

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 18 , 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2138
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 S.B. No. 2138 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD STATE TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to authorize the Adjutant General to expand the Hawaii National Guard Tuition Assistance Program at the University of Hawaii to include graduate degrees for qualified enlisted persons, warrant officers, and company grade officers in the Hawaii National Guard.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Defense; Hawai'i Army National Guard; University of Hawai'i System; Hawaii Military Affairs Council; and one individual.

Your Committee finds that this measure supports workforce retention within Hawaii. Providing qualified Hawaii National Guard members with access to affordable graduate education at the University of Hawaii encourages them to remain in the State, apply their advanced skills locally, and continue serving Hawaii's people in military and civilian capacities.



Your Committee has amended this measure by changing its effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion.

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 S.B. No. 2138, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2138, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Higher Education.

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.: SB2138	Committee Referral: PBS, HD, FIN	Date: 3/16/2026		
<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. <div style="text-align:center; font-size: small;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				