

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1759

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 02

, 2025

RE: S.B. No. 849
S.D. 1
H.D. 2

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

Madame:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 849, S.D. 1, H.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 and one individual.

Your Committee finds that Hawaii is home to a rich diversity of indigenous species of aquatic life, wildlife, and land plants that are important in maintaining ecological balance and preserving the cultural heritage of the region. Your Committee further finds that the 'io, or Hawaiian hawk, serves as a symbol of strength and resilience in Hawaiian culture and plays a vital role

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in Hawaii's unique ecosystem as a native raptor. However, the 'io and other native wildlife face ongoing threats from habitat loss, illegal hunting, and environmental degradation. This measure seeks to strengthen penalties for the taking killing of Hawaii's indigenous species, including 'io, to deter harmful activity against aquatic life, wildlife, and land plants that are native to Hawaii.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to upon approval; 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 Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 849, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 849, S.D. 1, H.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary &
Hawaiian Affairs,



DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 849 (DI HDI)	Committee Referral: WAL, JHA	Date: 03/27/2025
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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)

JHA Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. TARNAS, David A. (C)	✓			
2. POEPOE, Mahina (VC)	✓			
3. BELATTI, Della Au	✓			
4. COCHRAN, Elle				✓
5. HASHEM, Mark J.	✓			
6. KAHALOA, Kirstin	✓			
7. PERRUSO, Amy A.	✓			
8. TAKAYAMA, Gregg	✓			
9. TODD, Chris				✓
10. GARCIA, Diamond	✓			
11. SHIMIZU, Garner M.	✓			
TOTAL (11)	9	0	0	2

The recommendation is: Adopted Not Adopted
 If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation.
 committee acronym(s)

Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____

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