

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,



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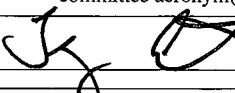
ANDREW TANUYA GARRETT, Chair



State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Thirty-third Legislature

**HSCR 131-26**

Record of Votes of the Committee on Higher Education

Bill/Resolution No.:	Committee Referral:	Date:		
<b>HB2171</b>	<b>HED, WAL, FIN</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. 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