STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3489

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 0 8 2026

RE: S.R. No. 18
S.D. 1

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Health and Human Services, to which was referred S.R. No. 18 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE HAWAI'I HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION'S EAST HAWAI'I REGIONAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON ESTABLISHING A RURAL HEALTH CLINIC OR COMPARABLE RURAL HEALTH ACCESS POINT TO SERVE THE VOLCANO COMMUNITY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation's East Hawai'i Regional Health Care System to conduct a feasibility study on establishing a Rural Health Clinic or comparable rural health access point to serve the Volcano community.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Lanikai Brewing Co., Volcano Community Association, Volcano Community Foundation, Cooper Center Council, and forty-eight individuals.

Your Committee finds that Volcano is a uniquely rural and geographically isolated community on Hawai'i Island that is facing significant health care access challenges. The nearest major medical facilities to Volcano are located in Hilo, approximately twenty-eight miles away, requiring a forty- to forty-five-minute drive under ideal conditions. For many residents, particularly

elderly individuals, those with limited transportation, or during adverse weather or volcanic conditions, this distance represents a significant barrier to care. Your Committee further finds that Volcano sits at the gateway to the Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, one of the most visited destinations in the State. The area receives millions of visitors annually, dramatically increasing the number of individuals in need of potential medical services on any given day. Your Committee also finds that delayed treatment for otherwise manageable conditions often leads to preventable emergencies and increased strain on the broader health care system, underscoring the need for a more accessible, community-based health care presence for the Volcano community. This measure supports the State and the Hawai‘i Health Systems Corporation to evaluate practical solutions, including part-time providers, mobile clinics, or hybrid models, that can appropriately serve this unique community.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health and Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 18, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.R. No. 18, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Health and Human Services.

Services,

JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair

The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Health and Human Services
HHS

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SR18	HHS	3/30/2026

☐ The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.

If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

☐ Pass, unamended 2312 ☑ Pass, with amendments 2311 ☐ Hold 2310 ☐ Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C)	✓			
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K. (VC)	✓			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	✓			
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett				✓
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
TOTAL	4	Ø	Ø	1

Recommendation: ☑ Adopted ☐ 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

Revised: 01/21/26