

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **3330**

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 30 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1541
H.D. 2
S.D. 1

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

Sir:

Your Committees on Health and Human Services and Labor and Technology, to which was referred H.B. No. 1541, H.D. 2, entitled:

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

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Exempt certain positions in the Developmental Disabilities Division of the Department of Health and Hawaii State Hospital from civil service; and
- (2) Authorize the Director of Health to appoint two additional associate administrators and two project managers for the Hawaii State Hospital or a secure psychiatric rehabilitation facility.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Health, Aloha Independent Living Hawaii, and one individual.

Your Committees received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO.




Your Committees find that the Hawaii State Hospital and the Developmental Disabilities Division of the Department of Health serve some of the most vulnerable populations and operate in complex environments that require rapid decision-making, specialized expertise, and strong leadership. These positions do not appropriately fit into existing civil service classes because their duties and responsibilities are highly specialized, often requiring advanced professional knowledge, unique skill sets, and flexibility beyond the scope of standardized classifications. Additionally, the evolving nature of behavioral health and developmental disability services demands adaptability and innovation, which are difficult to achieve under traditional classification and recruitment systems. This measure ensures the Department of Health can effectively manage and deliver critical services for individuals with mental health needs and developmental disabilities by exempting certain key positions from civil service.

Your Committees have amended this measure by inserting an effective date of January 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Health and Human Services and Labor and Technology that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1541, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1541, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Health and Human
Services and Labor and
Technology,



BRANDON J.C. ELEFANTE, Chair

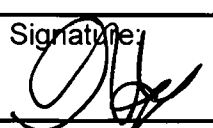


JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

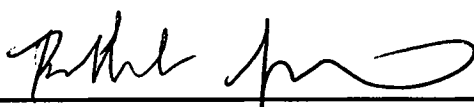
Record of Votes
Committee on Health and Human Services
HHS

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|--|---------------------|-----------------|-----|---------|
| Bill / Resolution No.:* | Committee Referral: | Date: | | |
| HB 1541 HD2 | HHS/LBT, WAM | 3/25/2026 | | |
| <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 type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> 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 | ✓ | | | |
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| TOTAL | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Recommendation: | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted | | | | |
| Chair's or Designee's Signature: | | | | |
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| Distribution: | | | | |
| Original | Yellow | Pink | | |
| File with Committee Report | Committee | Drafting Agency | | |

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Labor and Technology
LBT

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|--|--|-------------------------|----------|----------|
| Bill / Resolution No.:* HB 1541 HD2 | Committee Referral: HHS/LBT, WAM | Date: 3.25.26 | | |
| <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 type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313 | | | | |
| Members | Aye | Aye (WR) | Nay | Excused |
| ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C. (C) | ✓ | | | |
| LAMOSAO, Rachele (VC) | ✓ | | | |
| IHARA, Jr., Les | | | | ✓ |
| MORIWAKI, Sharon Y. | | | | ✓ |
| FEVELLA, Kurt | ✓ | | | |
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| TOTAL | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted | | | | |
| Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align:center; font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;">  </div> | | | | |
| Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Committee Drafting Agency | | | | |

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