

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2949

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 06 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2557
S.D. 1

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. 2557 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to clarify the reporting requirements of the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions to provide additional oversight of moneys expended to address homelessness.

Specifically, the measure requires the Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions to report to the Legislature annually to provide:

- (1) The number of sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals and the number of individuals who have been placed in permanent housing, supportive housing, and in permanent or independent living arrangements;
- (2) Information on certain contracts, including contract amounts, contractor names, the purpose of the contracts, any terms or conditions of the contracts, and performance outcomes in reducing the number of persons experiencing homelessness;



- (3) Any plans or proposals made by the Office to enhance kauhale projects; and
- (4) Any actions taken or efforts made by the Office to coordinate with other county, state, or federal agencies, or private or nonprofit organizations, to reduce the number of persons experiencing homelessness in the State.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the State Health Planning and Development Agency and two individuals.

Your Committee received written comments on this measure from the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions.

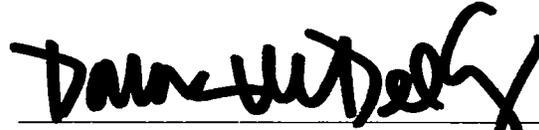
Your Committee finds that homelessness continues to be a major challenge in the State, despite legislative efforts and funding appropriations made in prior sessions to address the issue. The 2024 Homeless Point-in-Time Count for Oahu noted a twelve percent increase in the total number of people who experienced homelessness. Your Committee also finds that, in 2025, there was a significant increase in deaths of homeless people compared to prior years. Your Committee believes that the reporting requirements specified in this measure will give the Legislature additional oversight of the expenditure of taxpayer moneys, and provide the data needed to inform policy-making to allow the State to better assist homeless individuals.

Your Committee has amended this measure by 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. 2557, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2557, S.D. 1.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,

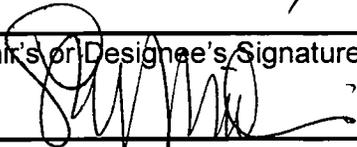


DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 2557	Committee Referral: HHS, WAM	Date: 3/3/2026		
<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	12	0	0	1
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**