STAND. COM. REP. NO. **1312**

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 19 , 2025

RE: S.B. No. 849

S.D. 1 H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura Speaker, House of Representatives Thirty-Third State Legislature Regular Session of 2025 State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Water & Land, to which was referred S.B. No. 849, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WILDLIFE CONSERVATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Prohibit and impose penalties on the intentional taking, harming, or killing of 'io; and
- (2) Increase the penalties and fees for taking and killing indigenous species of aquatic life, wildlife, and land plants that are native to the State.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources; Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition; and three individuals.

Your Committee finds that many of the State's native species face significant threats from overexploitation, habitat destruction, and climate change. Your Committee further finds that the 'io, or Hawaiian hawk, plays an important role in maintaining ecological balance by controlling populations of rodents and other invasive species that threaten native flora and

fauna. Although the 'io was removed from the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 on February 3, 2020, it still faces ongoing threats from habitat loss, illegal hunting, and environmental degradation. While 'io are currently listed as endangered birds under Hawaii Administrative Rules, your Committee believes that prohibiting the unauthorized taking and killing of Hawaii's indigenous species will deter the intentional taking of 'io in the event the Department of Land and Natural Resources delists 'io in the future.

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 Water & Land that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 849, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 849, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Water & Land,

MARK J. HASHEM, Chair

State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Thirty-third Legislature

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Record of Votes of the Committee on Water & Land

Bill/Resolution No.: 88 849 801	Committee R		Dat	3/13/2	-5
The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.					
The recommendation is to: Pass, unamended (as is) Pass, with amendments (HD) Hold Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)					
WAL Members		Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. HASHEM, Mark J. (C)		V			
2. LAMOSAO, Rachele F. (VC)					
3. BELATTI, Della Au					
4. ICHIYAMA, Linda		<u></u>			
5. IWAMOTO, Kim Coco					AND THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN
6. MORIKAWA, Dee					
	447		413 32		M. J. T.
7. POEPOE, Mahina					NATIONAL PROGRAMMENT OF THE PROG
8. WOODSON, Justin H.	**************************************				
9. SHIMIZU, Garner M.				3 mar. 198	
10. SOUZA, Kanani				THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF TH	361.82
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TOTAL (10)	/	\mathscr{C}		0	1
The recommendation is: Adopted If joint referral, did not support recommendation. committee agronym(s)					
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:					
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO					