

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 19 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2298
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Public Safety, to which was referred H.B. No. 2298, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to authorize the Department of Education to award a high school diploma to qualified persons who did not receive a high school diploma as a result of compulsory or voluntary induction into the armed services of the United States or whose high school education was interrupted due to wartime practices during World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the United States Department of Defense; Department of Education; Office of Veterans Services; Hawaii Military Affairs Council; and CARES.

Your Committee finds that Act 101, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, which previously authorized the Department of Education to issue high school diplomas to World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans, as well as individuals whose schooling was interrupted due to military service or internment, was repealed in 2020. Your Committee further finds that this measure would authorize the Department of Education to resume awarding high



school diplomas to the these individuals once again in recognition of their sacrifices during wartime.

Your Committee notes that the Department of Education indicated that no additional funding would be required to implement this measure, including the production of diplomas.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Public Safety that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2298, H.D. 1, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Public Safety,



DELLA AU BELATTI, Chair



