

Honolulu, Hawaii
FEB 18 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2383
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. 2383, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE WORKFORCE PELL GRANT
PROGRAM,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish:

- (1) A statewide framework for the implementation of the federal Workforce Pell Grant Program to provide financial aid for certain short-term workforce education and training programs; and
- (2) A Workforce Pell Grant Program Approval Committee within the Workforce Development Council.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the University of Hawai'i System and Maui Chamber of Commerce. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; Office of Information Practices; and Workforce Development Council.

Your Committee finds that the United States Congress has authorized a federal Workforce Pell Grant Program to expand access to short-term workforce education and training; however federal



guidance and final program parameters are still emerging. This measure allows the State to have a statutory framework in place once federal rules are finalized.

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. 2383, 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 Higher Education,



ANDREW TAKUYA GARRETT, Chair



