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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FOOD PRICING.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds Hawaii ranks as one of  
2 the highest in the nation for cost of living. According to data  
3 from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the average Hawaii  
4 resident spends \$58,115 per year on personal consumption  
5 expenditures. Some of the leading expenses are housing,  
6 utilities, health care, and groceries. The Bureau of Economic  
7 Analysis estimates that Hawaii's per capita food cost is \$5,507  
8 a year. For groceries, the average monthly expenses for one  
9 person are \$459 or \$1,836 for a family of four. Hawaii  
10 residents pay a much greater price for groceries in comparison  
11 to the rest of the nation, due to our reliance on importing  
12 goods and our limited agriculture production. Therefore, due to  
13 Hawaii's limited access this leaves many residents susceptible  
14 to price gouging on food products.

15 The purpose of this Act is to study price gouging  
16 regulations enacted in other states and provide policy  
17 recommendations.



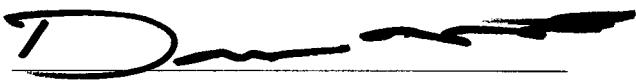
1 SECTION 2. (a) The legislative reference bureau shall  
2 study and submit a report on the approaches employed by other  
3 states regarding the following food pricing subjects:

4 (1) Government regulation and oversight to combat grocery  
5 price gouging;  
6 (2) Price analysis of groceries in Hawaii compared to the  
7 rest of the nation over the past decade; and  
8 (3) Identify the contributing factors of price gouging of  
9 groceries in Hawaii.

10 (b) The legislative reference bureau shall submit a report  
11 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
12 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior  
13 to the convening of the regular session of 2027.

14 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: 

JAN 26 2026



# H.B. NO. 2176

**Report Title:**

Price Gouging; LRB Study; Cost of Living; Groceries; Report

**Description:**

Requires the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study on how other states regulate price gouging of food products.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

