

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3390

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 30 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2159
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 Committees on Education and Health and Human Services,
to which was referred H.B. No. 2159, H.D. 2, entitled:

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

beg leave to report as follows:

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

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure
from the University of Hawai'i System, State Health Planning and
Development Agency, Hawaii Association of Health Plans, Hawaii
Pharmacists Association, University of Hawaii Professional
Assembly, Healthcare Association of Hawaii, Hawai'i Primary Care
Association, The Queen's Health Systems, Hawaii Medical
Association, LeadingAge Pacific West, Hawai'i Pacific Health,
Navian Hawaii, and ten individuals.

Your Committees find that critical workforce shortages in
cancer, neurology and dementia, and behavioral health-primary care
integration and addiction medicine, which are high-priority
concerns for the State, severely limit access to care. The risk
burden and low access are especially harmful in rural and
underserved areas and in certain minority and vulnerable



populations. Investing in the educational workforce pipeline is critical to meeting the needs of current and future patients, especially as the State's population ages. This measure aims to enhance the health care workforce through a team-based system, increase access to care for local communities, and capitalize on partnerships with other public and private organizations.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of July 31, 2055, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Education and Health and Human Services that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2159, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2159, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Education and
Health and Human Services,



JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair

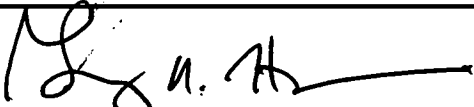


DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

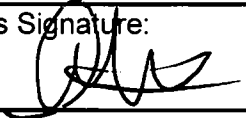
Record of Votes
Committee on Education
EDU

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 2159 HD 2	EDU/HHS, WAM	03/25/26		
<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 type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIM, Donna Mercado (C)	/			
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)				/
FUKUNAGA, Carol				/
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	/			
DECORTE, Samantha	/			
TOTAL	3	0	0	2
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

The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Health and Human Services
HHS

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 2159 HD2	EDU/HHS, WAM	3/25/2026		
<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 type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C)	✓			
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K. (VC)	✓			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	✓			
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
TOTAL	5	Ø	Ø	Ø
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original	Yellow	Pink		
File with Committee Report	Committee	Drafting Agency		

*Only one measure per Record of Votes