

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3644

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 09 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1838
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 Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred H.B. No. 1838, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VISAS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to support the use of U and T visas and ensure that vulnerable individuals may come forward without fear to assist law enforcement agencies and contribute meaningfully to society.

More specifically, this measure:

- (1) Establishes uniform statewide requirements for the issuance of U and T visa certifications for noncitizen victims of crime that are consistent with federal laws and regulations governing U and T visas;
- (2) Requires each state and county certifying entity to adopt a policy and process for the issuance of U and T visa certifications, consistent with those statewide requirements; and
- (3) Appropriates funds for the Department of the Attorney General to provide training to certifying entities and



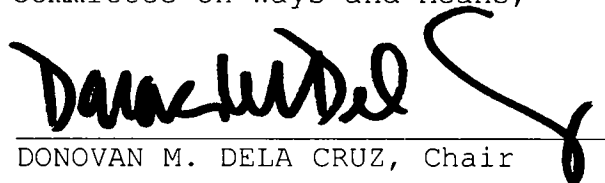
certifying officials on all federal and state requirements for U and T visa certifications.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the State Health Planning and Development Agency, UNITE HERE Local 5, Roots Reborn Maui, Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, The Legal Clinic, Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!, Hawaii Coalition for Immigrant Rights, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association, and numerous individuals.

Your Committee finds that the complexity of immigration issues hinders the use of U and T visas intended to encourage victims of certain crimes to assist law enforcement agencies by providing the victims with legal status, work authorization, and a pathway to permanent residency. Your Committee further finds that uniform policies for and training of individuals involved in the U and T visa process will help support the use of U and T visas.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1838, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

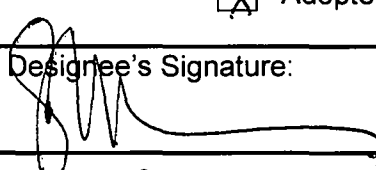
Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,


DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 1838, HD2, SD1	JDC, WAM	4/7/2026		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310		
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (C)	X			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y. (VC)	X			
DECOITE, Lynn	X			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	X			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	X			
INOUYE, Lorraine R.	X			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	X			
KIDANI, Michelle N.	X			
KIM, Donna Mercado	X			
LEE, Chris				X
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim"	X			
WAKAI, Glenn	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt	X			
TOTAL	12	0	0	1
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Committee	Pink Drafting Agency		

*Only one measure per Record of Votes