

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2712

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 24 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2544  
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. 2544, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOUSING,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish a five-year pilot program to build additional housing units in Hawaii.

Specifically, this measure:

- (1) Establishes and appropriates moneys for the Hawaii Builds pilot program within the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation;
- (2) Requires the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to designate specific projects for the pilot program, including one project in each county;
- (3) Authorizes the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to expend moneys from the dwelling unit revolving fund for the pilot program; and
- (4) Requires the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to submit annual reports on the pilot program to the Legislature.



Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

Your Committee received written comments in opposition to this measure from UNITE HERE Local 5 and one individual.

Your Committee received written comments on this measure from the State Procurement Office and Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Your Committee finds that Hawaii continues to experience a shortage of affordable housing, caused in part by the lengthy review process for affordable housing projects. This measure will help to expedite housing construction by allowing the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to act as a proactive developer and to streamline agency approvals and permitting.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting the provision appropriating moneys out of the dwelling unit revolving fund for the Hawaii Builds pilot program; and
- (2) Placing a cap on the moneys the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation may expend annually from the dwelling unit revolving fund for purposes of the Hawaii Builds pilot program.

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. 2544, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2544, 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.:* <b>SB 2544 SD1</b>	Committee Referral: <b>HOU, WAM</b>	Date: <b>02/19/2026</b>		
<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			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
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