

Honolulu, Hawaii
MAR 06 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2198
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 Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 2198, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PREDICTION MARKETS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to update the State's gambling laws to expressly prohibit prediction event contracts relating to catastrophe, contests, death, legislation, national security, people, politics, and sports.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu; Stop Predatory Gambling; Nation of Hawai'i; Hawaii Family Forum; Institute for Human Services; No Gamble Hawai'i; and numerous individuals.

Your Committee finds that "prediction markets", platforms that allow individuals to wager on real-world events involving sports, politics, natural disasters, public health crises, and even the lives of individual people, have emerged. Your Committee further finds that although marketed as innovative financial products, these markets function as gambling systems often built on human suffering, political instability, and catastrophic events. This measure provides safeguards by prohibiting gambling in this growing form.



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

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2198, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2198, H.D. 2.

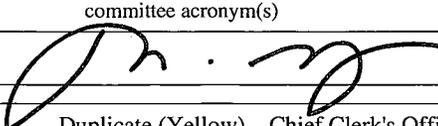
Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary &
Hawaiian Affairs,



DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Bill/Resolution No.: HB2198 HDI	Committee Referral: CPC, JHA	Date: 3/3/2026		
<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)				
JHA Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. TARNAS, David A. (C)	✓			
2. POEPOE, Mahina (VC)	✓			
3. BELATTI, Della Au	✓			
4. COCHRAN, Elle				✓
5. HASHEM, Mark J.	✓			
6. KAHALOA, Kirstin	✓			
7. SAYAMA, Jackson D.	✓			
8. TAKAYAMA, Gregg	✓			
9. GARCIA, Diamond	✓			
10. SHIMIZU, Garner M.	✓			
TOTAL (10)	9	0	0	1
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align:center; font-size: small;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____ <div style="text-align:center; font-size: x-large; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>				
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