STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3361

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 30 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1553
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts and Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred H.B. No. 1553, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO HABITAT CONSERVATION PLANS,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require any existing habitat conservation plan that does not include an agreement for emergency medical and rehabilitation services for affected native wildlife to be amended to include the services in the agreement.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Save our Shearwaters, and two individuals.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative.

Your Committees find that existing law requires incidental take license holders with habitat conservation plans to include an agreement to enter into and maintain a contract with a facility capable of providing emergency medical and rehabilitation services to wildlife, such as a wildlife rehabilitation center. Nonetheless, many older habitat conservation plans of incidental

take license holders do not comply with this requirement. This measure will update these plans, establishing clear response pathways, reducing confusion during time-sensitive situations, and lowering expenses for wildlife care providers, for the protection and care of native wildlife statewide.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

(1) Inserting an effective date of January 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and

(2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts and Agriculture and Environment that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1553, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1553, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committees on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts and Agriculture and Environment,

MIKE GABBARD, Chair

CHRIS LEE, Chair

The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
WLA

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
HB 1553 HD1	WLA/AEN, JDC	03/20/2026

☐ The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.

If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

☐ Pass, unamended 2312 ☑ Pass, with amendments 2311 ☐ Hold 2310 ☐ Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
LEE, Chris (C)	✓			
INOUYE, Lorraine R. (VC)				✓
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
LAMOSAO, Rachele	✓			
DECORTE, Samantha				✓
TOTAL	3	0	0	2

Recommendation: ☑ Adopted ☐ Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:

Distribution: Original — File with Committee Report; Yellow — Committee; Pink — Drafting Agency

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

Revised: 01/21/26

The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
HB1553, HD1	WLA/AEN, JDC	3/20/26

☐ The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.

If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

☐ Pass, unamended 2312 ☒ Pass, with amendments 2311 ☐ Hold 2310 ☐ Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
GABBARD, Mike (C)	✓			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (VC)				✓
DECOITE, Lynn	✓			
RHOADS, Karl	✓			
AWA, Brenton				✓
TOTAL	3	0	0	2

Recommendation: ☒ Adopted ☐ Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature: Karl Rhoads

Distribution: Original — File with Committee Report; Yellow — Committee; Pink — Drafting Agency

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

Revised: 01/02/26