

Honolulu, Hawaii

, 2026

FEB 09

RE: H.B. No. 1596

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 Higher Education, to which was referred
H.B. No. 1596 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO STUDENT BASIC NEEDS SUPPORT AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require the University of
Hawaii, at a campus designated by the University, to establish a
Basic Needs Pilot Program and to allow the University to establish
a Housing Stability Pilot Project at that campus.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the University of Hawai'i System; O'ahu Youth Action Board;
and one individual.

Your Committee finds that the findings from the *UH Landscape
Assessment of Student Basic Needs Insecurity* published in 2025,
demonstrate that food insecurity, housing instability, and limited
access to public benefits remain significant and interrelated
barriers to student success. These challenges are associated with
lower retention, delayed completion, and increased likelihood of
stop-out or withdrawal. This measure implements a data-informed
and measured approach by authorizing a single-campus pilot program
that integrates benefits navigation, coordinated outreach, and
targeted housing stability support.



Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the number of positions to an unspecified number;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Finance, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider one to be the appropriate number of full-time equivalent benefits navigator positions.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Higher Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1596, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1596, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Human Services & Homelessness.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Higher Education,

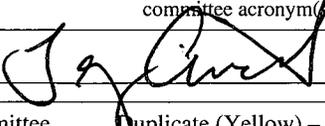


ANDREW TARUYA CARRETT, Chair



HSCR 123-26

Record of Votes of the Committee on Higher Education

Bill/Resolution No.: HB1596	Committee Referral: HED, HSH, FIN	Date: 2-4-2026		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
HED Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. GARRETT, Andrew Takuya (C)	✓			
2. AMATO, Terez (VC)	✓			
3. EVSLIN, Luke A.	✓			
4. KAPELA, Jeanne	✓			
5. KILA, Darius K.	✓			
6. LA CHICA, Trish	✓			
7. OLDS, Ikaika	✓			
8. WOODSON, Justin H.	✓			
9. MURAOKA, Christopher L.	✓			
10. SOUZA, Kanani	✓			
TOTAL (10)	10			
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <small>committee acronym(s)</small>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: 				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				