

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 19 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1518
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 Public Safety, to which was referred H.B. No. 1518, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require the Department of Human Services, upon obtaining a federal waiver, to establish a pre-release Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) applicable process for inmates nearing release.

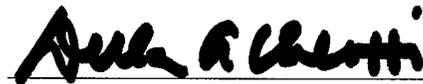
Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; Hawai'i Correctional Oversight System Commission; Department of Research and Development of the County of Hawai'i; American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i; Hawai'i Public Health Institute; Hawai'i Hunger Action Network; Hawaii Food Industry Association; AlohaCare; Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!; Catholic Charities Hawai'i; Aloha United Way; Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice; Hawaii Food+ Policy; Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition; Hina Mauka; Community Alliance on Prisons; and numerous individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services.



Your Committee finds that individuals leaving correctional facilities face an immediate period of vulnerability, often with limited financial resources. Ensuring timely SNAP benefits at the point of release provides a critical stabilizing resource that supports lawful reintegration and eliminates gaps in support during a high-risk reentry period.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Public Safety that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1518, H.D. 1, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Public Safety,



DELLA AU BELATTI, Chair



