

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2858

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 05 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2138

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 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 and intent of this measure is to authorize the Adjutant General to expand the Hawaii National Guard State Tuition Program to include graduate degrees at the University of Hawaii for qualified enlisted personnel in the Hawaii National Guard.

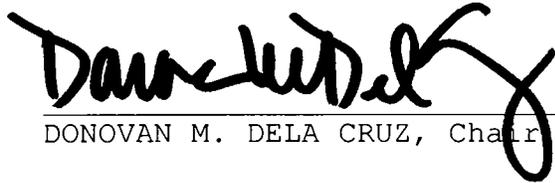
Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the State of Hawaii Department of Defense, Hawaii National Guard, Hawaii Army National Guard, University of Hawaii, Hawaii Military Affairs Council, and one individual.

Your Committee finds that under current law, the Adjutant General's authority to award tuition assistance funds is limited to undergraduate degrees. Your Committee believes that expanding the state tuition assistance program will enable Hawaii's servicemembers to pursue graduate degrees, thereby further professionalizing the National Guard force. Accordingly, your Committee finds that this measure will expand the program to include graduate degrees, ensuring the Hawaii National Guard may recruit and retain the most qualified and talented staff.



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 S.B. No. 2138 and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

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:    |     |         |
| SB 2108,   | PGM/EDU, WAM        | 3/3/2026 |     |         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.<br>If so, then the previous decision was to: _____                                      |                     |          |     |         |
| The Recommendation is:   |                     |          |     |         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input 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       |
|  |                     |          |     |         |
|  |                     |          |     |         |
|  |                     |          |     |         |
|  |                     |          |     |         |
|  |                     |          |     |         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | 12                  | 0        | 0   | 1       |
| Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted   |                     |          |     |         |
| Chair's or Designee's Signature:<br>  |                     |          |     |         |
| Distribution:     Original     Yellow     Pink<br>File with Committee Report     Committee     Drafting Agency   |                     |          |     |         |

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes