

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 28 2025RE: S.B. No. 849
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, 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 and intent of this measure is to:

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

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources, For the Fishes, and fourteen individuals.

Your Committee finds that the 'io (Hawaiian hawk) is a native bird species that is presently categorized as endangered. In 2020, 'io were delisted from the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973; however, 'io continue to receive protection from intentional taking under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. As the State is home to many native species that are only found in Hawaii, protecting species such as 'io is of paramount importance to preserving the State's unique biological identity. Therefore, this measure



increases existing penalties for the taking of indigenous species to ensure continued protection and growth of native wildlife.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 849, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary,



KARL RHOADS, Chair



**Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC**

*Only one measure per Record of Votes