

TWENTY-SECOND DAY

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

The Senate of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2025, convened at 11:44 a.m. with the Vice President in the Chair.

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

The Chair announced that she had read and approved the Journal of the Twenty-First Day.

At this time, Senator Kim introduced supporters of Crystal Castille, who had offered a moment of contemplation prior to the Senate's floor session: parents Marion and Richard Tiu and friend Jacob Parsons. Accompanying them in the gallery were staff members Ms. Castille, committee clerk Savannah Coules, and office manager Kathy Nii.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The following messages from the Governor (Gov. Msg. Nos. 4 and 669 to 683) were read by the Clerk and were disposed of as follows:

Gov. Msg. No. 4, letter dated February 18, 2025, transmitting proposed changes to the FB 2025-27 Executive Biennium Budget for the operating and capital improvement program budget requests for various departments, was placed on file.

Gov. Msg. No. 669, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Island Burial Council, Island of O'ahu, the nomination of KEKAMAMAKOAAKAILIHO CACERES, term to expire June 30, 2029, was referred to the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

Gov. Msg. No. 670, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Island Burial Council, Island of O'ahu, the nomination of JULIAN AKO, term to expire June 30, 2029, was referred to the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

Gov. Msg. No. 671, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Island Burial Council, Island of O'ahu, the nomination of CHARISH MILLER, term to expire June 30, 2029, was referred to the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

Gov. Msg. No. 672, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Island Burial Council, Island of Moloka'i, the nomination of LA'AKEA POEPOE, term to expire June 30, 2029, was referred to the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

Gov. Msg. No. 673, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Island Burial Council, Island of Moloka'i, the nomination of KEOMAILANI HIRATA, term to expire June 30, 2029, was referred to the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

Gov. Msg. No. 674, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Island Burial Council, Island of Moloka'i, the nomination of KAWAIPUNA KALIPI, term to expire June 30, 2029, was referred to the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

Gov. Msg. No. 675, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Island Burial Council, Islands of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau, the nomination of KALANIKUMAI KA MAKA'O NA ALI'I HANO HANO, term to expire June 30, 2029, was referred to the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

Gov. Msg. No. 676, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Island Burial Council, Islands of Maui and Lana'i, the nomination of DANE MAXWELL, term to expire

June 30, 2029, was referred to the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

Gov. Msg. No. 677, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Island Burial Council, Islands of Maui and Lana'i, the nomination of NOELANI PARESA, term to expire June 30, 2029, was referred to the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

Gov. Msg. No. 678, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Island Burial Council, Islands of Maui and Lana'i, the nomination of CAROLINE HARTMAN, term to expire June 30, 2029, was referred to the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

Gov. Msg. No. 679, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Island Burial Council, Islands of Maui and Lana'i, the nomination of BENNADETTE DUMAN, term to expire June 30, 2029, was referred to the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

Gov. Msg. No. 680, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Island Burial Council, Island of Hawai'i, the nomination of LEIMANA ABENES, term to expire June 30, 2029, was referred to the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

Gov. Msg. No. 681, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Island Burial Council, Island of Hawai'i, the nomination of CYRUS SETO, term to expire June 30, 2029, was referred to the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

Gov. Msg. No. 682, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Island Burial Council, Island of Hawai'i, the nomination of CHRISTIAN-DUKE NO'EAU WOO-O'BRIEN, term to expire June 30, 2029, was referred to the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

Gov. Msg. No. 683, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Psychology, the nomination of STEVEN R. TAKETA, term to expire June 30, 2029, was referred to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Senator Kidani, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 699) recommending that S.B. No. 1390, 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 DeCorte and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 1390, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COMPUTER SCIENCE LEGISLATIVE REPORT," passed Second Reading and was placed on the calendar for Third Reading on Thursday, February 27, 2025.

Senator Kidani, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 700) recommending that S.B. No. 1393, 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 DeCorte and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 1393, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE USE OF PUBLIC LANDS," passed Second Reading and was placed on the calendar for Third Reading on Thursday, February 27, 2025.

Senator Kidani, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 701) recommending that S.B. No. 423, 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 DeCorte and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 423, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE EARLY LEARNING BOARD," passed Second Reading and was placed on the calendar for Third Reading on Thursday, February 27, 2025.

Senator Keohokalole, for the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 702) recommending that S.B. No. 1620 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 S.B. No. 1620, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO NATURAL HAIR BRAIDING," passed Second Reading and was placed on the calendar for Third Reading on Thursday, February 27, 2025.

Senator Dela Cruz, for the Committee on Ways and Means, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 703) recommending that S.B. No. 693, S.D. 1 pass Third Reading.

By unanimous consent, action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 703 and S.B. No. 693, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE FOOD HUB PILOT PROGRAM," was deferred until Thursday, February 27, 2025.

Senator Dela Cruz, for the Committee on Ways and Means, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 704) recommending that S.B. No. 222, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Third Reading.

By unanimous consent, action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 704 and S.B. No. 222, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FIREWORKS," was deferred until Thursday, February 27, 2025.

Senator Dela Cruz, for the Committee on Ways and Means, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 705) recommending that S.B. No. 1117, S.D. 1, as amended in S.D. 2, pass Third Reading.

By unanimous consent, action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 705 and S.B. No. 1117, S.D. 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION," was deferred until Thursday, February 27, 2025.

Senator Dela Cruz, for the Committee on Ways and Means, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 706) recommending that S.B. No. 1669, S.D. 1, as amended in S.D. 2, pass Third Reading.

By unanimous consent, action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 706 and S.B. No. 1669, S.D. 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT," was deferred until Thursday, February 27, 2025.

Senator Dela Cruz, for the Committee on Ways and Means, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 707) recommending that S.B. No. 934, as amended in S.D. 1, be recommitted to the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 934, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET," was recommitted to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Dela Cruz, for the Committee on Ways and Means, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 708) recommending that S.B. No. 935, as amended in S.D. 1, be recommitted to the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 935, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING

TO GOVERNMENT," was recommitted to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Dela Cruz, for the Committee on Ways and Means, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 709) recommending that H.B. No. 1440, 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. 1440, H.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE LEGISLATURE, THE AUDITOR, THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU, THE OMBUDSMAN, AND THE ETHICS COMMISSION," passed Second Reading and was placed on the calendar for Third Reading on Thursday, February 27, 2025.

Senator Keohokalole, for the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 710) recommending that S.B. No. 890, as amended in S.D. 1, be recommitted to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 890, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESS REGULATION," was recommitted to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

ORDER OF THE DAY

THIRD READING

S.B. No. 1464:

On motion by Senator Dela Cruz, seconded by Senator Moriwaki and carried, S.B. No. 1464, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONFORMITY TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE," having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 22. Noes, none. Excused, 3 (Gabbard, Kouchi, Richards).

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 679 (S.B. No. 1300, S.D. 1):

On motion by Senator Dela Cruz, seconded by Senator Moriwaki and carried, Stand. Com. Rep. No. 679 was adopted and S.B. No. 1300, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SCHOOL MEALS," having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 22. Noes, none. Excused, 3 (Gabbard, Kouchi, Richards).

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 680 (S.B. No. 1567, S.D. 1):

Senator Dela Cruz moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 680 be adopted and S.B. No. 1567, S.D. 1, having been read throughout, pass Third Reading, seconded by Senator Moriwaki.

At 11:49 a.m., the Senate stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The Senate reconvened at 11:49 a.m.

At 11:50 a.m., the Senate stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The Senate reconvened at 11:50 a.m.

The motion was put by the Chair and carried, Stand. Com. Rep. No. 680 was adopted and S.B. No. 1567, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE

CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION SYSTEMS,” having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 22. Noes, none. Excused, 3 (Gabbard, Kouchi, Richards).

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 681 (S.B. No. 855, S.D. 1):

On motion by Senator Dela Cruz, seconded by Senator Moriwaki and carried, Stand. Com. Rep. No. 681 was adopted and S.B. No. 855, S.D. 1, entitled: “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HAWAII RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACT,” having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 22. Noes, none. Excused, 3 (Gabbard, Kouchi, Richards).

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 682 (S.B. No. 1588, S.D. 1):

On motion by Senator Dela Cruz, seconded by Senator Moriwaki and carried, Stand. Com. Rep. No. 682 was adopted and S.B. No. 1588, S.D. 1, entitled: “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO NUCLEAR ENERGY,” having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 20; Ayes with Reservations (Fukunaga, Ihara, Kim, McKelvey, San Buenaventura). Noes, 2 (Awa, Inouye). Excused, 3 (Gabbard, Kouchi, Richards).

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 683 (S.B. No. 552, S.D. 1):

On motion by Senator Dela Cruz, seconded by Senator Moriwaki and carried, Stand. Com. Rep. No. 683 was adopted and S.B. No. 552, S.D. 1, entitled: “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,” having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 22. Noes, none. Excused, 3 (Gabbard, Kouchi, Richards).

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 684 (S.B. No. 529, S.D. 1):

On motion by Senator Dela Cruz, seconded by Senator Moriwaki and carried, Stand. Com. Rep. No. 684 was adopted and S.B. No. 529, S.D. 1, entitled: “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION,” having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 22. Noes, none. Excused, 3 (Gabbard, Kouchi, Richards).

S.B. No. 1466:

On motion by Senator Dela Cruz, seconded by Senator Moriwaki and carried, S.B. No. 1466, entitled: “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT,” having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 22. Noes, none. Excused, 3 (Gabbard, Kouchi, Richards).

S.B. No. 1467:

On motion by Senator Dela Cruz, seconded by Senator Moriwaki and carried, S.B. No. 1467, entitled: “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TAX APPEALS,” having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 22. Noes, none. Excused, 3 (Gabbard, Kouchi, Richards).

S.B. No. 1470:

On motion by Senator Dela Cruz, seconded by Senator Moriwaki and carried, S.B. No. 1470, entitled: “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INCOME TAX WITHHOLDING,” having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 20. Noes, 2 (Awa, DeCorte). Excused, 3 (Gabbard, Kouchi, Richards).

S.B. No. 694:

On motion by Senator Rhoads, seconded by Senator Chang and carried, S.B. No. 694, entitled: “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DETENTION OF MINORS,” having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 20; Ayes with Reservations (McKelvey). Noes, 2 (Awa, DeCorte). Excused, 3 (Gabbard, Kouchi, Richards).

S.B. No. 780:

On motion by Senator Rhoads, seconded by Senator Chang and carried, S.B. No. 780, 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, 19. Noes, 3 (Awa, DeCorte, Fevella). Excused, 3 (Gabbard, Kouchi, Richards).

S.B. No. 1545:

On motion by Senator Rhoads, seconded by Senator Chang and carried, S.B. No. 1545, entitled: “A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO NEPOTISM,” having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 22. Noes, none. Excused, 3 (Gabbard, Kouchi, Richards).

RE-REFERRAL OF A SENATE BILL

The Chair re-referred the following Senate bill that was introduced:

S.B. No.:	Re-referred to:
S.B. No. 890, S.D. 1	Jointly to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

RE-REFERRAL OF MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Chair re-referred the following messages from the Governor that were received:

Gov. Msg. No.:	Re-referred to:
Gov. Msg. No. 587	Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
Gov. Msg. No. 588	Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

At this time, Senator DeCoite invited the members to Ag Day at the Capitol the following day on the fourth floor from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Senator DeCoite explained that Ag Day would offer an opportunity to explore Hawai'i's diverse agriculture industry and engage with farmers, ranchers, food-system leaders, and other key stakeholders. Senator DeCoite thanked Senators Gabbard and Richards and Representatives Kirstin Kahaloa and Matthias Kusch, along with the Hawai'i Farm Bureau, for hosting the annual event.

The Chair requested that members of the Majority report to the Majority Caucus Room immediately following adjournment.

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

“I would like to wish our Senate minority leader a very special happy birthday. Today is his birthday, and I know many here do know that he doesn’t accept gifts, so because of a selfless colleague as myself, I just wanted to let you know that all gifts to Senator Awa will be sent to my office, so please come by. I’ve already directed my staff to clean out our cabinets and our icebox, so, please, we welcome all gifts—on behalf of Senator Awa and our caucus, we thank you very much. But also, on a serious note, we did want to wish him a very happy birthday, and we truly believe his best is yet to come. Mahalo.”

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:58 a.m., on motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 a.m., Thursday, February 27, 2025.