

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 17 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2338
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 Higher Education, to which was referred
H.B. No. 2338 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PROMISE PROGRAM,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to amend:

- (1) The Hawaii community college promise program (Hawaii Promise) to maximize the financial support for students while aligning with federal regulations and to exclude grants, scholarships, and other funding sources from the calculation of awards; and
- (2) The definition of "direct cost" to align more closely with federal financial aid regulations.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the University of Hawai'i System; Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education; HawaiiKidsCAN; and one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from College Promise and Harold KL Castle Foundation.

Your Committee finds that recent changes to the federal Pell Grant program require updates to Hawaii Promise to ensure awarding



practices continue to prioritize students and maximize the support that students receive.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) 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 Higher Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2338, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2338, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Higher Education,



ANDREW TAKUYA GARRETT, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Higher Education

Bill/Resolution No.: HB2338	Committee Referral: HED.FIN	Date: 2-6-2026		
<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)				
HED Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. GARRETT, Andrew Takuya (C)	✓			
2. AMATO, Terez (VC)	✓			
3. EVSLIN, Luke A.	✓			
4. KAPELA, Jeanne	✓			
5. KILA, Darius K.	✓			
6. LA CHICA, Trish	✓			
7. OLDS, Ikaika	✓			
8. WOODSON, Justin H.	✓			
9. MURAOKA, Christopher L.	✓			
10. SOUZA, Kanani	✓			
TOTAL (10)	10			
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <small style="margin-left: 100px;">committee acronym(s)</small>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				