

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3787

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 10 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1518
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means, to which was referred H.B. No. 1518, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) By February 28, 2027, require the Department of Human Services, upon obtaining a federal waiver, to establish a pre-release Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) application process for inmates nearing release; and
- (2) Allow all individuals convicted of an offense involving the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance to apply for SNAP benefits, regardless of treatment status.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission; Department of Research and Development of the County of Hawaii; one member of the Hawaii County Council; Hawai'i Public Health Institute; Healthy Eating, Active Living Coalition; Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition;



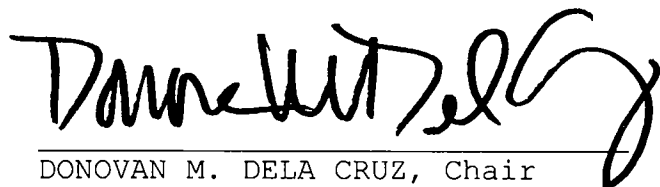
Community Alliance on Prisons; Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice; Catholic Charities Hawai'i; ACLU Hawai'i; League of Women Voters of Hawaii; Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!; Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center; Hawaii Food Industry Association; Aloha Independent Living Hawaii; Hawai'i Hunger Action Network; AlohaCare; Hawai'i Foodbank; Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action; and fifty individuals.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services.

Your Committees find that individuals leaving correctional facilities face an immediate period of vulnerability, often with limited financial resources, unstable housing, and barriers to employment. Research demonstrates that access to basic necessities like food, housing, and income reduces the likelihood of recidivism. By ensuring timely access to SNAP benefits at the point of release, this measure provides a critical stabilizing resource that supports lawful reintegration and reduces the pressure to return to survival-based criminal activity.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1518, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and recommend that it pass Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Judiciary and
Ways and Means,


DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair


KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB 1518 HD1 SD1	Committee Referral: HHS, JDC/WAM	Date: 9/8/26
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The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
 If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312 Pass, with amendments 2311 Hold 2310 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye ✓	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	5	—	—	—

Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted

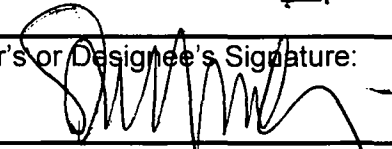
Chair's or Designee's Signature:


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 File with Committee Report Committee Drafting Agency

***Only one measure per Record of Votes**

The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB1518 HD1, JDI	Committee Referral: HHS, JDC/WAM	Date: 04/08/2026		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (C)	X			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y. (VC)	X			
DECOITE, Lynn	X			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	X			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	X			
INOUYE, Lorraine R.	X			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	X			
KIDANI, Michelle N.	X			
KIM, Donna Mercado	X			
LEE, Chris	X			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim"	X			
WAKAI, Glenn	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt	X			
TOTAL	13	0	0	0
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
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*Only one measure per Record of Votes