

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 20 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1541
H.D. 2

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Labor, to which was referred H.B. No. 1541,
H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to exempt certain positions in
the Developmental Disabilities Division of the Department of
Health and Hawaii State Hospital from civil service.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Health. Your Committee received testimony
in opposition to this measure from the Hawaii Government Employees
Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO.

Your Committee finds that the Department of Health continues
to experience workforce shortages in highly specialized roles that
support mental health services, developmental disability programs,
and operations at the Hawaii State Hospital. These vacancies
place added strain on existing staff, disrupt patient care, and
slow the State's ability to meet federal requirements, court-
ordered mandates, and increasing clinical and operational demands.
This measure provides the Department of Health and the Hawaii
State Hospital with greater flexibility to recruit qualified
professionals more efficiently and enhance the delivery of
essential health and safety services.



Your Committee has amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Labor that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1541, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1541, H.D. 2.

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



JACKSON D. SAYAMA, Chair



