

TWELFTH DAY

Monday, February 7, 2011

The Senate of the Twenty-Sixth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2011, convened at 11:33 a.m. with the President in the Chair.

The Roll was called showing all Senators present.

The President announced that he had read and approved the Journal of the Eleventh Day.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

The following message from the Governor (Gov. Msg. No. 123) was read by the Clerk and was placed on file:

Gov. Msg. No. 123, dated January 26, 2011, transmitting the Annual Evaluation of the Hawaii Unemployment Compensation Fund, prepared by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations pursuant to Section 383-126.5, HRS, and Act 100, SLH 2007.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

The following communication (Dept. Com. No. 50) was read by the Clerk and was placed on file:

Dept. Com. No. 50, from the Department of Budget and Finance dated January 27, 2011, transmitting the Summary Program Reports for the FB2011-13 Executive Budget for the Department of Budget and Finance and the Office of the Governor, prepared by the Department of Budget and Finance.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

The following concurrent resolution (S.C.R. No. 28) was read by the Clerk and was deferred:

S.C.R. No. 28 "SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO ASSESS THE SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF REQUIRING HEALTH INSURERS TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR USE OF THE LIFE BED INTELLIGENT MEDICAL VIGILANCE SYSTEM."

Offered by: Senators Baker, Fukunaga, Green, Ige.

ORDER OF THE DAY**ADVISE AND CONSENT**

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 17 (Gov. Msg. No. 516):

Senator English moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 17 be received and placed on file, seconded by Senator Espero and carried.

Senator English then moved that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of GLENN M. OKIMOTO as the Director of the Department of Transportation, term to expire December 1, 2014, seconded by Senator Espero.

Senator English rose in support of the nominee as follows:

"Mr. President, members of the Senate, I am very pleased to recommend the confirmation of Glenn Okimoto to the Department of Transportation. He has been with the State of Hawai'i for 30 years and with the Department of Education for 27; and he knows the operations of the department and is well, well-qualified to head the Department of Transportation. So, I would ask all of you to please vote in favor of his nomination. Thank you, Mr. President."

Senator Solomon rose in support of the nominee as follows:

"I, too, am in support of the nominee. I've known Mr. Okimoto for many years, but of course as he was involved with the fields of education. He did an excellent job in that matter as far as the budget is concerned and executing the objectives and goals of the legislature as well as the administration. I look forward to working with him in the areas of our transportation. As you know, Mr. President, we have major concerns, those concerning Hawaiian Airlines and concerning our whole thoughts as to how we can regenerate and revitalize the importance of the marine highway as it provides transportation between the islands, and I look forward to working with him. Thank you very much, Mr. President."

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

Ayes, 23. Noes, none. Excused, 2 (Hee, Shimabukuro).

At this time, Senator English introduced Director Glenn Okimoto, who was accompanied by his mother Matsue, wife Hope, and daughter Lauren.

Stand. Com. Rep. No. 18 (Gov. Msg. No. 507):

Senator Galuteria moved that Stand. Com. Rep. No. 18 be received and placed on file, seconded by Senator Ryan and carried.

Senator Galuteria then moved that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of ALBERT (ALAPAKI) NAHALE-A as the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, term to expire December 31, 2014, seconded by Senator Ryan.

Senator Galuteria rose in support of the nominee as follows:

"Your Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred Governor's Message No. 507, has reviewed the resume, personal history, and statements submitted by the nominee and finds Albert Alapaki Nahale-a to possess the qualifications to be nominated as Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Your committee received testimony in support of the nomination from over 100 testifiers and none in opposition.

"Alapaki Nahale-a has served as a member of the Hawaiian Homes Commission representing East Hawai'i since 2008. In addition, he serves as the Executive Director of the Hawai'i Charter Schools Network, and has been the director of Ka 'Umeke Ka'eo Hawaiian Immersion Public Charter School. Prior to work on behalf of Hawai'i's charter schools, he's held a series of community development positions with Hawai'i Community College and Rural Community Assistance Corporation, among others. He served five years with the County of Hawai'i as Legislative Auditor Assistant and Program Review Auditor. He served on numerous organizations, community organizations, and such. A graduate of the Kamehameha Schools, where he was active in student government and campus life. He holds a B.A. degree in political science from the University of Pennsylvania.

"Mr. President, your committee finds that through his work as a commissioner, he is well-versed in the directives, responsibilities, and operations of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, as well as the challenges the department faces in meeting the needs of its beneficiaries and the Hawaiian community. In his responses to your committee, Mr. Nahale-a acknowledged the challenge of making a difference in the department's response to the waiting list and the necessity for greater autonomy in the resolution of jurisdictional problems, such as permitting and zoning requirements, and in the

development of financial resources to replace the \$30 million annual payments appropriated through Act 14, which will end in 2050.

“Equally, and in some ways even more important, Mr. President, is his upbringing as a homesteader. With his roots firmly embedded in the Hawaiian homestead communities of Keaukaha and Pana’ewa, which through confirmation would make him the first keiki o ka ‘āina, born and raised on home lands to become Chairman of the Hawaiian Home Lands Commission. Therefore, as affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, after full consideration of background, experience, and qualifications, has found the nominee to be qualified for the position to which nominated and recommends the full Senate advise and consent to the nomination. Mahalo, Mr. President.”

Senator Solomon rose in support of the nominee as follows:

“Mr. President, I’d like the previous speaker’s remarks incorporated as though they were my own, and I, too, support Mr. Nahale-a and urge all of my fellow colleagues to do the same. On behalf of Senator Kahele and Senator Green, we want to welcome Mr. Nahale-a to this position because his family has a long, prominent history, coming from the Island of Hawai’i. His grandfather, Uncle Albert Nahale-a, was one of the first Hawaiian Home commissioners, as well as very instrumental in bringing a lot of the Hawaiian homestead programs to fruition.

“I agree with the remarks of the previous speaker, and simply, he is the first keiki o ka ‘āina, and coming from the homestead that he not only will walk the walk, but he can talk the talk. Mr. President, I think that is very critical. In closing, there are some wonderful remarks about Mr. Nahale-a, but I especially paid close attention to this one. And of course, it acknowledges Mr. Nahale-a as a graduate of Kamehameha Schools. Well, so am I, Mr. President. So, we’re all proud alumni, and the commissioner of the Hawaiian Home Lands, he has served in these various positions working within the Hawaiian community, and we believe he understands the needs of the community and will work closely with them to deliver the services of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands in an efficient and collaborative manner. Thank you very much, Mr. President. At the appropriate time, when we have introductions, Mr. Kahele will be presenting our lei of aloha.”

Senator Slom rose in support of the nominee as follows:

“The department faces a great many challenges. There are divisions. There are many issues. I find the nominee eminently qualified because of his background, his experience, his energy, and his attitude. And I know that he’ll be able to help solve these problems in a judicious and efficient manner, and therefore I lend my support. Thank you.”

Senator Solomon rose in response and said:

“Just on a commendation, I’d like to thank the minority leader for those words of encouragement. Thank you very much.”

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

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

At this time, Senator Galuteria introduced Chairperson Albert Alapaki Nahale-a, who was accompanied by his mother Connie, wife Kahele, daughters Hali’a and Kawehena, son Alapaki, brother Ron, sister-in-law Michelle, and niece Piliwailana.

At 11:44 a.m., the Senate stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The Senate reconvened at 11:54 a.m.

At this time, the Chair made the following announcement:

“Referrals and re-referrals are made in accordance with the referrals and re-referrals on the Order of the Day and on the Supplemental Order of the Day that may be distributed to your offices later this afternoon.”

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:56 a.m., on motion by Senator Espero, seconded by Senator Slom and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 8, 2011.