

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **3703**

Honolulu, Hawaii

**APR 10 2026**

RE: H.B. No. 1974  
H.D. 1  
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. 1974, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to address issues relating to hearing loss in school-age children and adults, including affordability, awareness, early detection, and access to services.

Specifically, this measure requires, and appropriates moneys for, the State Health Planning and Development Agency to develop a comprehensive state plan on hearing loss in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Disability and Communication Access Board, State Health Planning and Development Agency, Hear 4 Hope, Alzheimer's Association-Hawaii, Aloha Independent Living Hawaii, Hawaii Ear Clinic Inc., and eight individuals.

Your Committee received written comments on this measure from the Executive Office on Aging.



Your Committee finds that individuals suffering from hearing loss face a wide range of barriers to receiving care, including difficulties navigating the fragmented healthcare system and the high costs for hearing aids and assistive devices. Your Committee further finds that untreated hearing loss increases risks of cognitive decline and dementia, falls, social isolation, mental health issues, and reduced workforce participation. Your Committee believes that this measure will help to establish a coordinated statewide strategy to address these issues.

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. 1974, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

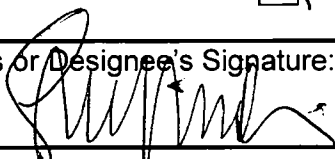
Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Ways and Means,

  
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 1974, HDI, SDI  | HHS, WAM            | 04/08/2026 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.<br>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                   |            |
|  |                     |            |
|  |                     |            |
|  |                     |            |
|  |                     |            |
|  |                     |            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | 13                  | 0          |
| 0  | 0                   | 0          |
| Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted   |                     |            |
| Chair's or Designee's Signature:   |                     |            |
|   |                     |            |
| Distribution:             Original             Yellow             Pink<br>File with Committee Report             Committee             Drafting Agency                                 |                     |            |

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes