

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 11 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2159  
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 Higher Education, to which was referred  
H.B. No. 2159 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish and appropriate  
funds for additional positions in the University of Hawaii to  
address the State's health care workforce shortage.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the University of Hawai'i System; Hawaii Medical Association;  
Hawaii Primary Care Association; Chamber of Commerce Hawaii;  
Navian Hawaii; and one individual.

Your Committee finds that severe shortages in the health  
profession disciplines and most medical specialties have severely  
limited access to care, particularly in rural and underserved  
areas, impacting certain minorities and vulnerable persons. Your  
Committee believes that this measure, which establishes additional  
clinical faculty positions at various colleges within the  
University of Hawaii System, will strengthen the ability of the  
University of Hawaii to address critical workforce shortages by  
filling key educational, training, and clinical-translational  
research roles.



Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the appropriation and position counts to unspecified amounts;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) 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 Higher Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2159, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2159, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Health.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Higher Education,

  
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ANDREW TARUYA GARRETT, Chair



State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Thirty-third Legislature

**HSC R 136-26**

**Record of Votes of the Committee on Higher Education**

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> <b>HB2159</b>	<b>Committee Referral:</b> <b>HED, HLT, FIN</b>	<b>Date:</b> <b>2-6-2026</b>		
<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)				
HED Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. GARRETT, Andrew Takuya (C)	✓			
2. AMATO, Terez (VC)	✓			
3. EVSLIN, Luke A.	✓			
4. KAPELA, Jeanne	✓			
5. KILA, Darius K.	✓			
6. LA CHICA, Trish	✓			
7. OLDS, Ikaika	✓			
8. WOODSON, Justin H.	✓			
9. MURAOKA, Christopher L.	✓			
10. SOUZA, Kanani	✓			
<b>TOTAL (10)</b>	<b>10</b>			
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> </div>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee      Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office      Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				