

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 11, 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2171
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. 2171 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to authorize the University of Hawaii to engage in enterprise-related activities on its campuses statewide and exempt those activities from county zoning ordinances, land use restrictions, and county-level land use approvals.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the University of Hawai'i System.

Your Committee finds that hands-on, real-world experience is a critical component of higher education, particularly for students who are planning to enter priority workforce sectors such as hospitality, agriculture, culinary arts, and business management. Your Committee further finds that because instructional facilities such as teaching kitchens, agricultural production sites, and retail laboratories can resemble commercial operations, the University's campuses often face local zoning and permitting barriers that are designed for private business rather than educational institutions. This measure is intended to promote the University's educational mission by clarifying that



these enterprise-related activities may proceed on lands controlled by the University regardless of any county zoning or land use ordinance when a clear educational nexus exists.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Removing the requirement that revenues generated be retained by the University of Hawaii program operating the activity, rather than the University of Hawaii as a whole;
- (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. 2171, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2171, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Water & Land.

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



ANDREW TANUYA GARRETT, Chair



HSCR 131-26

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|---|---|--------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Bill/Resolution No.: HB2171 | Committee Referral: HED, WAL, FIN | Date: 2-6-2026 | | |
| <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) | | | | |
| 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 | ✓ | | | |
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| TOTAL (10) | 10 | | | |
| 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 | | | | |