

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 826-26

Honolulu, Hawaii  
MAR 05 , 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 Finance, 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:

- (1) By January 1, 2028, require the Department of Human Services, upon obtaining a federal waiver, to establish a pre-release Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) application process for inmates nearing release; and
- (2) Allow all individuals convicted of an offense involving the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance to apply for SNAP benefits, regardless of treatment status.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission; Department of Research and Development of the County of Hawai'i; one member of the Hawai'i County Council; American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i; Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center; Hawai'i

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Children's Action Network Speaks!; Hawai'i Public Health Institute; Health Eating, Active Living Coalition; Hawai'i Food+ Policy; Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition; Community Alliance on Prisons; Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice; Hawai'i Hunger Action Network; Hawaii Food Industry Association; Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action; AlohaCare; Aloha Lokahi Association; and numerous individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Finance 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 pass Third Reading.

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



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CHRIS TODD, Chair



