, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2090, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2107, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2144, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2192, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2193, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2224, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2248, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2278, H.D. 2, S.D. 3, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2298, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2315, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2339, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2340, H.D. 2, S.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2354, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2359, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2365, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2369, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2376, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2377, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2380, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2390, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2399, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2404, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2430, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2435, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2453, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2457, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2458, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2467, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2471, H.D. 2, S.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2475, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2478, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2480, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2481, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2482, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2484, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2499, H.D. 2, S.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2546, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2553, H.D. 2, S.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2581, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2619, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2641, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2685, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2715, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2742, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2743, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2790, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 H.B. No. 2801, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 116, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 572, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 582, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 795, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 1035, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 1099, S.D. 1, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 1170, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 1258, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2066, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2070, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2079, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2085, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2119, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2132, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2133, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2182, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2193, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2197, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2216, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2217, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2240, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2257, S.D. 3, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2284, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2287, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2289, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2305, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2333, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2337, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2342, S.D. 2, H.D. 3, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2347, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2350, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2401, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2413, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2439, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2443, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2461, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2475, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2476, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2497, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2504, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2512, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2516, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2526, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2529, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2532, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2536, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2537, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2557, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2575, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2591, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2600, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2601, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2657, S.D. 1, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2659, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2687, S.D. 1, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2693, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2715, S.D. 1, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2718, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2721, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2725, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2726, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2731, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2753, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2782, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2787, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2819, S.D. 1, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2834, S.D. 1, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2837, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2841, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2845, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2861, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2919, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2927, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;

S.B. No. 2937, S.D. 1, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2943, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2960, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2974, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2983, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 2991, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3011, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3033, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3034, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3037, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3070, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3083, S.D. 1, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3087, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3091, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3092, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3094, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3109, S.D. 1, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3116, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3123, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3139, S.D. 2, H.D. 3, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3153, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3154, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3157, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3191, S.D. 1, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3192, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3202, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3207, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3220, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3236, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3242, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3279, S.D. 1, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3290, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3305, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3312, S.D. 1, H.D. 2, C.D. 1;
 S.B. No. 3364, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1; and
 S.B. No. 3365, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1.

ORDER OF THE DAY

ADVISE AND CONSENT

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3958 (Gov. Msg. Nos. 579, 580, 581, and 602):

Senator Lee moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3958 be received and placed on file, seconded by Senator Inouye and carried.

Senator Lee then moved that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee of the following:

THOMAS NOYES, term to expire June 30, 2026 (Gov. Msg. No. 579);

JAMES BURKE, term to expire June 30, 2026 (Gov. Msg. No. 580);

JESSICA THOMPSON, term to expire June 30, 2026 (Gov. Msg. No. 581); and

JEANNE TORRES, term to expire June 30, 2026 (Gov. Msg. No. 602),

seconded by Senator Inouye.

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

Ayes, 23. Noes, none. Excused, 2 (Awa, Fukunaga).

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3959 (Gov. Msg. Nos. 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, and 637):

Senator Lee moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3959 be received and placed on file, seconded by Senator Inouye and carried.

Senator Lee then moved that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission of the following:

OLIVIA MANN, term to expire June 30, 2027 (Gov. Msg. No. 572);

JAMIE WHITTLE-WAGNER, term to expire June 30, 2027 (Gov. Msg. No. 573);

CECELIA HOFFMAN, term to expire June 30, 2027 (Gov. Msg. No. 574);

KU'ULEILANIMEKEALOHAMAU KUPAHU-MARINO KAHOANO, term to expire June 30, 2027 (Gov. Msg. No. 575);

JERALD KEAULANA, term to expire June 30, 2027 (Gov. Msg. No. 576); and

JAME SCHAEDEL, term to expire June 30, 2028 (Gov. Msg. No. 637),

seconded by Senator Inouye.

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

Ayes, 23. Noes, none. Excused, 2 (Awa, Fukunaga).

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3960 (Gov. Msg. No. 577):

Senator Lee moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3960 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 KONRAD NG as Chairperson of the State Foundation on Culture & the Arts, term to expire June 30, 2027, seconded by Senator Inouye.

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

Ayes, 23. Noes, none. Excused, 2 (Awa, Fukunaga).

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3961 (Gov. Msg. No. 578):

Senator Lee moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3961 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 SEAN CONNELLY to the State Foundation on Culture & the Arts, term to expire June 30, 2027, seconded by Senator Inouye.

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

Ayes, 23. Noes, none. Excused, 2 (Awa, Fukunaga).

FINAL ADOPTION

S.C.R. No. 1, H.D. 1:

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the Senate agreed to the amendments proposed by the House to S.C.R. No. 1, and S.C.R. No. 1, H.D. 1, entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE DAY IN 2025 OF THE SECOND NEW MOON AFTER THE WINTER SOLSTICE OF 2024 AS THE LUNAR NEW YEAR IN THE STATE OF HAWAII," was Finally Adopted.

S.C.R. No. 2, S.D. 1, H.D. 1:

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the Senate agreed to the amendments proposed by the House to S.C.R. No. 2, S.D. 1, and S.C.R. No. 2, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN AS AN OBSERVER IN THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION, WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, AND INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION," was Finally Adopted.

S.C.R. No. 146, S.D. 1, H.D. 1:

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the Senate agreed to the amendments proposed by the House to S.C.R. No. 146, S.D. 1, and S.C.R. No. 146, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE HAWAII SISTER-STATE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE INITIATION OF A SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HAWAII AND THE SPANISH PROVINCE OF THE BALEARIC ISLANDS," was Finally Adopted.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

MATTERS DEFERRED FROM WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3962 (H.C.R. No. 157):

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the joint report of the Committees was adopted and H.C.R. No. 157, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES AND THE STATE TO RECOGNIZE AND ADDRESS THE AIR TRANSPORTATION CRISIS ON MOLOKAI AND LĀNA'Ī," was adopted.

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3963 (H.C.R. No. 49):

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the joint report of the Committees was adopted and H.C.R. No. 49, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO CONDUCT A SIDEWALK FEASIBILITY STUDY ALONG KALIHI STREET FROM KAMANAIKI STREET TO KALIHI VALLEY PARK," was adopted.

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3964 (H.C.R. No. 125, H.D. 1):

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.C.R. No. 125, H.D. 1, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TELEHEALTH WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE THE IMPACT OF WIDESPREAD TELEHEALTH ADOPTION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND IDENTIFY PUBLIC POLICY INITIATIVES AT THE FEDERAL AND STATE LEVEL TO OPTIMIZE TELEHEALTH UTILIZATION AS THE STATE TRANSITIONS OUT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC," was adopted.

FINAL READING

S.B. No. 1511, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 2:

On motion by Senator Kim, seconded by Senator Kanuha and carried, S.B. No. 1511, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII," having been read throughout, passed Final Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 23. Noes, none. Excused, 2 (Awa, Fukunaga).

S.B. No. 63, S.D. 2, H.D. 3, C.D. 2:

On motion by Senator San Buenaventura, seconded by Senator Keohokalole and carried, S.B. No. 63, S.D. 2, H.D. 3, C.D. 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO NURSES," having been read throughout, passed Final Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 23. Noes, none. Excused, 2 (Awa, Fukunaga).

H.B. No. 40, S.D. 1, C.D. 2:

Senator Aquino moved that H.B. No. 40, S.D. 1, C.D. 2, having been read throughout, pass Final Reading, seconded by Senator Moriwaki.

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

"House Bill 40 represents this body's continued commitment to fiscal responsibility and prudent governance. At the heart of House Bill 40 lies the constitutional mandate outlined in Article VII, Section 6 of the Hawai'i State Constitution. Article VII requires that when the state's general fund balance exceeds certain thresholds, the Legislature must appropriate funds for either tax relief, depositing funds into reserve accounts, or addressing critical financial obligations.

"House Bill 40 allocates funds into the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund, also known as the 'rainy day fund,' and the Employee Retirement System.

"The decision to enlarge the rainy day fund is not merely a matter of fiscal prudence; it's a proactive step towards ensuring Hawai'i's financial resilience in the face of uncertainty. By infusing the rainy day, it will provide a much-needed buffer against economic downturns, natural disasters, or other unforeseen emergencies. This increased financial stability will bolster investor confidence, safeguard essential services, and provide financial safeguards against the next disaster or economic downturn.

"The conference draft appropriates \$300 million to rainy day and also appropriates \$135 million for the Pension Accumulation Fund for fiscal year 2025. These appropriations are critical to fortifying our financial position and addressing critical fiscal obligations promptly.

"I urge my colleagues to vote 'yes' on conference draft of House Bill 40. Mahalo."

The motion was put by the Chair and carried, H.B. No. 40, S.D. 1, C.D. 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE GENERAL FUND," having been read throughout, passed Final Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 23. Noes, none. Excused, 2 (Awa, Fukunaga).

S.B. No. 3068, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, C.D. 2:

Senator Wakai moved that S.B. No. 3068, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, C.D. 2, having been read throughout, pass Final Reading, seconded by Senator Hashimoto.

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

"Mr. President, I'd like to begin by thanking you, Senate leadership, subject-matter chairs, and the Ways and Means committee.

"The funding included in this bill demonstrates our continued support and commitment to Maui's recovery efforts in the upcoming fiscal years. We added \$460 million in general

funds, special funds, and federal funds. Appropriations include but are not limited to \$13,370,000 for emergency management costs, \$7,425,000 for fire response and rehabilitation and wildfire fuels reduction contracts, \$10,000,000 for equipment for fire and emergency response, and \$62,500 for a temporary library located in Lahaina.

“In House Bill 1800, the budget bill, we also appropriated \$96,560,000 for infrastructure to Maui County to aid in repopulation efforts. Additionally, this bill requires the administration to communicate with the Legislature on a regular basis. This ensures the Legislature and the public are kept informed of ongoing and future costs and liabilities. This requirement will also allow the Legislature to make informed decisions on how to best help wildfire victims moving forward.

“These appropriations may not be the last in our support for rebuilding West Maui. This measure provides a solid foundation for our recovery for years to come. Although we are only at the beginning of the recovery effort, this is the most important part of the work, and I am proud in working with my colleagues to provide for our citizens in need.

“I urge my colleagues to vote ‘yes’ in support of the conference draft for S.B. 3068.”

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

“I promise the WAM chair I won’t get emotional, but I do want to thank him and all of you for this and all these other measures. This is so critical, and the accountability portion of this measure speaks to the heart of what everybody’s been asking for: accountability and knowledge and participation and being aware of what is going on when. So that is in this bill—that and the bills that have been passed and one just signed into law yesterday. So I thank you and I thank all my colleagues on behalf of Lahaina for everything from the bottom of my heart. Mahalo. I got emotional, sorry.”

The Chair responded, on behalf of Senator Dela Cruz and the rest of the body, that Senator McKelvey was very welcome.

The motion was put by the Chair and carried, S.B. No. 3068, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, C.D. 2, entitled: “A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR WILDFIRE RECOVERY,” having been read throughout, passed Final Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 23. Noes, none. Excused, 2 (Awa, Fukunaga).

H.B. No. 2374, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 2:

Senator Aquino moved that H.B. No. 2374, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 2, having been read throughout, pass Final Reading, seconded by Senator Moriwaki.

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

“Over the past four months, the Legislature has been waiting for collective bargaining units to conclude arbitration regarding hazard pay for our state employees who served the public during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“This one-time payment will compensate roughly 16,000 Hawai’i workers who assisted our communities during the height of the pandemic. Up to \$10,000 will be provided for employees who worked in person for fewer than 420 days, and up to \$20,000 for those who exceeded the 420-day threshold between March 2020 and March 2022. Compensation is entitled to employees of the executive branch, Department of Health employees, and other professionals within our state government.

“I urge my colleagues to vote ‘yes’ on the conference draft of House Bill 2374. Mahalo.”

The motion was put by the Chair and carried, H.B. No. 2374, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 2, entitled: “A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS,” having been read throughout, passed Final Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 23. Noes, none. Excused, 2 (Awa, Fukunaga).

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions (S.R. Nos. 205 to 207) were read by the Clerk and were disposed of as follows:

S.R. No. 205 “SENATE RESOLUTION REGARDING COMPLETION OF THE WORK OF THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, REGULAR SESSION OF 2024, SUBSEQUENT TO ADJOURNMENT THEREOF.”

Offered by: Senator Kanuha.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, S.R. No. 205 was adopted.

S.R. No. 206 “SENATE RESOLUTION RETURNING ALL BILLS, CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS, AND RESOLUTIONS TO THE CLERK’S DESK.”

Offered by: Senator Kanuha.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, S.R. No. 206 was adopted.

S.R. No. 207 “SENATE RESOLUTION INFORMING THE HOUSE AND GOVERNOR THAT THE SENATE IS READY TO ADJOURN SINE DIE.”

Offered by: Senator Kanuha.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried, S.R. No. 207 was adopted.

At this time, Senate President Kouchi addressed the members of the Senate as follows:

“Before asking for announcements, I will offer my closing remarks to the session. I won’t rehash a lot of what I said on Wednesday, which I didn’t intend to do, but my colleagues from Hawai’i island inspired me with all of their speeches on the floor that I started praising and thanking the WAM chair and all of the other hard-working members of the Senate for a great product.

“There is one message, though, I’d like to make sure that is heard loud and clear as we close the session. Last year, when we adjourned, I was in full support of the decision of the WAM chair and the Finance chair to add money to the rainy day fund. And we were roundly criticized for that decision because we were told in no uncertain terms that it is raining in Hawai’i now, and how can you leave out so many who need help and put the money in the rainy day fund? We were not adjourned for a month before the Council on Revenues came back and said in the latest economic forecast, we are one billion dollars short of the budget we adopted. The governor was able to take \$500 million of that money we put in the rainy day fund and \$500 million of cash CIP to immediately balance the budget without jeopardizing any jobs, without jeopardizing the delivery of any of the services that were approved in that budget.

“And then, lo and behold, just over two months later, the devastating fires in Lahaina. And, boy, was that money needed then. As we started this session, we were so worried that

everybody was going to have to make a collective sacrifice to help our 'ohana in Maui because of the devastation of the fires and what we thought would happen to our economic outlook, but instead we at least got a flat revenue projection, which allowed all of the great things to happen that the WAM chair has worked out with the different committee chairs: tax relief; affordable housing money; forgiveness of the general excise tax on Medicare, Medicaid, and TRICARE to help retain local doctors and dentists; and a host of other things. And the grants-in-aid, which we thought may be eliminated, we were able to do, and yet, when this suggestion is here about the bill we just passed to put \$300 million into the rainy day fund again, they ask why. Why is it necessary? Well, how many lessons do we need to have in this community for you to understand that we are showing fiscal restraint, prudence while delivering what I believe is a great product for the people of the State of Hawai'i?

"And so, Senator Dela Cruz, as you have asked us for our support, I want to publicly say in the clearest way possible: You have my full support. I believe that you and the rest of our body is doing what is prudent, so if anything else happens, we stand ready to help every citizen of this state.

"It's been an honor and a privilege to be your president during this past session with all of the work that you have put together on the bills that we have passed over the last week or so, and I want to thank you for giving me this chance. I wish you all well as we all go our different ways back into our districts as we come to the end of this session. But I just want to say 'job well done' to each of the members, and to the staff: You have done incredible work so that we can go out and take credit for all of these great bills. It could not have happened without each and every one of you assisting us to get over the goal line."

Senator Dela Cruz recognized Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke, an "honorary member of the Senate," who was seated in the gallery.

Senator Shimabukuro welcomed her significant other, Shayne Sakoda, who was present in the gallery.

Senator Wakai rose on a point of personal privilege.

Keahi Renaud of Senator Shimabukuro's office proceeded with an oli and a lei presentation to Senator Shimabukuro.

Senator Shimabukuro spoke on a point of personal privilege as follows:

"After much soul-searching, I've decided not to seek reelection. It's been an amazing journey and such a privilege to serve as an elected official since 2003.

"I could not have done my job without tireless support of the amazing staff I've had over the years. My current chief of staff, Keahi Renaud, and my community liaison, Patrice Tanna, are literally my right and left hands. My current session staff, Sam Peck and Luke Henderson, give me great faith in our young generation.

"From the bottom of my heart, I thank all of my fellow legislators, Capitol staff, passionate advocates, constituents, and, of course, my family and friends for all the support, teamwork, mentorship, and camaraderie that you have gifted me over these past 21 years. I'm so proud of the many things that we have accomplished together, such as the Nānākuli Contraflow lane, MA'O Organic Farms' expansion, buildings for Searider Productions, LCC Wai'anae Moku, Papahana 'o Kaiona, *E Ala* voyaging canoe, Nā Kama Kai, and Waiānae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, to name a few. Bills such as legalizing pa'i'ai, extending the statute of limitations for sex abuse victims, eliminating the reconstructed car inspection, transfer on death deeds, prohibiting the removal of sand from our shorelines, and beach brown water testing, oh, and requiring

counties to maintain DHHL infrastructure will have a tremendous positive impact on the generations to come.

"Fortunately, the Wai'anae Coast is in very good hands under the excellent leadership of Representatives Cedric Gates and Darius Kila. I'll continue to work with them to push for initiatives to improve the Wai'anae Coast and our state as a whole.

"After my departure, I look forward to tending to my mother and my son, spending time with family and friends, focusing on my legal work, volunteering for nonprofits, and enjoying the healing powers of nature and the ocean.

"Thank you again for providing me with the immense privilege of serving in this august body. Mahalo."

Senator Kim congratulated the Moanalua High School Na Menehune on winning the Oahu Interscholastic Association (OIA) Division I volleyball championship against Mililani High School, their "nemeses." Senator Kim noted that this was Moanalua High School's 10th boys volleyball championship and 13th OIA crown.

The Chair commented, in good humor, that Senator Awa should not have been absent that day so that he could have talked about Waialua High School having won the OIA boys Division II volleyball championship.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Wakai moved that the Senate of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2024, adjourn Sine Die, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried.

At 11:10 a.m., the President rapped his gavel and declared the Senate of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2024, adjourned Sine Die.