

THIRTY-SECOND DAY

Monday, March 23, 2026

The Senate of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2026, convened at 11:41 a.m. with the President in the Chair.

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

The Chair announced that he had read and approved the Journal of the Thirty-First Day.

Senator Elefante introduction

Senator Lee introduction

Senator San Buenaventura introduction

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The following messages from the Governor (Gov. Msg. Nos. 792 to 795 and 1101) were read by the Clerk and were disposed of as follows:

Gov. Msg. No. 792, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, the nomination of CHERYL CROSS, term to expire June 30, 2030, was referred to the Committee on Labor and Technology.

Gov. Msg. No. 793, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, the nomination of ASHLEIGH LOA, term to expire June 30, 2030, was referred to the Committee on Labor and Technology.

Gov. Msg. No. 794, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation, the nomination of NICOLE CACAL, term to expire June 30, 2028, was referred to the Committee on Economic Development and Tourism.

Gov. Msg. No. 795, informing the Senate that on March 23, 2026, the Governor withdrew the nomination of MARISA ADARO to the Commission on the Status of Women, under Gov. Msg. No. 571, from consideration by the Senate, was placed on file.

In compliance with Gov. Msg. No. 795, the nomination listed under Gov. Msg. No. 571 was returned.

Gov. Msg. No. 1101, informing the Senate that on March 20, 2026, the Governor signed into law House Bill No. 2240, 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.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Senator Fukunaga, for the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3103) recommending that H.B. No. 2279, H.D. 1, as amended in S.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. 2279, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EXPUNGEMENT ORDERS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Senator Fukunaga, for the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3104) recommending that H.B. No. 2289, 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. 2289, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE EXPENDITURE CEILING ON THE AUTOMATED VICTIM INFORMATION AND NOTIFICATION SYSTEM SPECIAL FUND," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Inouye, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3105) recommending that H.B. No. 1523, 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. 1523, H.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE STATEWIDE TRAFFIC CODE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Senator Inouye, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3106) recommending that H.B. No. 1696, H.D. 2 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. 1696, H.D. 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Senator Inouye, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3107) recommending that H.B. No. 2023, H.D. 2 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and 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. 2023, H.D. 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Inouye, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3108) recommending that H.B. No. 2020, H.D. 2 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. 2020, H.D. 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO RENEWAL OF DRIVER'S LICENSES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Senator Inouye, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3109) recommending that H.B. No. 2417, H.D. 2, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and 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. 2417, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE LICENSE REVOCATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to

the Committee on Judiciary and the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Inouye, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3110) recommending that H.B. No. 2375, 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. 2375, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TOWING PRACTICES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Inouye, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3111) recommending that H.B. No. 1510, H.D. 2, as amended in S.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. 1510, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LICENSE PLATES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Senator Wakai, for the Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3112) recommending that H.B. No. 2241, 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. 2241, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Inouye, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3113) recommending that H.B. No. 2031, H.D. 2, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and 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. 2031, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Elefante, for the Committee on Labor and Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3114) recommending that H.B. No. 2472, H.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. 2472, H.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND STAFF SALARIES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Elefante, for the Committee on Labor and Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3115) recommending that H.B. No. 2276, H.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. 2276, H.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND INVESTMENT OFFICE

STAFF SALARIES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Elefante, for the Committee on Labor and Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3116) recommending that H.B. No. 1664, H.D. 1 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and 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. 1664, H.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary and the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Elefante, for the Committee on Labor and Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3117) recommending that H.B. No. 2272, H.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. 2272, H.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Elefante, for the Committee on Labor and Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3118) recommending that H.B. No. 2273, H.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. 2273, H.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Elefante, for the Committee on Labor and Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3119) recommending that H.B. No. 1656, H.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. 1656, H.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INDEBTEDNESS TO THE STATE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Elefante, for the Committee on Labor and Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3120) recommending that H.B. No. 1658, H.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. 1658, H.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Elefante, for the Committee on Labor and Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3121) recommending that H.B. No. 1661, 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. 1661, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CAFETERIA PLANS," passed Second

Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Rhoads, for the Committee on Judiciary, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3122) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of LANI EWART to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 506.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3122 and Gov. Msg. No. 506 was deferred until Tuesday, March 24, 2026.

Senator Rhoads, for the Committee on Judiciary, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3123) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of MICHAEL TANOUE to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 574.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3123 and Gov. Msg. No. 574 was deferred until Tuesday, March 24, 2026.

Senator Rhoads, for the Committee on Judiciary, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3124) recommending that the Senate consent to the appointment of DANIEL M. GLUCK as Associate Judge of the Intermediate Court of Appeals, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 725.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3124 and Gov. Msg. No. 725 was deferred until Tuesday, March 24, 2026.

Senator San Buenaventura, for the Committee on Health and Human Services, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3125) recommending that H.B. No. 816, 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. 816, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EMERGENCY RESPONSE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator San Buenaventura, for the Committee on Health and Human Services, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3126) recommending that H.B. No. 1131, 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. 1131, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AN INTENSIVE MOBILE TEAM PILOT PROGRAM FOR HOUSELESS INDIVIDUALS SUFFERING FROM SERIOUS BRAIN DISORDERS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator San Buenaventura, for the Committee on Health and Human Services, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3127) recommending that H.B. No. 1562, 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. 1562, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator San Buenaventura, for the Committee on Health and Human Services, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep.

No. 3128) recommending that H.B. No. 2343, 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. 2343, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VETERANS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator San Buenaventura, for the Committee on Health and Human Services, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3129) recommending that H.B. No. 1705, H.D. 1, as amended in S.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. 1705, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CHILD CUSTODY," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Senators Inouye and Wakai, for the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs, presented a joint report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3130) recommending that H.B. No. 2021, H.D. 2, as amended in S.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 joint report of the Committees was adopted and H.B. No. 2021, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Senator Kim, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3131) recommending that H.B. No. 2416, 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. 2416, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO A MARITIME YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PATHWAY PROGRAM," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Kim, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3132) recommending that H.B. No. 2339, 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. 2339, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII REVENUE BONDS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Kim, for the majority of the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3133) recommending that H.B. No. 1873, H.D. 2, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Judiciary.

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. 1873, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Judiciary.

Senator Kim, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3134) recommending that H.B.

No. 2139, 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. 2139, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Kim, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3135) recommending that H.B. No. 2005, 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. 2005, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LANGUAGE ACCESS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Kim, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3136) recommending that H.B. No. 1952, 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. 1952, 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.

Senator Kim, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3137) recommending that H.B. No. 2338, 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. 2338, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE PROGRAM," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Kim, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3138) recommending that H.B. No. 2171, 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. 2171, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Kim, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3139) recommending that H.B. No. 1605, 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. 1605, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Kim, for the Committee on Education, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3140) recommending that H.B. No. 2158, 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. 2158, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

ORDER OF THE DAY

RE-REFERRAL OF HOUSE BILLS

The Chair re-referred the following House bills that were received:

H.B. No.: Re-referred to:

H.B. No. 1838, Committee on Judiciary, then to the H.D. 2 Committee on Ways and Means

H.B. No. 1960, Committee on Judiciary, then to the H.D. 2 Committee on Ways and Means

At this time, Senator Lee, Chair of the Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts, rose to request a waiver of the public notice requirement pursuant to Senate Rule 21 for H.B. No. 1710, H.D. 2.

Senator Lee noted:

REMARKS

The Chair granted the waiver.

Senator Lee announced that the Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts would be holding a public hearing on the measure on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at 1:05 p.m. in Conference Room 224.

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

REMARKS

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:47 a.m., on motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 24, 2026.