

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 19 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2159
H.D. 2

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. 2159, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish positions and appropriate funds to the University of Hawai'i to support health care workforce development in the State.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the University of Hawai'i System; Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women; State Health Planning and Development Agency; Navian Hawaii; Hawaii Primary Care Association; Hawaii Medical Association; The Queen's Health Systems; Healthcare Association of Hawaii; LeadingAge Pacific West; Home Care Association of America Hawaii Chapter; and numerous individuals.

Your Committee finds that the State is experiencing severe shortages in almost all health care professions and disciplines and medical specialties, which significantly limits access to care, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Your Committee believes that filling key educational, training, and clinical-translational role will strengthen the University of Hawaii's



ability to expand supervised training, residency slots, and community-based rotations in underserved areas.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

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. 2159, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2159, H.D. 2.

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



GREGG TAKAYAMA, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Health

Bill/Resolution No.: <i>HB 2159, HD1</i>	Committee Referral: <i>HED, HLT, FIN</i>	Date: <i>2/10/24</i>
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The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.

The recommendation is to: Pass, unamended (as is) Pass, with amendments (HD) Hold
 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. TAKENOUCHI, Jenna	X			
8. ALCOS III, David	X			
9. GARCIA, Diamond	X			
TOTAL (9)	9			1

The recommendation is: Adopted Not Adopted
 If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation.

Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____
(committee acronym(s))