

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **2366**

Honolulu, Hawaii

**FEB 18 2026**

RE: S.B. No. 2688  
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 Public Safety and Military Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 2688 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COMPASSIONATE RELEASE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish a protocol for compassionate release for certain ill or seriously debilitated incarcerated persons.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of the Public Defender; Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission; Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Kaua'i; Hawaii Disability Rights Center; Ho'omana Pono, LLC; Community Alliance on Prisons; 'Ekolu Mea Nui; Ohana Ho'opakele; FAMM; ACLU Hawai'i; Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation; Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice; First Unitarian Church of Honolulu; Hawai'i Health and Harm Reduction Center; and seventeen individuals.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Hawaii Paroling Authority, Crime Victim Compensation Commission, Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu, Kapi'olani Sex Abuse Treatment Center, and one individual.



Your Committee finds that many elderly, seriously ill, and dying individuals pose little threat to public safety, yet remain incarcerated. These incarcerated individuals are often held under conditions that are medically complex, emotionally painful, and inhumane. Compassionate release would allow these individuals to spend their final months with family, preserving dignity at the end of life while ensuring careful review standards, eligibility requirements, and public safety.

Additionally, compassionate release would reduce costs incurred through the incarceration of elderly, seriously ill, and dying individuals. For example, the costs to provide care for critically ill incarcerated individuals can exceed \$900,000 in a single year. In extreme cases involving emergency medical evacuation and hospitalization, these costs can rise dramatically, leading to expenses exceeding \$2,000,000. Compassionate release as established by this measure would substantially reduce these costs.

Your Committee notes that the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation requires more funding and staff to implement a compassionate release program and to find adequate health care facility placements for incarcerated individuals.

Therefore, your Committee has amended this measure by:

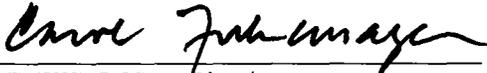
- (1) Limiting consideration for compassionate release to individuals with a terminal illness or who are too ill or cognitively impaired to participate in rehabilitation;
- (2) Requiring the Hawaii Paroling Authority to notify the victim and prosecuting attorney when an incarcerated person is granted compassionate release;
- (3) Excluding individuals who have been sentenced to life without possibility of parole from eligibility for compassionate release;
- (4) Inserting a blank appropriation for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to implement the compassionate release program and for adequate health care facility placements;



- (5) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (6) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2688, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2688, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means.

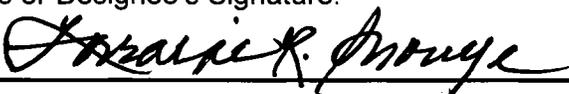
Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Public Safety and  
Military Affairs,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CAROL FUKUNAGA, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-Third Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs**  
**PSM**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 2688	PSM, JDC/HAM	2-11-2026		
<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
FUKUNAGA, Carol (C)	✓			
LEE, Chris (VC)				✓
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	✓			
INOUE, Lorraine R.	✓			
DECORTE, Samantha				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</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