

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 05 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1859
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Labor, to which was referred H.B. No. 1859
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require the Workforce Development Council to recommend to the Governor a comprehensive statewide workforce strategy for inclusion in the State Unified Plan, and to facilitate the alignment of state departments' and agencies' workforce development efforts to achieve the State Unified Plan and the statewide workforce strategy.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the University of Hawai'i System; Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women; Office of Economic Revitalization of the City and County of Honolulu; Hawai'i Workforce Funders Collaborative; HawaiiKidsCAN; Aloha United Way; Chamber of Commerce Hawaii; Holomua Collaborative; Title Guaranty of Hawai'i; aio Family of Companies; and two individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services and Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

Your Committee finds that Hawaii faces widening economic pressures, including the high cost of living, outmigration of



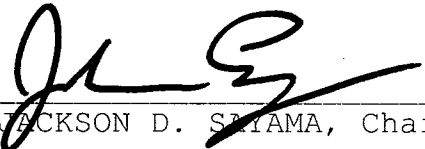
working residents, and limited long-term career pathways for youth, which weaken the State's overall talent pipeline. Your Committee further finds that despite existing efforts across agencies and sectors, Hawaii lacks a unified long-term workforce strategy that aligns resources, data, and planning toward a common statewide goal. This measure addresses these challenges by requiring the Workforce Development Council to develop a comprehensive statewide workforce strategy and coordinate interagency alignment, ensuring a cohesive approach to building a resilient and economically vibrant workforce.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Labor that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1859, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1859, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Economic Development & Technology.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Labor,


JACKSON D. SHIMAMA, Chair



HSCR 18-26

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1859		Committee Referral: LAB, ECO, FIN		Date:
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
LAB Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. SAYAMA, Jackson D. (C)	X			
2. LEE, Mike (VC)	X			
3. GARRETT, Andrew Takuya	X			
4. KAPELA, Jeanne	X			
5. KONG, Sam Satoru	X			
6. REYES ODA, Julie	X			
TOTAL (6)	6			
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				