

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:

"Today, I have the great privilege of recognizing some truly extraordinary individuals: healthcare professionals who do more than their jobs; they change lives in the most profound ways. These are the people who show up every day with skillful hands, compassionate hearts, and an unwavering commitment to those they serve.

"We often think of healthcare as science, but what makes it truly powerful is the humanity behind it. It's the nurse who catches something others might miss. It's the home care provider who lifts a patient's spirits, the emergency responder who refuses to give up, and the doctor who becomes part of the family.

"Today, we share the stories of five remarkable individuals whose dedication, expertise, and compassion have left an unforgettable mark on the lives of those they have cared for.

"I now yield to the senator from District 1."

Senator Inouye rose to present the following remarks:

"I am honored to recognize Nurse Karen Oskins, an obstetrics nurse at Hilo's Benioff Medical Center; please rise. On May 31, 2023, baby Leila Yamashita was born—a moment of joy for her family. However, during a routine newborn exam, Nurse Oskins detected a serious intestinal malformation, something that, if left untreated, could have had devastating consequences.

"Because of her keen eye and quick action, baby Leila was rushed to Kapi'olani Medical Center in Honolulu for life-saving care. But Nurse Oskins's role in this family's story didn't stop there. She remained a pillar of support, guiding the Yamashitas through their daughter's surgery and hospitalization. Her skill saved a life, and her compassion gave a family hope for a lifetime.

"Welcome to our Senate, and congratulations and good luck to your future years in nursing as well.

"I now yield to the senator from District 24."

Senator Keohokalole rose to present the following remarks:

"Next, we recognize Nurse Renee Kojima, a home infusion nurse with Pharmacare Hawaii. (Please rise.) Ms. Kojima understands that healthcare isn't just about medicine—it's about connection.

"JeanMarie Olmos shared the story of her husband, David, who battled gastroesophageal reflux disease. His condition required weekly blood draws—a routine that could have felt clinical, even impersonal. But under Nurse Kojima's care, it became something else entirely. Every visit, she brought kindness, encouragement, and warmth. She listened. She uplifted. She reminded David that he wasn't just a patient—he was a person. Her care helped heal not just his body but his spirit.

"Though she was unable to attend today, we are pleased to have Cecily Nago, Karen's mother; and Jae Takahashi-Niotta, the nurse manager at Pharmacare Hawaii, here on her behalf. Can we have them please stand? Mahalo, Ms. Kojima, and thank you again for your service to the community.

"Mr. President, we next honor Nurse Sarah Kaelelani Hatsue Kuma from Attention Plus Care and RCM Technologies.

"Some moments test not just our skill but our heart. Nurse Sarah Kuma faced such a moment when she received a desperate call—one that no parent ever wants to make. Thousands of miles away, a family was in agony. Their son, Ashton Hirai, had gone into cardiac arrest, and they weren't there to hold his hand. But Sarah was. Without hesitation, she rushed to be by his side. She became his advocate, his voice, and his comfort. She kept his parents informed as they raced home, ensuring that they were with him in every way possible, even from afar. When they finally arrived to say their goodbyes, they weren't alone. They had Sarah—a nurse who gave them strength in their darkest hour.

"While she wasn't able to attend today, we are honored to recognize her dedication and unwavering support for her patients. Although she's not here, I'd like to ask for a round of applause for her.

"Thank you, and I now yield to the Majority Leader."

Senator Kanuha rose to present the following remarks:

"On behalf of the senator from District 25, I am honored to recognize Dr. Darryl Glaser, a physician whose care extends far beyond the walls of his clinic. Can you please stand to be recognized? And I apologize if I got your name wrong, but we'll just go with it for now.

"Two years ago, seven-year-old Rezen Davis was diagnosed with severe aplastic anemia—a battle no child should have to face. The road ahead was long, filled with hospital stays, treatments, and unimaginable challenges. But through every setback and every victory, Dr. Glaser was there. He wasn't just a doctor; he was her champion. He coordinated her care, reassured her family, and, in the midst of difficult treatments, he found time for joy—playing with Rezen during visits, celebrating her Make-A-Wish trip to Disney World, and being a constant source of support. To Rezen's family, Dr. Glaser isn't just their doctor—he's their hero, a part of their 'ohana. Please, can we give Dr. Glaser a round of applause?

"I now yield to the senator from District 18."

Senator Kidani rose to present the following remarks:

"I have the honor of introducing my constituent from Waipio, Trevor Fujisaka.

"Sometimes, life hangs by a thread. And in those moments, we rely on the steady hands of our emergency responders. In August of last year, Dustin Kealoha was found unresponsive at the Kamehameha Schools Kapālama swimming pool. Lifeguards immediately began CPR while EMS rushed to the

scene. One of the paramedics who responded that day was Trevor Fujisaka. He and his partner, Allen Zhang, took over the lifesaving efforts, doing everything in their power to keep Dustin alive as they raced to the hospital. Trevor never wavered, even in the face of critical medical challenges. Because of Trevor's skill and determination, Dustin not only survived—he thrived. Today, Dustin is a college student at Dartmouth, a living testament to the heroes who refused to give up on him.

“I now yield the floor to the senator from District 2.”

Senator San Buenaventura rose and stated:

“These five individuals represent the very best of what it means to be a healthcare professional. They are not just medical experts; they are healers, advocates, and sources of strength in life's most vulnerable moments. Today, we honor them not just for the work they do but for the lives they have changed. To Karen Oskins, Renee Kojima, Sarah Kuma, Trevor Fujisaka, and Dr. Darryl Glaser: On behalf of the Senate and the people of Hawai'i, we thank you. Your dedication, your compassion, and your unwavering commitment make our world a better place.

“I also would like to take a moment to recognize a few individuals in the gallery this morning for making today's presentation possible. Please stand to be recognized when your name is called: Hilton Raethel of HAH; Paige Choy; Robert Choy; Mary Bedell; Stacy Wong; Terence Young, COO of Hawai'i Pacific Health Medical Group; Amanda Woo, vice president of Hawai'i Pacific Health; Elena Cabatu of Hilo Benioff Medical Center; Sean Morris of Pharmicare Hawaii; and Meredith Low of Pharmicare Hawaii. Mahalo to everyone for being here! Thank you very much.

“And I now yield to the Senate President.”

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 KAUANOE A. D. JACKSON as Circuit Court Judge of the Circuit Court of the Third Circuit (island of Hawai'i), State 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.