STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2982

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 0 6 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2973
S.D. 1

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 2973, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FISHING,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to prohibit the use of jug line fishing and other jug rig variant fishing methods in state waters.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Kaimana Ocean Safari, Hawaiian Monk Seal Preservation Ohana, Kona Honu Divers, Hawai'i Wildlife Discovery Center, Ocean Defenders Alliance, For the Fishes, Conservation Council for Hawai'i, and fifty-nine individuals.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from fifteen individuals.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Your Committee finds that jug line and jug rig variant fishing involve heavy pound-test line and buoyant jugs that increase the risk of gear loss and wildlife entanglement, leading to fatal consequences for marine life. In an especially

disturbing incident, gear used for jug line fishing caused the death of a Hawaiian monk seal, which was one of only approximately one thousand six hundred remaining individuals of the species. The incident highlights the broader risk of harm to marine life from derelict fishing gear. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, derelict fishing gear, which includes equipment used for jug line fishing, poses a direct threat to marine life, even in protected marine conservation areas. By banning jug line fishing and jug rig variant fishing methods, this measure will protect nearshore marine ecosystems, uphold the State's commitment to environmental protection, and preserve vital natural resources.

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. 2973, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

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

Karl Rhoads

KARL RHOADS, Chair

The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
SB 2973 SD1	WLA, JDC	3/3/26

☐ 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
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
AWA, Brenton			✓	
TOTAL	4	—	1	—

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: 01/02/26