Hawaiʻi Speech League
Congressional Debate
<u>October 25, 2025</u>

Docket

Hello Hawaiʻi Speech League Congressional Debaters and Coaches:

The following legislation is respectfully submitted for the Hawaiʻi Speech League's Tournament on October 25, 2025 at Maryknoll High School.

The student who authored the bill will have the right to the Authorship Speech. If they elect not to author their own bill, a representative from their school will have the first right of sponsorship. If no student wishes to sponsor, the debate will move to the first affirmative.

Direct questioning will be used. The PO will open the floor for questions following each speech. The PO will recognize questioners for cross-examination period of no more than 30 seconds. Questioners will be chosen according to a separate questioning recency.

Students may set any agenda of these items at the tournament with a majority vote. No outside legislation, or "day of" tournament legislation submissions will be accepted. Please direct all questions or concerns to Heather Muraoka at hmuraoka@iolani.org.

Primary Docket

Pg. #	Agenda	Legislation Title
3		*A Bill to Require American Civics Education for Public High School Graduation*
4		*A Bill to Provide Tax Deductions to Pet Owners*
5		*A Bill to Invest in Education for College Students to Endorse Being a Licensed Clinical Social Worker*
7		*A Bill to Eradicate the Drilling of Natural Gas and Oil in Educational Wildlife Reserves to Reduce Climate Change*

In the event that all legislation is debated, the chamber will set an agenda to debate the following reserve bills. Debate will begin with a 1st Affirmative Speech, no Authorships or Sponsorships. These bills will not be debated until all primary legislation has been exhausted.

Reserve Docket

Pg. #	Agenda	Legislation Title
9		*A Bill to Grant Puerto Rico Statehood*
10		*A Bill Imposing Fees on Remittance Transfers to Fund Immigration Reform*
11		*The AI Accountability and Academic Integrity Act*
12		*The New Infrastructure for Americans Act (NIFA)*
13		*A Bill to Fund Private Space Exploration Startups*
14		*A Bill to Remove the Tax Exemption of Religious Organizations*
15		*A Bill to Restrict International Ownership of United States Farmland*
16		*A Resolution to Lower the Voting Age to 16*
17		*A Resolution to Rejoin and Strengthen the JCPOA to Prevent Nuclear Proliferation*
18		*A Bill to Abolish the Use of Bail in the Court System*
19		*A Bill to Establish a National Firearm Registry*

B/R 1

A Bill to Require American Civics Education for Public High School Graduation

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. All students attending public high schools within the United States shall be required to complete a one-semester course in Civics Education as a condition for receiving a high school diploma.

SECTION 2. For the purposes of this legislation, Civics Education shall be defined as an academic course of study focused on the structure and function of the United States government, the Constitution, civil rights and responsibilities, voting and civic participation, and the processes of local, state, and federal governance.

SECTION 3. The U.S. Department of Education shall oversee implementation and provide guidance and funding to assist state education agencies.

A. The Department of Education shall allocate federal grants from its budget to states for teacher training, curriculum development, and instructional materials related to civics education. Funding shall be distributed with priority given to under-resourced districts and rural schools. No student shall be denied a diploma due to the failure of their school district to offer a qualifying civics course.

B. States shall retain full authority to design curriculum content, teaching methods, and assessments, provided that each course meets the national objectives outlined in Section 2.

C. States may integrate the civics requirement into existing U.S. Government or History courses, or establish it as a standalone semester course.

SECTION 4. This law shall be enacted on July 4, 2028

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Legislator Cole. 🐥

B/R 2

A Bill to Provide Tax Deductions to Pet Owners

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to promote animal welfare and ease the financial burden of responsible pet ownership by allowing tax deductions for qualifying pet-related expenses.

SECTION 2. For the purpose of this Act :

- "Pet" refers to a domesticated animal legally owned and is kept for companionship and pleasure rather than for commercial purposes (e.g livestock)
- "Qualifying expenses" include veterinary care, vaccinations, microchipping, adoption fees, pet health insurance premiums and other expenses approved by APHIS; up to an annual limit of $1,000 per household.
- "Tax deduction" allows taxpayers to subtract certain deductible expenses and other items to reduce how much of their income is taxed, which reduces how much tax they owe.

SECTION 3. The following governmental/official agencies shall be responsible for the implementation and oversight of this Act :

- The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) shall create clear documentation and verification guidelines for pet-related deductions in tax.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and specifically the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) shall coordinate with the IRS to guarantee compliance with animal welfare and ownership standards.

SECTION 4. To balance potential revenue loss resulting from this bill, a 0.25% excise tax shall be imposed on luxury pet goods and accessories exceeding $150 in retail value, including but not limited to designer collars, clothing, and custom items. Revenue from this excise tax shall be allocated to cover the costs associated with the deductions passed under this bill.

SECTION 5. This legislation shall take effect on January 1st, 2027. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Legislator Chen

B/R 3

A Bill to Invest in Education for College Stuents to Endorse Being a Licensed Clinical Social Worker

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

2 **SECTION 1:**

3) The federal government will provide $300 million of federal aid in order to provide for the student education in college who want to pursue being a physiologist. After graduating they must provide a minimum of 2 years as a clinical social worker for the public enforcement.

4) This will enforce public safety, allow for public enforcement to perform to a higher standard, and it will build trust within a community.

5 **SECTION 2:** Define ambiguous terms here. If there is no need, jump right to the next part.

6a) licensed clinical social worker - a master's degree in social work and is qualified to provide psychotherapy and other counseling services for mental, emotional, and behavioral issues

6b) good spirit - if it was done with the intention to help the individual and done with discretion and honesty

6c) public enforcement - anyone who is a first responder, and is/have been put in life or death situations

7 **SECTION 3:**

8) The federal government is going to be responsible for the financial aspect, in respect to the different funds to be pulled from. The enforcement is a state responsibility, to make sure that these students, after graduating, are consulting those who need it. This entails that the funds be given to students who apply, and sign a contract, agreeing to providing care to public enforcement for the first two years after their

9) The money would be provided to universities, and it will be up to the universities to determine who to nominate for this. Those who show interest will be approached with the contract, and if they choose to sign it, there will be further discussion to make it legally binding. If not a new nominee will simply be taken into consideration

10) The sessions will occur once every 3 months, this is to allow the licensed clinical social worker time to get around to every department of fire fighters, emergency personnel, police officers, etc.

11.) There is a law that makes it mandatory for public enforcement officers to receive mandatory care through the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) in some states, however this bill would require every state to follow this procedure.

12.) Said phycologists are to keep notes. As it is a violation of confidentiality if they were to write reports for every person, it is only a requirement to send a report or a notice to the state if the individual is mentally unstable. Allows therapists of officers to send a report if they are wary of that individual being put in the field. And this will not lead to any charges against a breach of doctor patient confidentiality, if done in good spirit.

14.) This would overall cut lost money from the federal government. Due to the numerous individuals not in the right mind performing civic enforcement, the government gets sued many times. However if each individual were to be evaluated based on the idea that they will be put in high pressure situations, and their morals need to be aligned, there would be less prosecution.

16 **SECTION 4:**

17) ~$230 million will be put towards student aid grants. ~70 million will be put in additional funds.

18) There are different acts that would allow for this money to be pulled from them. Including funding from legislation that is made specifically for funding like, The Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act of 2017 (LEMHWA) or Public Safety Officer Support Act of 2022

19) Each student is to receive $20,000 ($6,660 every year for a total education of 2-3 years) given in annual increments

19 **SECTION 5:**

20) The student will be put in $300 debt for every month that they are not actively working to aid the public enforcement for their set 2 years.

SECTION 6: Effective date FY 2026

Submitted by Legislator Emma Garcia

B/R 4

A Bill to Eradicate the Drilling of Natural Gas and Oil in National Wildlife Reserves to Reduced Climate Change

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Permanently stopping the drilling of natural gas and oil in wildlife reserves. This includes national parks, national forests, and wildlife refuges.

SECTION 2.

1. Natural Gas is defined as flammable gas that occurs naturally underground, often in association with petroleum, and used as fuel.
2. Oil is defined as a liquid derived from petroleum used in fuel and lubricant.

SECTION 3. The Department of the Interior will handle and carry out this bill.

A. All companies will be required to stop drilling of natural gas and oil in wildlife reserves, including national parks, national forests, and wildlife refuges.

B. The Department of the Interior will be required to make routine checks on all National wildlife reserves and monitor any drastic changes to natural gas and oil levels. The Department will get to choose how often they will make these checks, but it is required to happen at least twice a year.

C. Violators of this law will face a monetary charge fit to the amount of damage done to said national wildlife reserves. The minimum monetary charge for violation of this law is ten million dollars.

D. Violators of this law will be required to stop all drilling of natural gas and oil and must hand over any oil and gas drilling sites to the Department of the Interior, who are then responsible for safely deconstructing and restoring the protected land.

SECTION 4. This law shall be enacted on January 1st, 2026.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced for Congressional Debate by Legislator Hayashi.

Reserve Docket

B/R 5

A Bill to Grant Puerto Rico Statehood

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Puerto Rico shall be admitted into the United States as a state and be granted all rights, privileges, and responsibilities equal to the other states.

SECTION 2. The State of Puerto Rico shall consist of all islands and territorial waters currently under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

SECTION 3. Upon statehood, Puerto Rico shall receive federal representation as follows:

A. Two seats in the United States Senate.

B. Representatives in the United States House determined by the latest census data.

C. Electors based on its congressional representation.

SECTION 4. The Department of the Interior (DOI) shall oversee implementation of this legislation:

A. All Puerto Rican residents shall be subject to federal income tax laws, and federal funding will be allocated for economic adjustments.

B. United States federal laws will take full effect in Puerto Rico, overriding any conflicting local laws.

C. Congress shall approve the state constitution proposed by the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico.

SECTION 5. This legislation shall immediately go into effect.

SECTION 6. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced by the NSDA

B/R 6

A Bill Imposing Fees on Remittance Transfers to Fund Immigration Reform

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. A fee equal to 10 percent of the United States dollar amount shall be imposed on the sender of all remittance transfers.

SECTION 2. "Remittance transfer" shall be defined as any electronic transfer of funds from a sender to a designated recipient by a remittance transfer provider.

SECTION 3. The Department of Treasury, in conjunction with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and remittance transfer providers, shall develop and make available a system for remittance transfer providers to submit the remittance transfer fees collected in accordance with section 3344(b) of title 31, United States Code. The funds collected shall be allocated to the annual budget of the Department of Homeland Security to fund immigration reform, which includes but is not limited to border security and addressing court backlog.

SECTION 4. This legislation will go into effect on January 1, 2026.

SECTION 5. All other laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced by the NSDA

B/R 7

The AI Accountability and Academic Integrity Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools in educational settings shall be prohibited for students below the high school level. High schools shall be required to implement a mandatory AI ethics course, and the Department of Education shall develop AI-assisted cheating detection software with age verification measures.

SECTION 2. 'AI tools' shall be defined as any software or application that generates, modifies, or completes academic work without human input. 'Age verification measures' shall refer to government-approved digital verification systems ensuring individuals under 14 cannot access AI tools for educational use.

SECTION 3. The U.S. Department of Education shall oversee the enforcement of this policy.

A. Schools failing to comply with the AI ban or ethics course mandate shall be subject to federal funding reductions.

B. The Department of Education shall receive $500 million to distribute grants to support high schools in implementing AI ethics courses and detection software.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2026.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced by the NSDA

B/R 8

The New Infrastructure for Americans Act (NIFA)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States shall construct and maintain a high-speed rail system connected through major metropolitan areas in the Midwestern United States. The project will be developed in collaboration with Amtrak.

SECTION 2. The following are key terms in this legislation:

A. High-Speed Rail System shall be defined as a network of tracks for passenger trains that travel at least 155 miles per hour (or 250 kilometers per hour).

B. Midwestern United States shall be defined as the 12 states creating the North Central United States as listed by the U.S. Census Bureau.

C. Major Metropolitan Areas will include the following: Chicago (IL), Detroit (MI), Minneapolis (MN), Milwaukee (WI), Cincinnati (OH), Columbus (OH), Kansas City (MO), Omaha (NE), Des Moines (IA), St. Louis (MO), Indianapolis (IN), Lincoln (NE), Cleveland (OH), Madison (WI).

SECTION 3. The Department of Transportation (DOT) will plan and propose the project with estimated costs of production.

A. Funding for the railway will be reallocated over eight years from the Department of Defense.

B. The project plan will be reviewed by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

SECTION 4. This legislation will go into effect 90 days after passage.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced by the NSDA.

B/R 9

A Bill to Fund Private Space Exploration Startups

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Congress shall allocate financial resources from the space exploration budget to fund private space exploration startups to increase scientific research and innovation.

SECTION 2. "Private Space Exploration Startups" will be defined as non-governmental or privately-owned entities focused on developing and/or offering equipment and services geared towards spaceflight.

SECTION 3. The House Committee of Science, Space, and Technology will oversee the implementation of this bill.

A. The initial budget will be $5 billion, taken from the $25.4 billion given to NASA, for the first 5 years. All allocated funds shall be dispersed by January 1, 2027.

B. The House Committee of Science, Space, and Technology will only oversee funding, safety, and logistics of the legislation, but the committee will not have jurisdiction over the works private companies choose to focus on.

C. The Committee will begin meeting to lay out logistics for this legislation on January 1, 2026- one year before funds will be dispersed.

D. Private Space Exploration Startups may apply for grants. Companies applying for grants must certify that all funding will be used for development and research.

E. Every two years, the committee will reevaluate companies given grants, making sure that startups have efficiently used funds and are on track to sufficient development.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2026.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced by the NSDA.

B/R 10

A Bill to Remove the Tax Exemption of Religious Organizations

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. Religious organizations receiving tax exemption under Internal Revenue Service (IRS) code 501(c)(3) that receive revenue at or equal to $300,000 in a single fiscal year are declared subject to federal income tax under section 11. Following bill integration, it will be mandated that all affected religious organizations request a charitable deduction from the IRS, with no exception toward integrated auxiliary associations or associations of churches. Religious organizations will be automatically considered taxable and are required to pay federal income tax under section 11.

SECTION 2. "Religious organizations" shall be defined as: churches, mosques, synagogues, temples, nondenominational ministries, interdenominational and ecumenical organizations, mission organizations, faith-based social agencies, and other entities whose principal purpose is the study, practice, or advancement of religion.

SECTION 3. The IRS will be responsible for implementation of this legislation.

SECTION 4. This legislation will go into effect on January 1, 2027.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced by the NSDA

B/R 11

A Bill to Restrict International Ownership of US Farmland

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. International entities and non-U.S. citizens shall be prohibited from purchasing agricultural land in the United States.

SECTION 2. "International entity" shall be defined as any corporation, business, or government headquartered outside of the United States. "Agricultural land" refers to farmland used to produce crops, livestock, and similar commodities.

SECTION 3. The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Homeland Security shall oversee enforcement, with penalties including mandatory land divestment and fines up to $10 million per violation.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2026.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced by the NSDA.

B/R 12

A Resolution to Amend the Constitution to Lower the Voting Age to 16

RESOLVED, By two-thirds of the Congress here assembled, that the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states within seven years from the date of its submission by the Congress:

ARTICLE --

SECTION 1. The right of citizens of the United States, who are sixteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

SECTION 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Introduced by the NSDA.

B/R 13

A Resolution to Rejoin and Strengthen the JCOPA to Prevent Nuclear Proliferation

WHEREAS, Iran's nuclear program has significantly expanded since the United States withdrew from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in 2018; and

WHEREAS, The agreement's absence increases the risk of Iran acquiring nuclear weapons, which could threaten global and regional security; and

WHEREAS, The lack of a strong agreement has led to increased uranium enrichment levels, the use of advanced centrifuges, and the heightened risk of nuclear weapon development, which has escalated regional and global tensions; and

WHEREAS, Restoring and strengthening the JCPOA with stronger provisions could help prevent nuclear missile development; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Congress here assembled calls for the United States to rejoin the JCPOA with provisions to extend nuclear restrictions to ensure long-term compliance, expand verification mechanisms (such as on-site inspections, constant monitoring of nuclear sites, and access to suspected undeclared facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency), address regional security concerns by limiting the development and testing of missiles capable of delivering nuclear warheads; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That Congress encourages collaboration with other allied nations to negotiate additional agreements to curtail ballistic missile developments and support of proxy groups.

Introduced by the NSDA.

B/R 14

A Bill to Abolish the Use of Bail in the Court System

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS ASSEMBLED HERE THAT:

SECTION 1. The United States hereby abolishes the use of bail in state and federal courts due to its unfair and subjective nature. Instead, the alternative of Release on Own Recognizance (ROR) will be implemented.

SECTION 2. Bail is defined as money owed to the court as an incentive to appear before the court.

SECTION 3. ROR is a release from custody, without posting bail, with the promise to appear before the court as required.

SECTION 4. The Department of Justice (DOJ) will oversee the implementation of this legislation.

SECTION 5. This legislation will be put into effect immediately after passage.

SECTION 6. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced by the NSDA.

B/R 15

A Bill to Establish a National Firearm Registry

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

SECTION 1. The National Firearm Registry shall be established to track the ownership, sale and transfer of all firearms within the United States. All firearm owners shall be required to register their weapons with the federal government.

SECTION 2. Firearm shall be defined as any weapon that expels a projectile by means of an explosive force, including but not limited to handguns, rifles, and shotguns. The National Firearm Registry shall be defined as a secure federal database maintained by the government to record firearm ownership and transactions.

SECTION 3. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) shall oversee the implementation and enforcement of this legislation.

A. All firearm owners must register their firearms within 180 days of the passage of this law, providing details such as make, model, serial number, and owner identification.

B. Any transfer of firearm ownership, including private sales, must be reported and registered within 30 days of transaction.

C. Failure to register a firearm or report a transaction shall result in fines and mandatory firearm safety and compliance training.

SECTION 4. This legislation will take effect on January 1, 2026.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

Introduced by the NSDA.

Congressional Debate
Precedence/Recency Table & Fractions of Parliamentary Voting

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
1						
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# Votes Cast	Majority	Two-Thirds	One-Third
12	7	8	4
13	7	9	5
14	8	10	5
15	8	10	5
16	9	11	6
17	9	12	6
18	10	13	7
19	10	13	7
20	11	14	7

Seating Chart Session 1

BACK OF ROOM				
		JUDGE	JUDGE	
NOLTA	CHARRON	FELICIANO	GARCIA	
7	1	7	10	
PALAMOS	KEKAULIKE	LU	HAMILTON-LOWE	RICHARDS
3	7	10	1	2
HAGE	MATAHUM	LAU JONG	CHING	COLE
1	7	1	7	1
CHEN	HARRIS	WARDLAW	HAYASHI	VAN WINKLE
10	2	7	1	3
		PO	PARLIAMENTARIAN	
FRONT OF ROOM				

Seating Chart Session 2

BACK OF ROOM				
		JUDGE	JUDGE	
HAGE	HARRIS	WARDLAW	COLE	
1	2	7	1	
CHING	VAN WINKLE	HAMILTON-LOWE	CHEN	LAU JONG
7	3	1	10	1
LU	HAYASHI	KEKAULIKE	RICHARDS	FELICIANO
10	1	7	2	7
NOLTA	GARCIA	CHARRON	PALAMOS	MATAHUM
7	10	1	3	7
		PO	PARLIAMENTARIAN	
FRONT OF ROOM				