

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2591

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 20 2026

RE: S.B. No. 3191  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2026  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Government Operations and Public Safety and Military Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 3191 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO A DEPARTMENT OF WATER SAFETY AND DROWNING PREVENTION,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish the Department of Water Safety and Drowning Prevention;
- (2) Establish the position of Director of Water Safety and Drowning Prevention;
- (3) Establish the position of Deputy Director of Water Safety and Drowning Prevention; and
- (4) Appropriate funds for the establishment of positions within the Department.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from two individuals.

Your Committees find that drowning is a tragic yet preventable cause of injury and death, however, the State



currently has the second highest rate of deaths by drowning in the country, and drowning is the leading cause of death for children in the State. Furthermore, recent policy has not prioritized drowning prevention and water safety, resulting in a chronic shortage of resources and funding for water safety and drowning prevention organizations. Your Committees recognize that the State previously prioritized water safety and swim education, including the opening of the Waikiki Natatorium War Memorial in 1927, where thousands of children in the State learned to swim. This measure will revive the prudent and community-focused role of the State by investing in water safety education and preventing future drowning fatalities among its residents.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2525, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

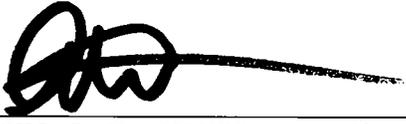
Your Committees note that this measure, as amended, contains an appropriation for an unspecified amount and an unspecified number of full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. Should your Committees on Ways and Means and Judiciary choose to deliberate on this measure, your Committees respectfully request that they consider inserting an appropriate amount and number of FTE positions.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Government Operations and Public Safety and Military Affairs that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 3191, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 3191, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committees on Ways and Means and Judiciary.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committees on Government  
Operations and Public Safety  
and Military Affairs,

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, Chair





The Senate  
 Thirty-Third Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

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

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB 3191</b>	Committee Referral: <b>GVO/PSM, W&amp;M/JDC</b>	Date: <b>2/18/26</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
FUKUNAGA, Carol (C)	x			
LEE, Chris (VC)	x			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	x			
INOUE, Lorraine R.	x			
DECORTE, Samantha	x			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>			
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align:center;"></div>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original    Yellow    Pink File with Committee Report    Committee    Drafting Agency				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes