

THIRTY-THIRD DAY

Tuesday, March 24, 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-Second Day.

Senator Rhoads introduction

Senator Inouye introduction

Senator Elefante introduction

Senator Kim introduction

Senator Richards introduction

Senator Kanuha introduction

The Chair introduction

Senator Keohokalole commended and honored Robert "Bob" Toyofuku for 50 years of exceptional service and dedicated advocacy for the people of Hawai'i and presented the following remarks:

REMARKS

Senator Lee rose to present the following remarks:

REMARKS

The Chair announced that Mr. Toyofuku needed to get to the House of Representatives Chamber and that the Senate would recess. The Chair then authorized the Clerk to receive members' written remarks including warm greetings or personal stories regarding the honoree to enter into the Journal.

At 12:00 p.m., the Senate stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The Senate reconvened at 12:03 p.m.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Senator Inouye, for the Committee on Transportation, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3141) recommending that H.B. No. 1163, 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. 1163, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL DRIVERS LICENSING," 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. 3142) recommending that H.B. No. 2113, 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. 2113, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES," 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. 3143) recommending

that H.B. No. 2333, 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. 2333, H.D. 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Senator DeCoite, for the Committee on Economic Development and Tourism, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3144) recommending that H.B. No. 2411, 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. 2411, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator DeCoite, for the Committee on Economic Development and Tourism, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3145) recommending that H.B. No. 2583, H.D. 1, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and 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 H.B. No. 2583, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

Senator DeCoite, for the Committee on Economic Development and Tourism, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3146) recommending that H.B. No. 1613, 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. 1613, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator DeCoite, for the Committee on Economic Development and Tourism, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3147) recommending that H.B. No. 1614, 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. 1614, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator DeCoite, for the Committee on Economic Development and Tourism, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3148) recommending that H.B. No. 2590, 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. 2590, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator DeCoite, for the Committee on Economic Development and Tourism, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3149) recommending that H.B. No. 1950, 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. 1950, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS TAX," 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. 3150) recommending that H.B. No. 1603, 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. 1603, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL PARK LEASES," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Senator Gabbard, for the Committee on Agriculture and Environment, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3151) recommending that H.B. No. 1707, 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. 1707, 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 Gabbard, for the Committee on Agriculture and Environment, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3152) recommending that H.B. No. 1832, 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. 1832, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AQUACULTURE," 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. 3153) recommending that H.B. No. 2119, 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. 2119, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COFFEE PEST CONTROL," 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. 3154) recommending that H.B. No. 2155, 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. 2155, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS," 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. 3155) recommending that H.B. No. 2594, 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. 2594, 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 Gabbard, for the Committee on Agriculture and Environment, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3156) recommending that H.B. No. 2595, 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. 2595, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO REGIONAL AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTION," 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. 3157) recommending that H.B. No. 1929, 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. 1929, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO BIOSECURITY," 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. 3158) recommending that H.B. No. 2015, H.D. 1, as amended in S.D. 1, 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 report of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 2015, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COFFEE LABELING," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

Senator Gabbard, for the Committee on Agriculture and Environment, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3159) recommending that H.B. No. 2207, 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. 2207, H.D. 2, 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.

Senators Wakai and Lee, for the Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts, presented a joint report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3160) recommending that H.B. No. 1619, 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. 1619, H.D. 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

Senator Wakai, for the majority of the Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3161) recommending that H.B. No. 1667, 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 majority of the Committee was adopted and H.B. No. 1667, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CIVIL IDENTIFICATION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Senators Wakai and McKelvey, for the Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Committee on Government Operations, presented a joint report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3162) recommending that H.B. No. 1984, H.D. 2, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the joint report of the Committees was adopted and H.B. No. 1984, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Wakai, for the Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3163) recommending that H.B. No. 2140, H.D. 2 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. 2140, H.D. 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ESSENTIAL PERMITTING POSITIONS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senators Inouye and Elefante, for the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Labor and Technology, presented a joint report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3164) recommending that H.B. No. 2097, 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 joint report of the Committees was adopted and H.B. No. 2097, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE DRIVERS LICENSE REVOCATION," 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. 3165) recommending that H.B. No. 1957, 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. 1957, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SAFE ENTRYWAYS," 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. 3166) recommending that H.B. No. 2503, 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. 2503, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FIREWORKS," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

ORDER OF THE DAY

ADVISE AND CONSENT

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3122 (Gov. Msg. No. 506):

Senator Rhoads moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3122 be received and placed on file, seconded by Senator Gabbard and carried.

Senator Rhoads then moved that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of LANI EWART to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation, term to expire June 30, 2029, seconded by Senator Gabbard.

The motion was put by the Chair and carried on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

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

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3123 (Gov. Msg. No. 574):

Senator Rhoads moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3123 be received and placed on file, seconded by Senator Gabbard and carried.

Senator Rhoads then moved that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of MICHAEL TANOUE to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation, term to expire June 30, 2028, seconded by Senator Gabbard.

The motion was put by the Chair and carried on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

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

Senator Rhoads introduction

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3124 (Gov. Msg. No. 725):

Senator Rhoads moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3124 be received and placed on file, seconded by Senator Gabbard and carried.

Senator Rhoads then moved that the Senate consent to the appointment of DANIEL M. GLUCK as Associate Judge of the Intermediate Court of Appeals, for a term of 10 years, seconded by Senator Gabbard.

Senator Rhoads rose to speak in support of the appointee as follows:

REMARKS

The motion was put by the Chair and carried on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 21. Noes, 3 (Awa, DeCorte, Fevella). Excused, 1 (Ihara).

Senator Rhoads introduction

The Chair announced that the newly confirmed judge would be greeted on the Senate floor immediately following adjournment.

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. 1520, Committee on Judiciary, then to the
H.D. 1 Committee on Ways and Means
H.B. No. 2581, Committee on Public Safety and Military
H.D. 2 Affairs, then to the Committee on Ways and
Means

**RE-REFERRAL OF A
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

The Chair re-referred the following Senate concurrent resolution that was offered:

S.C.R. No.: Re-referred to:
S.C.R. No. 55 Committee on Public Safety and Military
Affairs

RE-REFERRAL OF A SENATE RESOLUTION

The Chair re-referred the following Senate resolution that was offered:

S.R. No.: Re-referred to:
S.R. No. 53 Committee on Public Safety and Military
Affairs

At this time, Senator Fukunaga, Chair of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs, rose to request a waiver of the public notice requirement pursuant to Senate Rule 21 for H.B. No. 2581, H.D. 2.

Senator Fukunaga noted:

REMARKS

The Chair granted the waiver.

Senator Kim, Chair of the Committee on Education, rose to request a waiver of the public notice requirement pursuant to Senate Rule 21 for H.B. No. 2567, H.D. 1.

Senator Kim noted:

REMARKS

The Chair granted the waiver.

Senator Kim announced that the Committee on Education would be holding a public hearing on the measure the following day at 1:12 p.m. in Conference Room 229.

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

REMARKS

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

REMARKS

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

REMARKS

Senator Rhoads introduction

The Chair announced that there would be a leadership meeting in Room 409 immediately following adjournment and the greeting of the newly confirmed judge.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:13 p.m., on motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 25, 2026.