

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 11 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2498

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. 2498 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CARE HOMES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, in coordination with the Office of Health Care Assurance of the Department of Health, to establish the Central Oahu Care Home Community Resilience Pilot Program.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency; Hawaii Insurers Council; and Navian Hawaii. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Health and State Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

Your Committee finds that the Central Oahu Care Home Community Resilience Pilot Program established by this measure addresses a critical and increasingly urgent gap in Hawaii's disaster-preparedness framework: the resilience of licensed care homes serving kupuna, individuals with disabilities, and medically fragile residents. Many of these facilities operate in aging structures, have limited financial resources, and serve residents who cannot safely evacuate or endure prolonged power outages



without significant risk to life and health. This measure offers a first step toward filling that gap.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Repealing the Central Oahu Care Home Community Resilience Pilot Program on June 30, 2031; and
- (2) Changing its effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion.

Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Human Services, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider further clarifying the definition of "kupuna."

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. 2498, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2498, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Human Services & Homelessness.

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

DELLA AU BELATTI

DELLA AU BELATTI, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Public Safety

Bill/Resolution No.: HD 2499	Committee Referral: PBS, HSH, 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)				
PBS Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. BELATTI, Della Au (C)	✓			
2. IWAMOTO, Kim Coco (VC)		✓		
3. HASHEM, Mark J.	✓			
4. ICHIYAMA, Linda	✓			
5. MORIKAWA, Dee	✓			
6. POEPOE, Mahina	✓			
7. WOODSON, Justin H.	✓			
8. SHIMIZU, Garner M.	✓			
9. SOUZA, Kanani	✓			
TOTAL (9)	8	1		
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <small>committee acronym(s)</small>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				