

FORTY-FIFTH DAY

Thursday, April 16, 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.

The Chair announced that he had read and approved the Journal of the Forty-Fourth Day.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

The following message from the Governor (Gov. Msg. No. 810) was read by the Clerk and was disposed of as follows:

Gov. Msg. No. 810, informing the Senate that on April 14, 2026, the Governor withdrew the nomination of LISA PAULSON to the Advisory Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, under Gov. Msg. No. 605, from consideration by the Senate, was placed on file.

In compliance with Gov. Msg. No. 810, the nomination listed under Gov. Msg. No. 605 was returned.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications from the House (Hse. Com. Nos. 599 to 779) were read by the Clerk and were disposed of as follows:

Hse. Com. No. 599, informing the Senate that on April 14, 2026, the House disagreed to the amendments proposed by the Senate to the following House bills:

H.B. No. 389, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 1166, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 1510, H.D. 2 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 1541, H.D. 2 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 1605, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 1661, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 1663, H.D. 2 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 1678, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 1769, H.D. 2 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 1785, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 1801, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 1802, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 1815, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 1824, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 1838, H.D. 2 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 1840, H.D. 2 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 1853, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 1860, H.D. 2 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 1891, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 1952, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 1960, H.D. 2 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 1969, H.D. 2 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 1970, H.D. 2 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 1972, H.D. 2 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 1976, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 2050, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 2094, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 2104, H.D. 2 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 2158, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 2165, H.D. 2 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 2171, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 2208, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 2246, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 2271, H.D. 2 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 2300, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 2310, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 2315, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);

H.B. No. 2319, H.D. 2 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 2338, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 2339, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 2343, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 2443, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 2498, H.D. 2 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 2551, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1);
 H.B. No. 2599, H.D. 1 (S.D. 1); and
 H.B. No. 2606, H.D. 2 (S.D. 1),

was placed on file.

Hse. Com. No. 600, returning S.B. No. 17, S.D. 2, as amended in H.D. 1, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on April 14, 2026, was placed on file.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate disagreed to the amendments proposed by the House to S.B. No. 17, S.D. 2, and requested a conference on the subject matter thereof.

Hse. Com. No. 601, returning S.B. No. 83, S.D. 2, as amended in H.D. 3, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on April 14, 2026, was placed on file.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate disagreed to the amendments proposed by the House to S.B. No. 83, S.D. 2, and requested a conference on the subject matter thereof.

Hse. Com. No. 602, returning S.B. No. 99, S.D. 1, as amended in H.D. 1, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on April 14, 2026, was placed on file.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate disagreed to the amendments proposed by the House to S.B. No. 99, S.D. 1, and requested a conference on the subject matter thereof.

Hse. Com. No. 603, returning S.B. No. 148, S.D. 2, as amended in H.D. 3, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on April 14, 2026, was placed on file.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate disagreed to the amendments proposed by the House to S.B. No. 148, S.D. 2, and requested a conference on the subject matter thereof.

Hse. Com. No. 604, returning S.B. No. 411, S.D. 2, as amended in H.D. 1, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on April 14, 2026, was placed on file.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate disagreed to the amendments proposed by the House to S.B. No. 411, S.D. 2, and requested a conference on the subject matter thereof.

Hse. Com. No. 605, returning S.B. No. 709, S.D. 2, as amended in H.D. 2, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on April 14, 2026, was placed on file.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate disagreed to the amendments proposed by the House to S.B. No. 709, S.D. 2, and requested a conference on the subject matter thereof.

Hse. Com. No. 606, returning S.B. No. 847, S.D. 2, as amended in H.D. 2, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on April 14, 2026, was placed on file.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate disagreed to the amendments proposed

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate disagreed to the amendments proposed by the House to S.B. No. 3320, S.D. 1, and requested a conference on the subject matter thereof.

Hse. Com. No. 777, returning S.B. No. 3322, S.D. 2, as amended in H.D. 2, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on April 14, 2026, was placed on file.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate disagreed to the amendments proposed by the House to S.B. No. 3322, S.D. 2, and requested a conference on the subject matter thereof.

Hse. Com. No. 778, returning S.B. No. 3324, S.D. 1, as amended in H.D. 1, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on April 14, 2026, was placed on file.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate disagreed to the amendments proposed by the House to S.B. No. 3324, S.D. 1, and requested a conference on the subject matter thereof.

Hse. Com. No. 779, returning S.B. No. 3332, S.D. 1, as amended in H.D. 1, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on April 14, 2026, was placed on file.

On motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate disagreed to the amendments proposed by the House to S.B. No. 3332, S.D. 1, and requested a conference on the subject matter thereof.

The Chair announced:

“Conferees may be named at a later date.”

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Senators McKelvey and Kim, for the Committee on Government Operations and the Committee on Education, presented a joint report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3811) recommending that S.R. No. 25 be adopted.

By unanimous consent, action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3811 and S.R. No. 25, entitled: “SENATE RESOLUTION URGING STATE AGENCIES AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII WILLIAM S. RICHARDSON SCHOOL OF LAW TO COLLABORATE TO DEVELOP EXTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR LAW STUDENTS TO ASSIST IN THE COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW AND UPDATE OF THE HAWAII ADMINISTRATIVE RULES,” was deferred until Friday, April 17, 2026.

Senator San Buenaventura, for the Committee on Health and Human Services, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3812) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of LAURA MALLERY-SAYRE to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 533.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3812 and Gov. Msg. No. 533 was deferred until Friday, April 17, 2026.

Senator Keohokalole, for the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3813) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of MICHAEL BASTA JR. to the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 578.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3813 and Gov. Msg. No. 578 was deferred until Friday, April 17, 2026.

Senator Keohokalole, for the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep.

No. 3814) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of TERRANCE MANAGO to the Pest Control Board, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 592.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3814 and Gov. Msg. No. 592 was deferred until Friday, April 17, 2026.

Senator Keohokalole, for the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3815) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of BRITTA ZIMMER to the State Board of Naturopathic Medicine, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 593.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3815 and Gov. Msg. No. 593 was deferred until Friday, April 17, 2026.

Senator Keohokalole, for the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3816) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of ROBERT WOTRING to the Hawaii Medical Board, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 587.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3816 and Gov. Msg. No. 587 was deferred until Friday, April 17, 2026.

Senator Keohokalole, for the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3817) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the Motor Vehicle Repair Industry Board of the following:

ALBERT DENIS, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 589;

NOLAN MIYAHARA, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 590; and

ROBERT COLLINS, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 591.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3817 and Gov. Msg. Nos. 589, 590, and 591 was deferred until Friday, April 17, 2026.

Senator Keohokalole, for the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3818) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the Board of Dentistry of the following:

CHRISTOPHER WOO, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 580; and

GERI YOUNG, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 581.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3818 and Gov. Msg. Nos. 580 and 581 was deferred until Friday, April 17, 2026.

Senator Keohokalole, for the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3819) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the Contractors License Board of the following:

JERRY NISHEK, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 586; and

CODY SULA, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 746.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3819 and Gov. Msg. Nos. 586 and 746 was deferred until Friday, April 17, 2026.

Senator Keohokalole, for the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3820) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the Board of Psychology of the following:

SEAN SCANLAN, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 582; and

SHERRIE TAKUSHI-ISARA, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 583.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3820 and Gov. Msg. Nos. 582 and 583 was deferred until Friday, April 17, 2026.

Senator Rhoads, for the Committee on Judiciary, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3821) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of LOU ANN BLAKE to the Statewide Elections Accessibility Needs Advisory Committee, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 573.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3821 and Gov. Msg. No. 573 was deferred until Friday, April 17, 2026.

Senator Rhoads, for the Committee on Judiciary, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3822) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of PETER HAMASAKI to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 575.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3822 and Gov. Msg. No. 575 was deferred until Friday, April 17, 2026.

Senator Elefante, for the Committee on Labor and Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3823) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council of the following:

DOUGLAS CHANG, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 503;

GEORGE DENISE, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 504;

JASON BENN, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 512;

SEAN NAKAMURA, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 626;

RONA FUKUMOTO, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 628;

CARY MIYASHIRO, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 630; and

KEITH DEMELLO, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 631.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3823 and Gov. Msg. Nos. 503, 504, 512, 626, 628, 630, and 631 was deferred until Friday, April 17, 2026.

Senator Elefante, for the Committee on Labor and Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3824) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council of the following:

GINA ANONUEVO, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 627; and

GINA ANONUEVO, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 726.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3824 and Gov. Msg. Nos. 627 and 726 was deferred until Friday, April 17, 2026.

Senator Elefante, for the Committee on Labor and Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3825) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council of the following:

MARK PHONGSAVATH, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 779;

CHERYL CROSS, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 792; and

ASHLEIGH LOA, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 793.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3825 and Gov. Msg. Nos. 779, 792, and 793 was deferred until Friday, April 17, 2026.

Senator Elefante, for the Committee on Labor and Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3826) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of CHRISTOPHER BURNETT to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 759.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3826 and Gov. Msg. No. 759 was deferred until Friday, April 17, 2026.

Senator Elefante, for the Committee on Labor and Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3827) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of REGAN TANIGUCHI to the Hoisting Machine Operators Advisory Board, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 633.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3827 and Gov. Msg. No. 633 was deferred until Friday, April 17, 2026.

Senator Elefante, for the Committee on Labor and Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3828) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of LANCE LARSEN, JR., to the Board of Trustees of the Deferred Compensation Plan, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 635.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3828 and Gov. Msg. No. 635 was deferred until Friday, April 17, 2026.

Senator Elefante, for the Committee on Labor and Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3829) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of CHRISTIAN WONG to the Board of Directors of the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 672.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3829 and Gov. Msg. No. 672 was deferred until Friday, April 17, 2026.

Senator Elefante, for the Committee on Labor and Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3830) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of JESSIE DEAN to the Hawai'i Retirement Savings Board, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 690.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3830 and Gov. Msg. No. 690 was deferred until Friday, April 17, 2026.

Senator Elefante, for the Committee on Labor and Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3831) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of TRANG MALONE to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 629.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3831 and Gov. Msg. No. 629 was deferred until Friday, April 17, 2026.

Senator Gabbard, for the Committee on Agriculture and Environment, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3832) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of JAMES FALCONER to the Advisory Board on Pesticides, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 696.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3832 and Gov. Msg. No. 696 was deferred until Friday, April 17, 2026.

Senator Gabbard, for the Committee on Agriculture and Environment, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3833) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of STEVE RUSSO to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 729.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3833 and Gov. Msg. No. 729 was deferred until Friday, April 17, 2026.

Senator Gabbard, for the Committee on Agriculture and Environment, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3834) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of JAMES GOMES to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 771.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3834 and Gov. Msg. No. 771 was deferred until Friday, April 17, 2026.

Senator Elefante, for the Committee on Labor and Technology, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3835) recommending that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of DARLENE BLAKENEY to the Board of Trustees of the Employees' Retirement System, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 634.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3835 and Gov. Msg. No. 634 was deferred until Friday, April 17, 2026.

ORDER OF THE DAY

ADVISE AND CONSENT

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3810 (Gov. Msg. No. 674):

Senator Rhoads moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 3810 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 ALPHONSO BRAGGS to the Civil Rights Commission, 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, 25. Noes, none.

Senator Rhoads introduction

THIRD READING

H.B. No. 1519, H.D. 1, S.D. 3:

On motion by Senator San Buenaventura, seconded by Senator Hashimoto and carried, H.B. No. 1519, H.D. 1, S.D. 3, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS," having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 25. Noes, none.

H.B. No. 2275, H.D. 1, S.D. 2:

On motion by Senator Dela Cruz, seconded by Senator Moriawaki and carried, H.B. No. 2275, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FUNDING ADJUSTMENTS FOR STATE PROGRAMS," having been read throughout, passed Third Reading on the following showing of Ayes and Noes:

Ayes, 25. Noes, none.

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. 411, Jointly to the Committee on Government
S.D. 2, H.D. 1 Operations and the Committee on Water,
Land, Culture and the Arts, then to the
Committee on Ways and Means

S.B. No. 1032, Committee on Transportation, then to the
S.D. 2, H.D. 2 Committee on Judiciary

RE-REFERRAL OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

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

H.C.R. No.: Re-referred to:

H.C.R. No. 35 Committee on Health and Human Services

H.C.R. No. 53 Committee on Education

H.C.R. No. 82, Committee on Housing
H.D. 2

H.C.R. No. 110 Committee on Education

H.C.R. No. 111 Committee on Education

H.C.R. No. 193, Committee on Judiciary
H.D. 1

Senator Rhoads introduction

Senator Richards announced that the Honoka'a Jazz Band would be performing on the Rotunda around 3:00 p.m. that afternoon and invited the members to the concert. Senator Richards requested that the names of the band members be entered into the Journal, and the Chair so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:37 a.m., on motion by Senator Wakai, seconded by Senator DeCorte and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 a.m., Friday, April 17, 2026.