

Honolulu, Hawaii  
FEB 18 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1967  
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. 1967, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PERMITTING,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require and appropriate  
funds for the Department of Business, Economic Development, and  
Tourism to:

- (1) Develop a permitting workforce pipeline in partnership  
with the University of Hawaii and community colleges;  
and
- (2) Coordinate with state and county permitting agencies on  
certain tasks related to the classification levels,  
salary and benefits, hiring, and responsibilities of  
employees.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the Office of Planning & Sustainable Development; Maui  
Chamber of Commerce; Housing Hawai'i's Future; Hawai'i Government  
Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO; and one  
individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from  
the University of Hawai'i System.



Your Committee finds that the Simplifying Permitting for Enhanced Economic Development (SPEED) Task Force established pursuant to Act 133, Session Laws of Hawaii 2025, has identified issues related to understaffing and recruitment of permitting agency employees as a common impediment to the permitting process. Your Committee further finds that this measure leverages existing local educational infrastructure to bridge technical gaps in the State's permitting agencies.

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. 1967, H.D. 1, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

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

  
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ANDREW TAKUYA GARRETT, Chair



