

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 12 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2185  
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 Education, to which was referred H.B. No. 2185 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SPORTS OFFICIALS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Authorize the Attorney General to represent sports officials in civil proceedings if the sports official has been assaulted or threatened in the course of legally discharging their sports official duties;
- (2) Include intentional bodily injury of a sports official engaged in the lawful discharge of the sports official's duties in the offense of assault in the first degree;
- (3) Clarify that a sports official includes a school administrator or league administrator; and
- (4) Clarify that a sports official's duties cover sports events at public schools and private schools.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Education; State Public Charter School Commission; Hawaii Association of Independent Schools; Hawai'i



State Teachers Association; Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO; Hawaii High School Athletic Association; Hawaii State Basketball Officials Association; and eight individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Office of the Public Defender. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of the Attorney General.

Your Committee finds that athletics serve as an extension of the classroom, where students learn critical life skills and sportsmanship. These lessons are undermined when sports officials, who are responsible for maintaining the integrity of the game, are subjected to threats or physical violence. Your Committee believes that elevating the legal protections and providing state-backed legal representation for sports officials will deter violence and protect the individuals who help make interscholastic athletics possible.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

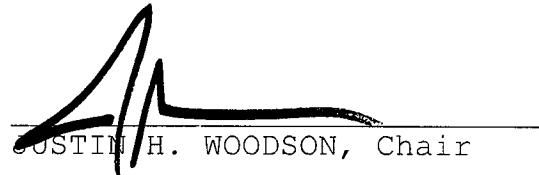
- (1) Deleting language that would have authorized the Attorney General to represent sports officials in civil proceedings if the sports official has been assaulted or threatened in the course of legally discharging their sports official duties and to receive a fee or reward for such representation;
- (2) Inserting language authorizing the Department of Education to retain private counsel to represent a sports official in certain civil proceedings to obtain a temporary restraining order in response to incidences where the sports official has been assaulted or threatened in the course of legally discharging their sports official duties;
- (3) Clarifying that a sports official includes an athletic director;
- (4) Specifying that intentional substantial bodily injury of a sports official engaged in the lawful discharge of the sports official's duties is included in the offense of assault in the first degree;



- (5) Restoring language that classifies intentional bodily injury of a sports official engaged in the lawful discharge of the sports official's duties is included in the offense of assault in the second degree;
- (6) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000; and
- (7) 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 Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2185, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2185, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

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



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JUSTIN H. WOODSON, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Education

Bill/Resolution No.:	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB2185	EDN, JHA, FIN	2/5/26		
<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)				
EDN Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. WOODSON, Justin H. (C)				
2. LA CHICA, Trish (VC)				
3. AMATO, Terez				
4. EVSLIN, Luke A.				
5. GARRETT, Andrew Takuya				
6. KAPELA, Jeanne				
7. KILA, Darius K.				
8. OLDS, Ikaika				
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	