

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **2126**

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 09 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2518

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 2518 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ASSAULT AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Include recklessly causing serious or substantial bodily injury to a law enforcement officer engaged in the performance of duty as an assault against a law enforcement officer in the first degree; and
- (2) Increase penalties for the offense of assault against a law enforcement officer in the first degree.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of the Attorney General, Department of Law Enforcement, Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu, Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Maui, Maui Police Department, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Hawaii, and seventeen individuals.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Office of the Public Defender and seven individuals.



Your Committee finds that law enforcement officers frequently encounter dangerous situations while maintaining public safety. These already dangerous situations are exacerbated by individuals who either deliberately or recklessly cause harm to officers while those officers are performing their law enforcement duties. Such individuals not only pose a danger to law enforcement officers, but also threaten the public by inhibiting law enforcement officers' ability to perform important public safety functions. This threat of harm to law enforcement officers contributes to ongoing recruitment and retention challenges in the State. By increasing penalties for causing harm to law enforcement officers, this measure promotes public safety by providing additional tools to deter and punish potential offenders.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2518 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Public Safety and
Military Affairs,


CAROL FUKUNAGA, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
PSM

| Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 2518 | Committee Referral: PSM, SDC | Date: 2-02-2026 | | |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____ | | | | |
| The Recommendation is: | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 | | <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 | <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 | <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313 |
| Members | Aye | Aye (WR) | Nay | Excused |
| FUKUNAGA, Carol (C) | ✓ | | | |
| LEE, Chris (VC) | ✓ | | | |
| HASHIMOTO, Troy N. | ✓ | | | |
| INOUE, Lorraine R. | | | | ✓ |
| DECORTE, Samantha | ✓ | | | |
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| TOTAL | 4 | | | 1 |
| Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted | | | | |
| Chair's or Designee's Signature:  | | | | |
| Distribution: Original File with Committee Report | | Yellow Committee | Pink Drafting Agency | |

***Only one measure per Record of Votes**