

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **3689**

Honolulu, Hawaii

**APR 09 2026**

RE: H.B. No. 2218  
H.D. 2  
S.D. 2

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. 2218, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to respond to  
structural limitations that prevent the Department of Land and  
Natural Resources from forming meaningful, long-term  
partnerships with community organizations that are essential to  
the stewardship, education, and care of public lands.

More specifically, this measure:

- (1) Authorizes the Department to enter into community  
co-management agreements;
- (2) Establishes qualifications for eligible community  
co-managers; and
- (3) Authorizes the disposition of public lands by a  
community co-management agreement.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this  
measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources;  
University of Hawaii; Office of Hawaiian Affairs; County of  
Kauai; Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors

HB2218 SD2 SSCR LRB 26-1320.docx



Hawaii; Ocean Legislative Task Force; Sierra Club of Hawaii; Kuaaina Ulu Auamo; Free Access Coalition; Alii Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club; Hawaii State Youth Commission; Malama Kauai; Green Party of Hawaii; Care for Aina Now Coalition LC; The Nature Conservancy; Kupuna for the Moopuna; Hawaii Land Trust; Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii; WOCAN; Kalanihale; KAEHU; Hawaii Food+ Policy; Kipahulu Ohana, Inc.; Hawaii Conservation Alliance Foundation; Hawaii Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development; Hui Makaainana o Makana; Trust for Public Land; Hawaii Farmers Union; Shimanchu Mamuyaa; and numerous individuals.

Your Committee finds that the State alone cannot sustainably manage Hawaii's public trust resources. The State relies on collaborative efforts with place-based Native Hawaiian communities and other local communities that provide essential stewardship, capacity, and local knowledge. Your Committee further finds that community co-management agreements offer a long-term, secure, and flexible framework that protects public trust resources, strengthens relationships between the State and community partners, and supports collaborative malama aina principles.

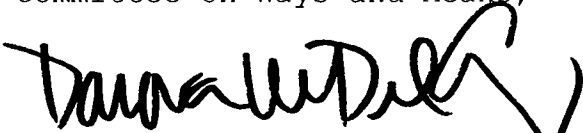
Your Committee has amended this measure to:

- (1) Clarify that community co-management agreements may be used for the management of parking, visitor activities, and public and recreational parks in conjunction with malama aina-focused principles; and
- (2) Make technical, nonsubstantive edits for purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

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. 2218, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2218, H.D. 2, S.D. 2.



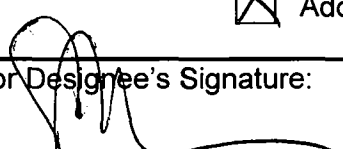
Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Ways and Means,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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:		
HB2218, HD2, SD1	WLA, WAM	4/7/2026		
<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
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:				
				
<b>Distribution:</b>				
Original	Yellow	Pink		
File with Committee Report	Committee	Drafting Agency		

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes