

Honolulu, Hawaii

**MAR 20**, 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2969  
S.D. 1  
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2026  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Higher Education, to which was referred  
S.B. No. 2969, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE MAUI WILDFIRE EXPOSURE  
STUDY AND MAUI HEALTH REGISTRY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds for the  
Maui Wildfire Exposure Study and Maui Health Registry.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; two members of the Maui  
County Council; Hawaii Medical Association; Hispanic Chamber of  
Commerce Hawai'i; American Lung Association Hawai'i; Roots Reborn;  
Hawai'i Community Health; Hawai'i Public Health Association; Kaiser  
Permanente Hawai'i; and numerous individuals.

Your Committee finds that the Maui Wildfire Exposure Study  
and the Maui Health Registry have been extremely successful in the  
wake of the disastrous Lahaina wildfires, providing services to  
more than two thousand residents, including medical and mental  
health screenings, biomonitoring, and referrals to care. Your  
Committee further finds that additional funding is needed to  
expand and sustain these services, with a focus on children and



other high-risk populations, as well as to ensure long-term follow-up.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Higher Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2969, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2969, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Higher Education,

  
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ANDREW TAPUYA CARRETT, Chair



