

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 09 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2474
H.D. 1
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. 2474, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to expand the State's ability to enter into international partnerships and agreements.

Specifically, this measure:

- (1) Expands the sister-state and province relationships chapter of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to more broadly encompass international relations, province partnerships, and international cooperative agreements;
- (2) Establishes a procedure for the State to enter into nonbinding international cooperative agreements and establishes limitations for those agreements; and
- (3) Authorizes, rather than requires, the Hawaii Sister-State and International Partnerships Commission to evaluate and develop recommendations for the initiation of international partnerships or agreements.



Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and Chamber of Commerce Hawaii.

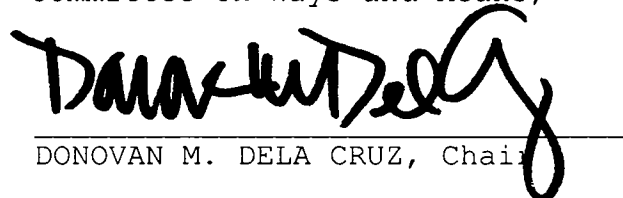
Your Committee received written comments on this measure from one individual.

Your Committee finds that solving the State's challenges involving economic development, trade, education, agriculture, and biosecurity requires coordinated action across borders and sectors. Your Committee believes that providing the State with greater flexibility to engage in international agreements and partnerships will help to strengthen Hawaii in multiple sectors.

Your Committee has amended this measure by specifying that if the Hawaii Sister-State and International Partnerships Commission evaluates and develops recommendations for the initiation of a sister-state or province partnership or international cooperative agreement, the evaluation must consider how the partnership or agreement will enhance key state initiatives, including how it will support economic development, trade, education, agriculture, and biosecurity.

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. 2474, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2474, H.D. 1, 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:		
HB 2474, HDI, SDI	WLA/EDT, WAM	4/6/2026		
<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			
TOTAL	12	0	0	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Committee Drafting Agency				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes