

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2730

Honolulu, Hawaii

**MAR 05 2026**

RE: S.B. No. 3203

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. 3203 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AIR MEDICAL SERVICES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to improve the State's air medical services.

More specifically, this measure:

- (1) Establishes permanent, dedicated air medical staffing within the Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention Systems Branch of the Department of Health;
- (2) Strengthens statewide governance, coordination, and oversight of emergency aeromedical and interfacility air medical services;
- (3) Supports data-driven quality improvement, accountability, and performance monitoring;
- (4) Enhances disaster preparedness and multi-island response capabilities through clearly defined authority and coordinated air medical operations; and



- (5) Promotes health equity by supporting timely access to emergency medical care for rural and neighbor island communities.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Department of Health, AlohaCare, Hawaii Medical Association, and one individual.

Your Committee finds that air medical services are an essential component of Hawaii's emergency medical care systems, healthcare infrastructure, and all-hazards disaster preparedness. Your Committee notes that Hawaii's geographic isolation, multi-island structure, rural communities, and limited access to specialty and tertiary care make timely air medical transport critical to providing equitable access to lifesaving care, especially on neighbor islands. Accordingly, your Committee finds that this measure will help the State implement nationally recognized best practices, which emphasize centralized governance; clinically driven coordination; continuous quality improvement, and integration with trauma, stroke, cardiac, and acute care centers, and with emergency medical services, and disaster response agencies.

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. 3203 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 0203	HHS , 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
<b>TOTAL</b>	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