

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 12, 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2369
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 Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 2369 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PURCHASE OF SERVICE CONTRACTS BY THE JUDICIARY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to support the continued delivery of essential services provided by community-based organizations in fulfillment of the Judiciary's statutory mandate to individuals, families, and communities in the State by:

- (1) Beginning January 1, 2027, requiring contracts for services awarded by the Judiciary to community-based organizations to include protections against inflation; and
- (2) Appropriating funds to the Judiciary to increase the contract price in existing contracts for services provided by community-based organizations.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of the Public Defender; Ku'ikahi Mediation Center; Hale Kipa; The Hawai'i True Cost Coalition; Hawai'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations; Catholic Charities Hawai'i; Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition; Parents and Children Together; Hina



Mauka; Partners in Development Foundation; Child and Family Service; Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii; Aloha United Way; and five individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Judiciary.

Your Committee finds that the Judiciary relies on community-based organizations to provide essential services that support access to justice and assist individuals and families involved in the court system. Your Committee further finds that rising operational costs and stagnant contract rates have placed significant strain on these organizations, threatening the continuity and effectiveness of critical services statewide. Requiring inflationary adjustments in future contracts and appropriating funds to increase rates under existing contracts will help ensure the sustainability of these services and support the Judiciary's ability to fulfill its statutory mandate.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Finance, should it deliberate on this measure, to determine the means of implementing this measure and to work with the Judiciary to determine the amount for the appropriation in its deliberations.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2369, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2369, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary &
Hawaiian Affairs,



DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair



State of Hawaii
 House of Representatives
 The Thirty-third Legislature

HSCR 233-26

Record of Votes of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Bill/Resolution No.:	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 2369	JHA, FIN	2/4/2026		
<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)				
JHA Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. TARNAS, David A. (C)	✓			
2. POEPOE, Mahina (VC)	✓			
3. BELATTI, Della Au	✓			
4. COCHRAN, Elle	✓			
5. HASHEM, Mark J.	✓			
6. KAHALOA, Kirstin	✓			
7. SAYAMA, Jackson D.	✓			
8. TAKAYAMA, Gregg	✓			
9. GARCIA, Diamond		✓		
10. SHIMIZU, Garner M.	✓			
TOTAL (10)	9	1	0	0
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