

TWENTY-FIRST DAY

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

The Senate of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2026, convened at 11:32 a.m. with the President in the Chair.

The Roll was called showing all Senators present, with the exception of Senator Gabbard who was excused.

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

Senator Rhoads introduction

Senator Keohokalole introduction

Senator McKelvey introduction

Senator Lee introduction

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

The following message from the Governor (Gov. Msg. No. 726) was read by the Clerk and was disposed of as follows:

Gov. Msg. No. 726, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, the nomination of GINA ANONUEVO, term to expire June 30, 2030, was referred to the Committee on Labor and Technology.

HOUSE COMMUNICATION

The following communication from the House (Hse. Com. No. 3) was read by the Clerk and was disposed of as follows:

Hse. Com. No. 3, transmitting H.B. No. 2240, H.D. 1, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on February 23, 2026, was placed on file.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, H.B. No. 2240, 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 First Reading by title and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions (S.C.R. Nos. 23 to 26) were read by the Clerk and were deferred:

S.C.R. No. 23 "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH A DEDICATED PANEL OF COMMISSIONERS TO OVERSEE MATTERS RELATED TO INTRASTATE WATER CARRIERS AND MARITIME COMMERCE."

Offered by: Senator Keohokalole

S.C.R. No. 24 "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GOVERNOR'S DECISION TO JOIN THE WEST COAST HEALTH ALLIANCE TO GUIDE PUBLIC HEALTH DECISIONS."

Offered by: Senator Keohokalole

S.C.R. No. 25 "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OPPOSING CONDEMNATION OR THREATS OF CONDEMNATION BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO TAKE CONTROL OF POHAKULOA AND ANY STATE LAND."

Offered by: Senator Keohokalole

S.C.R. No. 26 "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY WORKING GROUP'S REQUEST FOR RESOURCES AND TIMELINE EXTENSION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027."

Offered by: Senator Keohokalole

SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions (S.R. Nos. 20 to 23) were read by the Clerk and were deferred:

S.R. No. 20 "SENATE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH A DEDICATED PANEL OF COMMISSIONERS TO OVERSEE MATTERS RELATED TO INTRASTATE WATER CARRIERS AND MARITIME COMMERCE."

Offered by: Senator Keohokalole

S.R. No. 21 "SENATE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GOVERNOR'S DECISION TO JOIN THE WEST COAST HEALTH ALLIANCE TO GUIDE PUBLIC HEALTH DECISIONS."

Offered by: Senator Keohokalole

S.R. No. 22 "SENATE RESOLUTION OPPOSING CONDEMNATION OR THREATS OF CONDEMNATION BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO TAKE CONTROL OF POHAKULOA AND ANY STATE LAND."

Offered by: Senator Keohokalole

S.R. No. 23 "SENATE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY WORKING GROUP'S REQUEST FOR RESOURCES AND TIMELINE EXTENSION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027."

Offered by: Senator Keohokalole

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Senator Kim, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2707) recommending that S.B. No. 896, S.D. 1, as amended in S.D. 2, 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. 896, S.D. 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION," passed Second Reading and was placed on the calendar for Third Reading on Thursday, March 5, 2026.

Senator Rhoads, for the Committee on Judiciary, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2708) recommending that the Senate consent to the appointment of STEPHANIE R.S. CHAR as Circuit Court Judge of the Circuit Court of the Fifth Circuit (Island of Kaua'i), in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 684.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2708 and Gov. Msg. No. 684 was deferred until Wednesday, February 25, 2026.

Senator Dela Cruz, for the Committee on Ways and Means, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2709) recommending that S.B. No. 2060, S.D. 1, as amended in S.D. 2, pass Third Reading.

By unanimous consent, action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2709 and S.B. No. 2060, S.D. 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE RENTAL HOUSING REVOLVING FUND," was deferred until Thursday, March 5, 2026.

Senator Dela Cruz, for the Committee on Ways and Means, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2710) recommending that S.B. No. 2152, S.D. 1, as amended in S.D. 2, pass Third Reading.

By unanimous consent, action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2710 and S.B. No. 2152, S.D. 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VI, SECTION 3, OF THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION TO INCREASE THE MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGE FOR STATE JUSTICES AND JUDGES," was deferred until Thursday, March 5, 2026.

Senator Dela Cruz, for the Committee on Ways and Means, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2711) recommending that S.B. No. 2315, S.D. 1, as amended in S.D. 2, pass Third Reading.

By unanimous consent, action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2711 and S.B. No. 2315, S.D. 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE XVII, SECTION 3 OF THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION TO SPECIFY THAT THE STANDARD FOR VOTER APPROVAL OF A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE LEGISLATURE IS A MAJORITY OF ALL THE VOTES TALLIED UPON THE QUESTION," was deferred until Thursday, March 5, 2026.

Senator Dela Cruz, for the Committee on Ways and Means, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2712) recommending that S.B. No. 2544, S.D. 1, as amended in S.D. 2, pass Third Reading.

By unanimous consent, action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2712 and S.B. No. 2544, S.D. 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOUSING," was deferred until Thursday, March 5, 2026.

Senator Dela Cruz, for the Committee on Ways and Means, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2713) recommending that S.B. No. 2577, S.D. 1, as amended in S.D. 2, pass Third Reading.

By unanimous consent, action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2713 and S.B. No. 2577, S.D. 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SPORTS TOURISM," was deferred until Thursday, March 5, 2026.

Senator Dela Cruz, for the Committee on Ways and Means, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2714) recommending that S.B. No. 2580, S.D. 1, as amended in S.D. 2, pass Third Reading.

By unanimous consent, action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2714 and S.B. No. 2580, S.D. 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE MOTION PICTURE, DIGITAL MEDIA, AND FILM PRODUCTION INCOME TAX CREDIT," was deferred until Thursday, March 5, 2026.

ORDER OF THE DAY

THIRD READING

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2694 (S.B. No. 99, S.D. 1):

On motion by Senator Dela Cruz, seconded by Senator Moriwaki and carried, Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2694 was adopted and S.B. No. 99, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO GOVERNMENT," having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

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

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2695 (S.B. No. 2110, S.D. 1):

On motion by Senator Dela Cruz, seconded by Senator Moriwaki and carried, Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2695 was adopted and S.B. No. 2110, 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, 24. Noes, none. Excused, 1 (Gabbard).

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2696 (S.B. No. 2115, S.D. 1):

On motion by Senator Dela Cruz, seconded by Senator Moriwaki and carried, Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2696 was adopted and S.B. No. 2115, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING," having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 24; Ayes with Reservations (Moriwaki). Noes, none. Excused, 1 (Gabbard).

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2697 (S.B. No. 2259, S.D. 1):

On motion by Senator Dela Cruz, seconded by Senator Moriwaki and carried, Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2697 was adopted and S.B. No. 2259, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM," having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

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

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2698 (S.B. No. 2382, S.D. 1):

On motion by Senator Dela Cruz, seconded by Senator Moriwaki and carried, Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2698 was adopted and S.B. No. 2382, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT," having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

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

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2699 (S.B. No. 2442, S.D. 1):

On motion by Senator Dela Cruz, seconded by Senator Moriwaki and carried, Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2699 was adopted and S.B. No. 2442, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PURCHASE OF SERVICE CONTRACTS BY THE JUDICIARY," having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

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

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2700 (S.B. No. 2485, S.D. 1):

On motion by Senator Dela Cruz, seconded by Senator Moriwaki and carried, Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2700 was adopted and S.B. No. 2485, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT," having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

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

S.B. No. 895, S.D. 1:

On motion by Senator Kim, seconded by Senator Kidani and carried, S.B. No. 895, 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, 24. Noes, none. Excused, 1 (Gabbard).

RE-REFERRAL OF SENATE BILLS

The Chair re-referred the following Senate bills that were introduced:

S.B. No.:	Re-referred to:
S.B. No. 2112, S.D. 1	Committee on Agriculture and Environment, then jointly to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Ways and Means
S.B. No. 3019, S.D. 1	Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts, then to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

At this time, Senator Inouye extended belated happy birthday wishes to Senator Richards, whose birthday had been the previous day.

The Chair announced that there would be a leadership meeting in Room 409 immediately following adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:44 a.m., on motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, February 25, 2026.