

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3619

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 09 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2165  
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 Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred H.B. No. 2165, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYMENT SECURITY LAW,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to amend the qualifications for unemployed individuals who are eligible to receive unemployment benefits.

Specifically, beginning April 1, 2027, this measure:

- (1) Removes the two-year limitation on the recoupment of overpayments and limits the overpaid amount and the penalty assessment amount that may be deducted from future benefits payable to an individual;
- (2) Requires the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to assess and collect a service charge for dishonored unemployment insurance assessments;
- (3) Specifies that employers shall report separation and wage information within five calendar days of notice being sent, whether by mail or electronic notification; and



- (4) Increases the penalty for an employer's failure to report separations or wages, or failure to file wage reports.

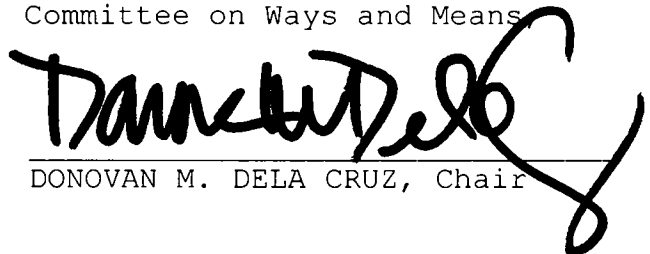
Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and University of Hawaii Professional Assembly.

Your Committee received written comments on this measure from UNITE HERE Local 5.

Your Committee finds that this measure will improve operations related to unemployment benefits and align state law with federal unemployment insurance requirements.

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. 2165, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

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

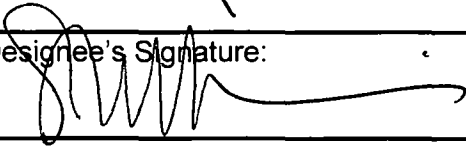


DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair



The Senate  
Thirty-Third Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Ways and Means**  
**WAM**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB2165, HD2, SD1	LBT, WAM	4/6/2026		
<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 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>	12	0	0	1
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