

**OPENING DAY REMARKS  
2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
SCOTT SAIKI  
MAJORITY LEADER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE  
JANUARY 21, 2015**

Mr. Speaker,

I have three things to say today.

First, on behalf of all the members, thank you to the residents of our respective communities who have given us the privilege to represent them in the Legislature.

Second, I want to briefly explain what I believe the role of the House Democratic Caucus is this year. More than ever, we need to be a check on the system, as well as a constructive problem solver. This is important because the challenges before us impact the daily well-being of hundreds of thousands of residents.

We know what those challenges are: healthy residents, more local food, a reliable public utility system, a secure prison system, a sophisticated University and affordable housing, to name a few.

We take these matters seriously and will work purposefully with the Governor, the Senate, the counties and all stakeholders to resolve them.

Third, we need to see more public involvement at the Legislature. I will admit that the confusing legislative sausage-making process does not help matters. So I will try to use an analogy to explain the legislative process in more basic terms.

If you look around, the House Chamber resembles an orchestra pit. This orchestra consists of 51 members. The members are diverse, but each has a role to play within the larger body.

The Speaker is the conductor. And it is the Speaker's responsibility to guide this orchestra so that at the end of the day, there is a melody that can be enjoyed by all residents statewide.

Having said this, I know that there are some who continue to experience great fear whenever the Legislature begins its work.

I know that some will say that the session is too long, which results in mischief. Our session consists of 60 legislative days. When you add in weekends and holidays, the length of our session is equivalent to that of the NFL regular season – which is something that many believe ends too quickly.

Mr. Speaker, the challenges ahead of us are significant. But it only means that we need to raise the bar and do great things. People want and deserve to be happy. We will use the legislative process to achieve this goal.

Thank you Mr. Speaker and members.

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