

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 18 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1978
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 Health, to which was referred H.B. No. 1978
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE WEST HAWAII REGIONAL
HEALTH CARE SYSTEM,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds for the
planning, design, site work, and construction of a new outpatient
care center in North Kona.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Corporate Board of
Directors; East Hawaii Region of the Hawaii Health Systems
Corporation; West Hawaii Region of the Hawaii Health Systems
Corporation; Office of the Mayor of the County of Hawai'i; one
member of the Hawai'i County Council; Kohala Coast Resort
Association; The Queen's Health Systems; Kona-Kohala Chamber of
Commerce; and five individuals.

Your Committee finds that population growth in North Kona has
outpaced the growth of outpatient and specialty medical services,
resulting in longer travel times, delayed care, and increased
pressure on emergency resources. This measure seeks to address
North Kona's ongoing health care access challenges by



appropriating funds for a new outpatient care center for the region.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the appropriation to an unspecified amount;
- (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 an appropriation amount of \$50,000,000.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1978, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1978, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health,



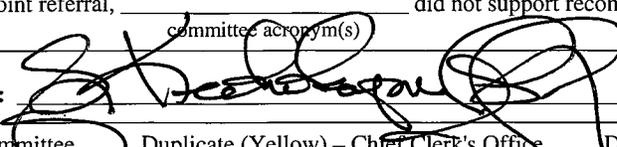
GREGG TAPAN, Chair



State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
The Thirty-third Legislature

HSR 355-26

Record of Votes of the Committee on Health

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1978	Committee Referral: HLT, FIN	Date: 2/13/26		
<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)				
HLT Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. TAKAYAMA, Gregg (C)	X			
2. KEOHOKAPU-LEE LOY, Sue L. (VC)	X			
3. AMATO, Terez	X			
4. HARTSFIELD, Daisy	X			
5. MARTEN, Lisa	X			
6. OLDS, Ikaika	X			
7. TAKENOUCI, Jenna	X			
8. ALCOS III, David	X			
9. GARCIA, Diamond	X			
TOTAL (9)	9			
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation.				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: 				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				