

THIRTY-FIRST DAY

Thursday, March 13, 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 McKelvey who was excused.

The Chair announced that he had read and approved the Journal of the Thirtieth Day.

At this time, Senator Kim introduced fifth graders from Fern Elementary School who were seated in the gallery. Senator Kim explained that they formed the second half of a group of 80 students who were visiting the Capitol and that she had met with the first half of the group earlier that morning. Senator Kim then requested that the names of all students and their teachers be entered into the Journal, and the Chair so ordered.

The Chair having so ordered, the names read as follows:

"Students Aaze Sutherland, Aiden Fred, Aizen Falaniko-Mailo, Alaimaluloa Toki, Aliyah Billy, Aluna Thammavongsa, Aryan Tuiaana, Asian Sapphire Mores, Audreign Agustin, Benn Hainrick, Chosen Aliwis, Cornelius Faasu-Tutasivi, Damenisa Chosa, Daniel Nickson, Darrien Darry, Denzel Acupido, Donna Mae Ona-Sugui, Dustin Chewek, Eddiemore Tangataevaha, Elijah-Hayzen New-Agaran, Emanuel Walters, Enoch Faasu, Enzo Castro, Eson Eram, Franz Abaya, Hevanli Orichiro, Ireynna Navasquez, Jahzekiel Faanu, Jaybo Kaniki, Jazrene Jack, Jeyan Garingo, Jhayden Cris Badua, Josephine Toreff, Kaiden Fred, Karina Mau, Kasandra Tapeç, Keakuhinamakalei Walker, Kylee Angela Acob, Lamour Mauricio, Lance Morales, Legend-Blaze Lacar, Leila Faletoes, Liam Nebab, Liliana Techuo, Lily Techuo, LJ Eaz, Lucky Phasouk, Maria Batoon, Marlynn Jemwai, Mckellen Atendido, Melino Bloomfield, Merryann Fry, Okirelyn Rekis, Onivram Bolly, Preston Edwin, Princess Joy Pducay, Rayden Sabino, Rianna Abanilla, Rickjerry Lowary, Rinaja Amor Marcus, Roseleen Tamapolu, Ryu Katzuka, Sale Liufau, Santana Labaun-Gafa, Sa'preyjah Hufanga, Shayston Lauama, Taiaumani Remigio-So'oalo, Tatum Bryant-Sigrah, Vadny Rosokow, Victoria Paclib-Alves, Willy Samuel, Yuna Yere, Zhakea Garcia, and Zhixi Li and teacher Jessica Canyon."

Senator Dela Cruz recognized and celebrated the retirement of Michael "Mike" Unebasami from the University of Hawai'i System and presented the following remarks:

"I would like to recognize Mr. Michael Unebasami. Today, the Senate recognizes and celebrates Mike Unebasami's retirement from the University of Hawai'i System. Joining Mike today on the floor are his wife, Sharon; his son Troy; his daughter Tricia; and granddaughter Haley. Let's give them a round of applause. Also in the gallery is his former colleague (and probably protégé) Denise Yoshimori-Yamamoto and his friend Derek Inafuku, who works at HCC. And Mike has such the aloha spirit and he just keeps giving, and so his grandson works for us, too. He's Trent, who works at IT, so where is Trent?"

"Mike Unebasami's retirement from the UH System comes after 56 years of service. (I was trying to get him to do 60.) His dedication is evident in the impact he has made during this time with the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges. Mike implemented strategic capital improvements that transformed aging campuses and facilities into modern learning environments. He also helped community college transition to better serve workforce needs across the state, bringing increased relevance to these institutions in Hawai'i's educational

landscape. Mike led efforts to advance culinary education in Hawai'i with the Culinary Institute of the Pacific and the Wahiawā Value-Added Center. He is a pioneer in sustainability, creating the Energy Savings Performance Contract for O'ahu community colleges, one of the first such contracts in the state.

"You know, everyone sees Mike as this really nice guy. I mean, we all do—even I do—except when you get him on the golf course. He's extremely intense, and Derek was the one that told me he always gets pressured if he has to play on Mike's team. And Mike has this normal way that he plays golf: It's one cart versus the other, and it's so intense, only to win—or lose—lunch at Burger King.

"Above all, Mr. Unebasami is an exceptional leader, believing that no one is more important than another.

"The Senate celebrates his legacy, lying in his tremendous contributions to the UH Community College System and his true leadership. He leaves behind a culture of collaboration and respect, and we will miss you. Mahalo, Mike."

Senator Kim rose and stated:

"I would be remiss not to stand up and also congratulate Mike. I also tried to get him to stay on—he couldn't retire before me, but he is. But I want to state that Mike is not only a constituent of mine, but he also hails from Farrington High School. Farrington alumni (go, Govs!), with Senator Kidani and myself, and you know we have a lot of Kalihi students up there that's probably going to end up at Farrington High School, so see all the leaders that come out of Kalihi. So, Mike, we wish you the best. Thank you, Mr. President."

The Chair stated:

"Although there were several projects that I had the pleasure of working with Mike on, I think the project that will outlive the two of us and have the greatest impact: He implemented, installed, and has phase one of the solar panels to energize Kaua'i Community College up and running. And he was instrumental in getting phase two funded, planned ... Well, it's not done yet—shortly, because Denise will exceed expectations based on the standard that Mike has set. The Kaua'i Community College will be 100 percent energy self-sufficient with the solar program. And the second phase: It will be a roof covering the parking lot that will be a benefit to students and faculty while at the same time delivering the renewable energy to the campus, so I would like to extend my thanks to you, Mike."

The Chair then announced that the honoree and associated guests would be greeted on the Senate floor immediately following adjournment.

Senator Kim rose and stated:

"Mr. President, before you go on, I have to add a culinary school—he's going to be well known for the culinary school, so we have to add that into your list. Thank you."

The Chair assented and clarified that his remarks pertained to projects on Kaua'i.

Senator Dela Cruz rose and stated:

"I just wanted to add one more story just to show Mike's character, his tenacity, and how much he really wanted to contribute not just to Hawai'i but to his country. When he was young and he wanted to join the military, he was afraid that he wasn't going to be able to make weight. But he was determined to join the military, so when he went in, he made sure that there were rocks in his shoes so that he could make weight. And so

he's not just a good leader, he's committed, but he's also creative. So I just wanted to point that out."

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The following messages from the Governor (Gov. Msg. Nos. 726 and 1101) were read by the Clerk and were disposed of as follows:

Gov. Msg. No. 726, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Defender Council, the nomination of ANDREW KENNEDY, term to expire June 30, 2029, was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Gov. Msg. No. 1101, informing the Senate that on March 12, 2025, the Governor signed into law House Bill No. 1440, H.D. 1 as Act 1, entitled: "MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE LEGISLATURE, THE AUDITOR, THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU, THE OMBUDSMAN, AND THE ETHICS COMMISSION," was placed on file.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications from the House (Hse. Com. Nos. 381 and 382) were read by the Clerk and were disposed of as follows:

Hse. Com. No. 381, transmitting H.B. No. 300, H.D. 1, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on March 12, 2025, was placed on file.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, H.B. No. 300, H.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET," passed First Reading by title and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Hse. Com. No. 382, transmitting H.B. No. 400, H.D. 1, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on March 12, 2025, was placed on file.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, H.B. No. 400, H.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY," passed First Reading by title and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary, then to the Committee on Ways and Means.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Senator Gabbard, for the Committee on Agriculture and Environment, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1075) recommending that H.B. No. 984, 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 DeCorte and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 984, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LOANS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Gabbard, for the majority of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1076) recommending that H.B. No. 1450, 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 DeCorte and carried, the report of the majority of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1450, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL CLIMATE RESILIENCY," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Gabbard, for the Committee on Agriculture and Environment, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1077) recommending that H.B. No. 1497, 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 DeCorte and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1497, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senators Wakai and Chang, for the Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Committee on Housing, presented a joint report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1078) recommending that H.B. No. 350, H.D. 2 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the joint report of the Committees was adopted and H.B. No. 350, H.D. 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ENERGY," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

Senator Wakai, for the Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1079) recommending that H.B. No. 1017, H.D. 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1017, H.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE GREENHOUSE GAS SEQUESTRATION TASK FORCE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

ORDER OF THE DAY

RE-REFERRAL OF A HOUSE BILL

The Chair re-referred the following House bill that was received:

- H.B. No.: Re-referred to:
- H.B. No. 329, Committee on Education, then jointly to the H.D. 2 Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Judiciary

RE-REFERRAL OF SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

The Chair re-referred the following Senate concurrent resolutions that were offered:

- S.C.R. No.: Re-referred to:
- S.C.R. No. 38 Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
- S.C.R. No. 57 Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
- S.C.R. No. 153 Committee on Judiciary

RE-REFERRAL OF SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The Chair re-referred the following Senate resolutions that were offered:

- S.R. No.: Re-referred to:
- S.R. No. 22 Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
- S.R. No. 41 Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

S.R. No. 123 Committee on Judiciary

At this time, the Chair made the following announcement:

“The deadline to file standing committee reports on House bills with a triple referral with the Senate Clerk’s office is 4:30 p.m. this afternoon.”

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:46 a.m., on motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 a.m., Friday, March 14, 2025.