

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2747

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 05 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2961
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. 2961, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to provide insured persons with greater flexibility and opportunity to use additional living expenses benefits paid by insurers.

More specifically, this measure requires insurers to:

- (1) Authorize the use of additional living expenses benefits to lease a housing unit as a temporary primary residence;
- (2) Issue an advance payment of additional living expenses benefits after a total loss during a state of emergency; and
- (3) Provide additional living expenses benefits for a minimum of thirty-six months after a total loss.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from United Policyholders and four individuals.



Your Committee received written comments on this measure from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

Your Committee finds that the State's geographic isolation, preexisting housing shortage, high cost of living, and reliance on limited and fragile supply chains for construction materials complicate disaster recovery. Rebuilding timelines after disasters are protracted, and homeowners displaced by disasters often face prolonged housing instability while awaiting insurance proceeds to begin rebuilding or to secure replacement housing. Additional living expenses benefits provided by insurers are often terminated long before an insured person's housing situation has stabilized. Requiring longer payment periods and payments in advance that may be used to lease temporary replacement housing will assist displaced homeowners and help reduce housing instability after a disaster.

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. 2961, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

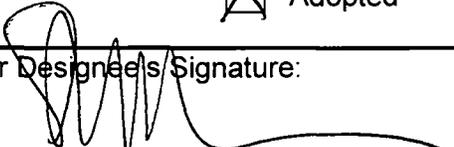
Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,


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 2961, SD1	CPN, WAM	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 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
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