

FORTIETH DAY

Thursday, March 27, 2025

The Senate of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2025, convened at 11:36 a.m. with the President in the Chair.

The Roll was called showing all Senators present, with the exception of Senators DeCoite, Lee, and Richards who were excused.

The Chair announced that he had read and approved the Journal of the Thirty-Ninth Day.

At this time, Senator Elefante welcomed interns from the Office of Representative Sam Satoru Kong who were at the Capitol on their spring break. Seated in the gallery were Mingeon Shin and Brandon Koo from 'Iolani School and Timothy Kim and Ashley Hong from Punahou School.

Senator San Buenaventura congratulated and recognized the Healthcare Heroes of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii and presented the following remarks:

REMARKS

Senator Inouye rose to present the following remarks:

REMARKS

Senator Keohokalole rose to present the following remarks:

REMARKS

Senator Kanuha rose to present the following remarks:

REMARKS

Senator Kidani rose to present the following remarks:

REMARKS

Senator San Buenaventura rose and stated:

REMARKS

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

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The following messages from the Governor (Gov. Msg. Nos. 767 to 770) were read by the Clerk and were disposed of as follows:

Gov. Msg. No. 767, submitting for consideration and confirmation, the appointment of KAUANO E. A. D. JACKSON as Circuit Court Judge of the Circuit Court of the Third Circuit (island of Hawai'i), for a term of ten years, was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Gov. Msg. No. 768, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Board of Optometry, the nomination of GAYLE CHANG, term to expire June 30, 2029, was referred to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

Gov. Msg. No. 769, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Boxing Commission of Hawai'i, the nomination of JOEL KIM, term to expire June 30, 2028, was referred to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

Gov. Msg. No. 770, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management, the nomination of HANNAH SPRINGER, term

to expire June 30, 2028, was referred to the Committee on Water and Land.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications from the House (Hse. Com. Nos. 388 to 392) were read by the Clerk and were disposed of as follows:

Hse. Com. No. 388, transmitting H.C.R. No. 27, which was adopted by the House of Representatives on March 25, 2025, was placed on file.

By unanimous consent, H.C.R. No. 27, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO PETITION THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ADDRESS THE LACK OF PARITY BETWEEN HAWAII AND OTHER STATES AND TERRITORIES PERTAINING TO THE EXPORT OF AGRICULTURAL GOODS," was deferred.

Hse. Com. No. 389, transmitting H.C.R. No. 42, H.D. 1, which was adopted by the House of Representatives on March 25, 2025, was placed on file.

By unanimous consent, H.C.R. No. 42, H.D. 1, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING EACH COUNTY TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN BIOSECURITY PLAN THAT PRIORITIZES THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTY," was deferred.

Hse. Com. No. 390, transmitting H.C.R. No. 66, which was adopted by the House of Representatives on March 25, 2025, was placed on file.

By unanimous consent, H.C.R. No. 66, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL TO ADOPT, AMEND, OR UPDATE THE STATE BUILDING CODE TO AUTHORIZE POINT ACCESS BLOCK CONSTRUCTION FOR RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS UP TO SIX STORIES IN THE STATE," was deferred.

Hse. Com. No. 391, transmitting H.C.R. No. 67, H.D. 1, which was adopted by the House of Representatives on March 25, 2025, was placed on file.

By unanimous consent, H.C.R. No. 67, H.D. 1, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR, STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL, PLANNING DEPARTMENTS OF EACH COUNTY, MAYORS OF EACH COUNTY, AND CHAIRS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEES ON HOUSING TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR ADOPTING UPDATED BUILDING CODES," was deferred.

Hse. Com. No. 392, transmitting H.C.R. No. 163, H.D. 1, which was adopted by the House of Representatives on March 25, 2025, was placed on file.

By unanimous consent, H.C.R. No. 163, H.D. 1, entitled: "HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS TO ESTABLISH AN ANNUAL FESTIVAL CELEBRATING PACIFIC ISLAND CULTURE AND ARTS," was deferred.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Senator Rhoads, for the Committee on Judiciary, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1367) recommending that H.B.

No. 994, H.D. 1 pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 994, H.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE OFFENSE OF PROMOTING PORNOGRAPHY FOR MINORS," passed Second Reading and was placed on the calendar for Third Reading on Friday, March 28, 2025.

Senator Rhoads, for the Committee on Judiciary, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1368) recommending that H.B. No. 1175 pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1175, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE PROCEDURE FOR TAX APPEALS," passed Second Reading and was placed on the calendar for Third Reading on Friday, March 28, 2025.

ORDER OF THE DAY

ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION

MATTER DEFERRED FROM TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1364 (S.C.R. No. 23):

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the joint report of the Committees was adopted and S.C.R. No. 23, entitled: "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF A HIGHWAY PATROL AND SPEED CAMERAS ALONG MAJOR FREEWAYS AND HIGHWAYS IN PRIMARY AREAS OF SPEEDING," was adopted, with Senators Awa and DeCorte voting "No."

THIRD READING

H.B. No. 386:

On motion by Senator Rhoads, seconded by Senator Gabbard and carried, H.B. No. 386, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DANGEROUS DRUGS," having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 22. Noes, none. Excused, 3 (DeCoite, Lee, Richards).

H.B. No. 408:

On motion by Senator Rhoads, seconded by Senator Gabbard and carried, H.B. No. 408, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VOTER REGISTRATION," having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 22. Noes, none. Excused, 3 (DeCoite, Lee, Richards).

H.B. No. 127, H.D. 1, S.D. 1:

On motion by Senator Rhoads, seconded by Senator Gabbard and carried, H.B. No. 127, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PRETRIAL RELEASE," having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 19; Ayes with Reservations (Elefante, McKelvey, Moriwaki). Noes, 3 (Awa, DeCorte, Fevella). Excused, 3 (DeCoite, Lee, Richards).

H.B. No. 132, H.D. 1:

On motion by Senator Rhoads, seconded by Senator Gabbard and carried, H.B. No. 132, H.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EXPUNGEMENT," having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 21. Noes, 1 (Fevella). Excused, 3 (DeCoite, Lee, Richards).

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:51 a.m., on motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 a.m., Friday, March 28, 2025.