

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 12 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2138  
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 Economic Development & Technology, to which was referred H.B. No. 2138 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish a Hilo-Kona Transportation Pilot Program within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to study, plan, evaluate, implement, and trial transportation routes and services connecting Hilo and Kona.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Research and Development for the County of Hawai'i; Hawaii Transportation Association; and two individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.

Your Committee finds that residents and visitors frequently travel between East Hawaii and West Hawaii, particularly between Hilo and Kona, for employment, education, medical services, commerce, and tourism. However, limited access to efficient, reliable, and affordable transportation options has created barriers to economic activity, workforce mobility, and access to essential services. Your Committee further finds that a pilot program that includes a coordinated evaluation of transportation



solutions, including demand-response transit, route expansions, and multimodal corridor improvements, will strengthen interregional connectivity, support economic growth, and help improve the transportation system on Hawaii Island.

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 the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Economic Development & Technology that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2138, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2138, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Transportation.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Economic  
Development & Technology,



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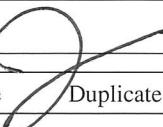
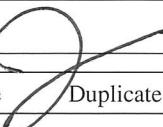
GREGGOR ILAGAN, Chair



State of Hawaii  
 House of Representatives  
 The Thirty-third Legislature

HSR 257-26

Record of Votes of the Committee on Economic Development & Technology

Bill/Resolution No.:	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 2138	ECD, TRN, FIN	2/11/26		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <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)				
ECD Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. ILAGAN, Gregg (C)	/			
2. HUSSEY, Ikaika (VC)	/			
3. HOLT, Daniel	/			
4. TAM, Adrian K.	/			
5. TEMPLO, Shirley Ann	/			
6. YAMASHITA, Kyle T.	/			
7. GEDEON, Joe	/			
TOTAL (7)	7	—	—	—
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <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: _____ 				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee  Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office         Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				