

THE
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
STATE OF HAWAII
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION OF 2023
JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

FIRST DAY

Monday, November 20, 2023

The Senate of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Second Special Session of 2023, was called to order at 11:02 a.m., by Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, President of the Senate, in accordance with the following Proclamation, which was read by the Clerk and was placed on file:

“Proclamation

November 17, 2023

I, Ronald D. Kouchi, President of the Senate of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, pursuant to the power vested in me by Section 10, Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, and at the written request of two-thirds of the members to which the Senate is entitled, do hereby convene the Senate in Special Session as sought in the petition at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, November 20, 2023, in the State Capitol Senate Chamber, for the purpose of carrying out its responsibilities established by Section 3, Article VI of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

/s/ Ronald D. Kouchi
RONALD D. KOUCHI
President of the Hawaii State Senate”

At this time, the Chair called upon the Honorable Mark E. Recktenwald, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii, to administer the oath of office to the Honorable Troy N. Hashimoto, who was appointed by the governor to represent Senate District 5 on November 9, 2023; the Chair also requested that the Honorable Troy N. Hashimoto join them at the rostrum.

At the rostrum, Chief Justice Recktenwald administered the oath of office to the newly appointed member of the Senate, the Honorable Troy N. Hashimoto.

The Chair made the following statement:

“Thank you, Chief Justice Recktenwald. At this time, the Senate would like to take a moment to make a special presentation.

“I have the honor of continuing the Senate’s tradition (and I always note that it was Senator Kim who came up with the idea, when she was president, to create the Senate pin) of presenting a special lapel pin to current and past senators. This pin is a symbol of our service in the Senate, and to the people of the state of Hawaii.

“Under Senate Rule 92, the Senate pin shall only be worn by current or past members of this body.”

Senator Hashimoto was presented with the Senate pin by Senate President Kouchi.

Senator Hashimoto then returned to his seat.

The Chair commented that Senator Hashimoto now had the distinction of being the youngest member of the Senate.

The Roll was called showing all Senators present, with the exception of Senators Kidani, Kim, Lee, Moriwaki, Shimabukuro, and Wakai who were excused.

At this time, Senator DeCoite introduced members of the leadership of Aloha United Way, an organization that, in partnership with dozens of agencies, advocates for policies to help Hawaii’s ALICE population to ensure families can thrive economically and continue to work and live in Hawaii. Seated in the gallery were Suzanne Skjold, Kayla Keehu-Alexander, Sunshine Kunia Smith, Aga Conboy, and Kaitlyn Duracher. Accompanying them was Daniel Cup Choy. Senator DeCoite then recognized the president and CFO of the Maui United Way chapter, Nicholas Winfrey. Senator DeCoite thanked the Aloha United Way ‘ohana for everything they do.

Senator Keohokalole noted the presence in the gallery of Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke; Honolulu Councilmember Tyler Dos Santos-Tam; former state representative Patrick Pihana Branco; Honolulu Councilmember Radiant Cordero; and state representatives Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chris Todd, Daniel Holt, Cedric Asuega Gates, Nadine K. Nakamura, Gregg Takayama, Sean Quinlan, Trish La Chica, and Jackson D. Sayama.

The Chair, in good humor, directed the Sergeant-at-Arms staff to immediately remove the representatives if any of them took out a tape measure and began measuring the furniture.

Senator Awa introduced guests from Kailua who were visiting from California. Seated in the gallery were Mayor Debbie Baker of La Palma, California; her mother; and her husband. Senator Awa noted that Mayor Baker’s father was a foreman who had worked on the construction of the Hawaii State Capitol, and that the family were in town celebrating his life.

Senator San Buenaventura introduced Judge Lisa M. Ginoza, chief judge of the Intermediate Court of Appeals and Hawaii Supreme Court justice appointee, who was present in the gallery.

Senator Hashimoto introduced his parents, Noel and Kathy Hashimoto, and cousin Melissa Hashimoto, who were seated in the gallery. Senator Hashimoto thanked his former colleagues from the state House of Representatives for their presence. Senator Hashimoto then welcomed friends from Maui who were present in the gallery: Marc Takamori, Marci Sato, Tyson Miyake, and Lianne Yoshida.

The Chair commented that Senate business would conclude quickly before asking the Sergeant-at-Arms staff, at that time, to escort Senator Hashimoto’s family and supporters to the floor for picture-taking.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The following messages from the Governor (Gov. Msg. Nos. 1 to 3) were read by the Clerk and were disposed of as follows:

Gov. Msg. No. 1, submitting for consideration and confirmation, the nomination of LISA M. GINOZA as Associate Justice of the State of Hawai'i Supreme Court, for a term of ten years, was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Gov. Msg. No. 2, submitting for consideration and confirmation, the nomination of VLADIMIR P. DEVENS as Associate Justice of the State of Hawai'i Supreme Court, for a term of ten years, was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Gov. Msg. No. 3, letter dated November 1, 2023, clarifying that Lisa M. Ginoza was nominated to replace Associate Justice Michael Wilson, and Vladimir P. Devens was nominated to replace Associate Justice Paula Nakayama, was placed on file.

At this time, Senator Rhoads announced that the Committee on Judiciary would be holding a decision-making meeting on the governor's messages at 11:30 a.m. that morning in Conference Room 016.

The Chair then made the following announcement:

"The deadline to file the standing committee reports on Gov. Msg. Nos. 1 and 2 is 4:30 p.m. today."

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

On motion by Senator Kanuha, seconded by Senator DeCoite and carried unanimously, the Clerk was authorized to receive standing committee reports on Gov. Msg. Nos. 1 and 2. In consequence thereof, and subsequent to its recessing at 11:14 a.m., the Senate took the following actions:

Senator Rhoads, for the Committee on Judiciary, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1) recommending that the Senate consent to the appointment of LISA M. GINOZA as Associate Justice of the State of Hawaii Supreme Court, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 1.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 1 and Gov. Msg. No. 1 was deferred until Tuesday, November 21, 2023.

Senator Rhoads, for the Committee on Judiciary, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2) recommending that the Senate consent to the appointment of VLADIMIR P. DEVENS as Associate Justice of the State of Hawaii Supreme Court, in accordance with Gov. Msg. No. 2.

In accordance with Senate Rule 37(6), action on Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2 and Gov. Msg. No. 2 was deferred until Tuesday, November 21, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:30 p.m., the Senate adjourned until 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, November 21, 2023.