

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,



GREGGOR ILAGAN, Chair

HSCR 257-26

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 2138		Committee Referral: ECD, TRN, FIN		Date: 2/11/26
<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)				
ECD Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. ILAGAN, Greggor (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	-	-	-
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				