

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2702

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 23 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2211
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 S.B. No. 2211, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to make an emergency appropriation to the Department of Human Services to offset costs incurred by the Department in providing emergency food assistance and related services to Hawaii residents during the 2025 federal government shutdown.

More specifically, this measure covers amounts that were redirected from other programs and paid by the Department of Human Services for the Hawaii Emergency Food Relief Program, to the Hawaii Food Bank for the purchase and distribution of food, and to Aloha United Way for 211 call center support.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Department of Human Services, Hawaii Primary Care Association, Aloha United Way, Hawaii Food Industry Association, Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!, Catholic Charities Hawaii, AlohaCare, and three individuals.

Your Committee recognizes that the Department of Human Services proactively addressed the food insecurity faced by some

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Hawaii residents due to the federal government shutdown in 2025. Your Committee also recognizes that policies adopted by the federal government have increased some costs for health insurance on the federal marketplace. Your Committee further finds that, although the Department is well-positioned to address the increased community needs caused by federal actions, the Department requires additional revenue for addressing these increased needs.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an appropriation of an unspecified amount to assist Hawaii residents with the cost of health insurance purchased through the federal marketplace;
- (2) Changing the appropriation for emergency food assistance from \$14,248,126 to an unspecified amount; and
- (3) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to facilitate further discussion on the measure.

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. 2211, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2211, 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.:* SB 2211 SD1	Committee Referral: HHS, WAM	Date: 02/19/2026		
<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	11	0	0	2
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