

FORTY-EIGHTH DAY

Thursday, April 10, 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 Senator Fevella who was excused.

The Chair announced that he had read and approved the Journal of the Forty-Seventh Day.

At this time, Senator Rhoads introduced Tavian Saffery and Sarah Fowler, students from Kanu o ka 'Āina New Century Public Charter School. Also in the gallery were Stephanie Kendrick and Brandy Shimabukuro, community engagement staff members with the Hawaiian Humane Society; community advocate Marla Higgins-Bee; and Senator Rhoads's longtime attorney, Jessica Faige.

Senator San Buenaventura welcomed ___, a Hilo resident and former constituent who was seated in the gallery.

Senator Aquino noted that the Senate had joined the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii and Hawai'i Women in Tech in organizing the Empowering Women in Tech panel, which had taken place at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room 309; and Capitol Connect: Hawaii's Tech Ecosystem, which would take place that afternoon from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the fourth floor of the Capitol. Senator Aquino explained that the new events highlighted female leaders, Hawai'i's rising stars, in the tech community and showcased IT Sector Partnerships and their contributions to the state's economy and broader community. Senator Aquino acknowledged the following members of IT Sector Partnerships: Trung Lam, head of community at ThriveHI; Kai Sunahara and Amberlene Thompson, from Pacxa; Vincent Brathwaite, CEO and founder of Gidens; Sandi Kanemori, from Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation; Kat Duran-Higa and Bhanu Tanaka, from Terraknox; Benson Choo, from the CIO Council of Hawai'i; and Samantha Larson, from AE Consulting. Senator Aquino then recognized Margaret Schmitt, ___ from Hawai'i Women in Tech. Senator Aquino also introduced, from the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, president and CEO Sherry Menor; Tonga Hopoi, vice president of economic development, government & community relations; Nadia Holt, manager of economic development, government & community relations; McKenna Dale, workforce development manager; and Lord Ryan Lizardo. Senator Aquino then welcomed the Empowering Women in Tech panelists who were present in the gallery: Joelle Simonpietri, owner of Simonpietri Enterprises; state Chief Information Officer Christine Sakuda; Dr. Olga Boric-Lubecke, of UH; and Nicole Cacal, executive director of TRUE Initiative and Oahu Workforce Development Board member.

Senator Inouye recognized visitors from Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo Public Charter School, located in Keaukaha in Hilo: student body government advisor and special education teacher Kumu Melissa Akoni; twelfth grader Ke'alohe Holomalia; tenth graders Kauila Benz-Marrs and Kamamalu Killon; and eighth graders Keoua Poepoe and Kilolani Smith. Senator Inouye then welcomed Sherry Menor of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, a former resident of Hilo.

Senator Lee explained that the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), a trade group of legislators that bridged the divide between states and helped connect legislators to have conversations around policy and collaboration to address the issues they faced, had been created by state legislators and staff in 1975. Senator Lee acknowledged Martha Saenz, associate director of the Women's Legislative Network and the Quad

Caucus. Senator Lee observed that Ms. Saenz was Hawai'i's liaison to the legislative connections around the country and that she also led strategic programs and events designed to serve targeted members. Accompanying her in the gallery were her sister ___ and niece ___.

Senator Richards introduced visitors from Waimea who were seated in the gallery: students Ella Tanimoto, Rylee Erwin, Diego Santiago, Olivia Hodges, and Louis Walton from Waimea Middle Public Conversion Charter School and Maile Mangaul, Keala Campbell, Laua'e Silva, Kalae Dos Remedios, Marques Wilkins, and Marlie Kaho'opi'i from Kanu o ka 'Āina New Century Public Charter School.

Senator Keohokalole recognized students from windward charter schools who had joined students from other charter schools across the state in visiting the Capitol to learn about state government, the legislative process, and the role civic engagement played in shaping island communities. Present in the gallery were ___.

On behalf of Senate President Kouchi, Senator DeCoite welcomed students from Ke Kula Niihau O Kekaha who were seated in the gallery: in papa 'eono, Kanani Keale-Pantohan; and in papa 'ehiku, Kalaaui Aki, Kinohi Mooiki-Kanahele, and Liloa Pantohan.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

The following message from the Governor (Gov. Msg. No. 792) was read by the Clerk and was disposed of as follows:

Gov. Msg. No. 792, informing the Senate that on April 8, 2025, the Governor withdrew the nomination of LIANNE PHILHOWER to the Board of Psychology, under Gov. Msg. No. 756, from consideration by the Senate, was placed on file.

In compliance with Gov. Msg. No. 792, the nomination listed under Gov. Msg. No. 756 was returned.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications from the House (Hse. Com. Nos. 621 to 703) were read by the Clerk and were disposed of as follows:

Hse. Com. No. 621, informing the Senate that on April 8, 2025, the House disagreed to the amendments proposed by the Senate to the following House bills:

H.B. No. 48, H.D. 2 (S.D. 1);
H.B. No. 72, H.D. 2 (S.D. 1);
H.B. No. 126, H.D. 1 (S.D. 2);
H.B. No. 237, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
H.B. No. 320, H.D. 2 (S.D. 1);
H.B. No. 370, H.D. 2 (S.D. 1);
H.B. No. 371, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
H.B. No. 431, H.D. 2 (S.D. 2);
H.B. No. 454, H.D. 2 (S.D. 1);
H.B. No. 667, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
H.B. No. 692, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
H.B. No. 703, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
H.B. No. 727, H.D. 1 (S.D. 2);
H.B. No. 794, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
H.B. No. 795, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
H.B. No. 951, H.D. 2 (S.D. 1);
H.B. No. 1002, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
H.B. No. 1020, H.D. 1 (S.D. 2);
H.B. No. 1026, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
H.B. No. 1055, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
H.B. No. 1345, H.D. 1 (S.D. 2);
H.B. No. 1365, H.D. 2 (S.D. 2);

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate disagreed to the amendments proposed by the House to S.B. No. 1448, S.D. 2, and requested a conference on the subject matter thereof.

Hse. Com. No. 692, returning S.B. No. 1454, S.D. 1, as amended in H.D. 2, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on April 8, 2025, was placed on file.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate disagreed to the amendments proposed by the House to S.B. No. 1454, S.D. 1, and requested a conference on the subject matter thereof.

Hse. Com. No. 693, returning S.B. No. 1464, as amended in H.D. 1, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on April 8, 2025, was placed on file.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate disagreed to the amendments proposed by the House to S.B. No. 1464, and requested a conference on the subject matter thereof.

Hse. Com. No. 694, returning S.B. No. 1465, S.D. 1, as amended in H.D. 1, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on April 8, 2025, was placed on file.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate disagreed to the amendments proposed by the House to S.B. No. 1465, S.D. 1, and requested a conference on the subject matter thereof.

Hse. Com. No. 695, returning S.B. No. 1469, S.D. 2, as amended in H.D. 2, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on April 8, 2025, was placed on file.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate disagreed to the amendments proposed by the House to S.B. No. 1469, S.D. 2, and requested a conference on the subject matter thereof.

Hse. Com. No. 696, returning S.B. No. 1511, S.D. 1, as amended in H.D. 2, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on April 8, 2025, was placed on file.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate disagreed to the amendments proposed by the House to S.B. No. 1511, S.D. 1, and requested a conference on the subject matter thereof.

Hse. Com. No. 697, returning S.B. No. 1571, S.D. 2, as amended in H.D. 3, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on April 8, 2025, was placed on file.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate disagreed to the amendments proposed by the House to S.B. No. 1571, S.D. 2, and requested a conference on the subject matter thereof.

Hse. Com. No. 698, returning S.B. No. 1585, S.D. 1, as amended in H.D. 2, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on April 8, 2025, was placed on file.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate disagreed to the amendments proposed by the House to S.B. No. 1585, S.D. 1, and requested a conference on the subject matter thereof.

Hse. Com. No. 699, returning S.B. No. 1589, S.D. 3, as amended in H.D. 2, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on April 8, 2025, was placed on file.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate disagreed to the amendments proposed by the House to S.B. No. 1589, S.D. 3, and requested a conference on the subject matter thereof.

Hse. Com. No. 700, returning S.B. No. 1641, S.D. 2, as amended in H.D. 2, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on April 8, 2025, was placed on file.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate disagreed to the amendments proposed by the House to S.B. No. 1641, S.D. 2, and requested a conference on the subject matter thereof.

Hse. Com. No. 701, returning S.B. No. 1651, S.D. 1, as amended in H.D. 2, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on April 8, 2025, was placed on file.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate disagreed to the amendments proposed by the House to S.B. No. 1651, S.D. 1, and requested a conference on the subject matter thereof.

Hse. Com. No. 702, returning S.B. No. 1667, S.D. 2, as amended in H.D. 3, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on April 8, 2025, was placed on file.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate disagreed to the amendments proposed by the House to S.B. No. 1667, S.D. 2, and requested a conference on the subject matter thereof.

Hse. Com. No. 703, returning S.B. No. 1669, S.D. 2, as amended in H.D. 3, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on April 8, 2025, was placed on file.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate disagreed to the amendments proposed by the House to S.B. No. 1669, S.D. 2, and requested a conference on the subject matter thereof.

The Chair then announced:

“Conferees will be named at a later date.”

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Senator Inouye, for the Committee on Water and Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1851) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of JASON SANBORN to the Game Management Advisory Commission, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 503.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1851 and Gov. Msg. No. 503 was deferred until Friday, April 11, 2025.

Senator Inouye, for the Committee on Water and Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1852) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of ALEXANDRA KELEPOLO to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 550.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1852 and Gov. Msg. No. 550 was deferred until Friday, April 11, 2025.

Senator Inouye, for the Committee on Water and Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1853) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of GERALD GORDNER to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (Kalaheo District), in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 558.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1853 and Gov. Msg. No. 558 was deferred until Friday, April 11, 2025.

Senator Inouye, for the Committee on Water and Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1854) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of

MIKI'ALA LIDSTONE to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 559.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1854 and Gov. Msg. No. 559 was deferred until Friday, April 11, 2025.

Senator Inouye, for the Committee on Water and Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1855) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of JAY PENNIMAN to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 582.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1855 and Gov. Msg. No. 582 was deferred until Friday, April 11, 2025.

Senator Inouye, for the Committee on Water and Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1856) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of STANLEY RUIDAS to the Game Management Advisory Commission, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 585.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1856 and Gov. Msg. No. 585 was deferred until Friday, April 11, 2025.

Senator Inouye, for the Committee on Water and Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1857) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of DEBRA CABEBE to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (Pulehunui District), in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 688.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1857 and Gov. Msg. No. 688 was deferred until Friday, April 11, 2025.

Senator Inouye, for the Committee on Water and Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1858) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board of the following:

ADRIANE TRULUCK, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 584; and

TRISHA WATSON, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 638.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1858 and Gov. Msg. Nos. 584 and 638 was deferred until Friday, April 11, 2025.

Senator Inouye, for the Committee on Water and Land, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1859) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the Kaneohe Bay Regional Council of the following:

FREDERICK REPPUN, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 701;

CEDRIC BERTELMANN, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 702; and

JEFFREY KALUHIWA, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 703.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1859 and Gov. Msg. Nos. 701, 702, and 703 was deferred until Friday, April 11, 2025.

ORDER OF THE DAY

ADVISE AND CONSENT

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1843 (Gov. Msg. Nos. 513, 514, and 617):

Senator DeCoite moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1843 be received and placed on file, seconded by Senator Wakai and carried.

Senator DeCoite then moved that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the Small Business Regulatory Review Board of the following:

JAMES LEE, term to expire June 30, 2028 (Gov. Msg. No. 513);

JENNIFER SALISBURY, term to expire June 30, 2028 (Gov. Msg. No. 514); and

NIKKI IGE, term to expire June 30, 2028 (Gov. Msg. No. 617),

seconded by Senator Wakai.

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

Ayes, 24. Noes, none. Excused, 1 (Fevella).

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1844 (Gov. Msg. Nos. 512 and 539):

Senator DeCoite moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1844 be received and placed on file, seconded by Senator Wakai and carried.

Senator DeCoite then moved that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation of the following:

JACLYN KAINA, term to expire June 30, 2028 (Gov. Msg. No. 512); and

GREGORY UEHARA, term to expire June 30, 2028 (Gov. Msg. No. 539),

seconded by Senator Wakai.

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

Ayes, 24. Noes, none. Excused, 1 (Fevella).

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1845 (Gov. Msg. Nos. 587 and 588):

Senator DeCoite moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1845 be received and placed on file, seconded by Senator Wakai and carried.

Senator DeCoite then moved that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation of the following:

DEAN OKIMOTO, term to expire June 30, 2028 (Gov. Msg. No. 587); and

NATHAN TRUMP, term to expire June 30, 2028 (Gov. Msg. No. 588),

seconded by Senator Wakai.

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

Ayes, 24. Noes, none. Excused, 1 (Fevella).

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1846 (Gov. Msg. No. 521):

Senator San Buenaventura moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1846 be received and placed on file, seconded by Senator Aquino and carried.

Senator San Buenaventura then moved that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of NEEL CHAUHAN to the Commission on Fatherhood, term to expire June 30, 2028, seconded by Senator Aquino.

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

Ayes, 24. Noes, none. Excused, 1 (Fevella).

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1847 (Gov. Msg. No. 655):

Senator San Buenaventura moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1847 be received and placed on file, seconded by Senator Aquino and carried.

Senator San Buenaventura then moved that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of TULPE DAY to the Language Access Advisory Council, term to expire June 30, 2028, seconded by Senator Aquino.

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

Ayes, 24. Noes, none. Excused, 1 (Fevella).

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1848 (Gov. Msg. No. 632):

Senator San Buenaventura moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1848 be received and placed on file, seconded by Senator Aquino and carried.

Senator San Buenaventura then moved that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of JON FUJII to the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances, term to expire June 30, 2028, seconded by Senator Aquino.

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

Ayes, 24. Noes, none. Excused, 1 (Fevella).

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1849 (Gov. Msg. No. 631):

Senator San Buenaventura moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1849 be received and placed on file, seconded by Senator Aquino and carried.

Senator San Buenaventura then moved that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of KOA WOOLLEY to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation, term to expire June 30, 2028, seconded by Senator Aquino.

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

Ayes, 24. Noes, none. Excused, 1 (Fevella).

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1850 (Gov. Msg. Nos. 525, 526, 540, 541, 548, and 575):

Senator San Buenaventura moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1850 be received and placed on file, seconded by Senator Aquino and carried.

Senator San Buenaventura then moved that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee of the following:

CY O'BRIEN, term to expire June 30, 2028 (Gov. Msg. No. 525);

JACOB PEKELO, term to expire June 30, 2028 (Gov. Msg. No. 526);

PATRICK LOEFFLER, term to expire June 30, 2028 (Gov. Msg. No. 540);

ANN YOUNG, term to expire June 30, 2026 (Gov. Msg. No. 541);

MAREN ANKA, term to expire June 30, 2028 (Gov. Msg. No. 548); and

KENNETH FARIA JR., term to expire June 30, 2028 (Gov. Msg. No. 575),

seconded by Senator Aquino.

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

Ayes, 24. Noes, none. Excused, 1 (Fevella).

THIRD READING

H.B. No. 698, H.D. 1, S.D. 2:

On motion by Senator DeCoite, seconded by Senator Richards and carried, H.B. No. 698, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ANIMAL CRUELTY," having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 22; Ayes with Reservations (Aquino, Chang, DeCoite, Inouye, McKelvey, Richards, San Buenaventura). Noes, 2 (Awa, DeCorte). Excused, 1 (Fevella).

H.B. No. 1155, H.D. 1, S.D. 2:

On motion by Senator Dela Cruz, seconded by Senator McKelvey and carried, H.B. No. 1155, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PROCUREMENT," having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 22. Noes, 2 (Awa, DeCorte). Excused, 1 (Fevella).

H.B. No. 1194, H.D. 2, S.D. 3:

On motion by Senator Keohokalole, seconded by Senator San Buenaventura and carried, H.B. No. 1194, H.D. 2, S.D. 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MIDWIVES," having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 20; Ayes with Reservations (Ihara, Richards). Noes, 4 (Awa, DeCorte, Gabbard, McKelvey). Excused, 1 (Fevella).

H.B. No. 1482, H.D. 1, S.D. 3:

On motion by Senator Keohokalole, seconded by Senator San Buenaventura and carried, H.B. No. 1482, H.D. 1, S.D. 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATED TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES," having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 22. Noes, 2 (Awa, DeCorte). Excused, 1 (Fevella).

At this time, Senator DeCoite, on behalf of Senator Kidani and herself, reminded the members to join the Women's Legislative Caucus for their 26th annual Easter basket drive the following day, immediately following the House of Representatives floor session, on the Rotunda level. Senator DeCoite thanked those who had already donated baskets and noted that there was still time to drop off donations the following day or donate online.

Senator Awa [announcement]

Senator Aquino invited the members to the fourth floor from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. for the Capitol Connect event.

Senator Dela Cruz reminded committee chairs and Ways and Means committee members to meet in Room 211 following the conclusion of the Senate floor session.

At 11:55 a.m., on motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried unanimously, the Senate stood in recess, and the Clerk was authorized to receive Senate bills that had passed Third Reading in an amended form in the House of Representatives.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:00 p.m., the Senate adjourned until 11:30 a.m., Friday, April 11, 2025.