

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2167

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 07 2024

RE: S.B. No. 2818  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2024  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism,  
to which was referred S.B. No. 2818 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE MINIMUM WAGE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require the  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to  
conduct a study on the effect on businesses of increasing the  
minimum wage and appropriate moneys to conduct the study.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the Hawai'i Farm Bureau and Retail Merchants of Hawaii.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this  
measure from the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Imua Alliance, and  
Democratic Party of Hawai'i Labor Caucus.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and  
UNITE HERE Local 5.

Your Committee finds that the assessment of increasing the  
minimum wage in the State needs to be thorough and comprehensive  
to factor in the adjustment's larger impact on the State's  
economy. Small agricultural businesses are especially vulnerable  
to any increase in costs. This measure will help ensure any



minimum wage increase considers a proper balance in light of these concerns.

Your Committee acknowledges the concerns raised by the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism that they do not have the adequate resources to conduct this study. The Department estimates the cost to hire a research firm to conduct surveys and prepare a report to be approximately \$200,000. Should your Committee on Ways and Means choose to hear this measure, your Committee respectfully requests that this amount be considered.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of January 1, 2060, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) 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 Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2818, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2818, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Energy, Economic  
Development, and Tourism,

  
LYNN DECOITE, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-Second Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism**  
**EET**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
<i>SB 2818</i>	<i>EET, WAM</i>	<i>2-1-24</i>		
<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
DECOITE, Lynn (C)	/			
WAKAI, Glenn (VC)				/
FUKUNAGA, Carol	/			
KIM, Donna Mercado		/		
FEVELLA, Kurt				/
<b>TOTAL</b>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align:center;"><i>Donna Mercado Kim</i></div>				
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\*Only one measure per Record of Votes