

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 05

, 2026

RE: H.B. No. 218  
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 Health, to which was referred H.B. No. 218  
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOSPITALS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require any hospital  
licensed by the Department of Health that has an operating room to  
adopt and implement policies to prevent exposure to surgical  
smoke.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses and three  
individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure  
from the Department of Health and Healthcare Association of  
Hawaii.

Your Committee finds that surgical smoke, a byproduct of  
surgical procedures that use lasers or other electrosurgical  
devices, contains hazardous chemicals such as benzene and  
formaldehyde. Your Committee further finds that exposure to  
surgical smoke presents a significant health risk for health care  
professionals conducting a surgical operation and to the patients  
receiving the operation. This measure is intended to reduce the  
potential health risks posed by surgical smoke by requiring all  
licensed hospitals in the State that have an operating room to



adopt and implement polices to control and evacuate surgical smoke.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Authorizing a licensed hospital to use a smoke evacuation system or other appropriate measure to address surgical smoke;
- (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 Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 218, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 218, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
GREG TAKAMAMA, Chair



HSR 31-26

Bill/Resolution No.: <b>HB218</b>	Committee Referral: <b>HLT, LPC, FIN</b>	Date: <b>Jan 30, 2020</b>
<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)	

  

HLT Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. TAKAYAMA, Gregg (C)	✓			
2. KEOHOKAPU-LEE LOY, Sue L. (VC)	✓			
3. AMATO, Terez	✓			
4. HARTSFIELD, Daisy	✓			
5. MARTEN, Lisa	✓			
6. OLDS, Ikaika	✓			
7. TAKENOUCI, Jenna	✓			
8. ALCOS III, David	✓			
9. GARCIA, Diamond	✓			
TOTAL (9)	9			

  

The recommendation is:     ☒ Adopted                  ☐ Not Adopted

If joint referral, \_\_\_\_\_ did not support recommendation.  
committee acronym(s)

Vice Chair's or designee's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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