CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REP. NO. 218-26

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAY 1 2026

RE: S.B. No. 3253
S.D. 2
H.D. 1
C.D. 1

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

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir and Madam:

Your Committee on Conference on the disagreeing vote of the Senate to the amendments proposed by the House of Representatives in S.B. No. 3253, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONSERVATION,"

having met, and after full and free discussion, has agreed to recommend and does recommend to the respective Houses the final passage of this bill in an amended form.

The purpose of this measure is to establish the Hawaii Conservation Sanctuary as a nonprofit entity to protect and expand populations of endangered species and other native wildlife in the State.

Your Committee on Conference finds that the populations of many species of animal within the State may continue to decline without more and better structured conservation efforts, like those found in other jurisdictions such as New Zealand. This measure establishes the framework for a nonprofit organization whose collaboration with the State will improve the State's biodiversity and generate

opportunities for further research and employment throughout the State.

Your Committee on Conference has amended this measure by:

(1) Clarifying that the proposed new section in chapter 195D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires the State to recognize, rather than establish, the Hawaii Conservation Sanctuary, which shall be a nonprofit organization established pursuant to S.R. No. 94, S.D. 1, Regular Session of 2026;

(2) Inserting language specifying that the official designation of the Hawaii Conservation Sanctuary shall be the State of Hawaii Conservation Sanctuary;

(3) Clarifying that one conservation sanctuary developed and operated by the Hawaii Conservation Sanctuary in the State shall be an area appropriate for the protection of native birds and other species;

(4) Inserting language requiring the Hawaii Conservation Sanctuary to develop and operate a conservation sanctuary in an area in the State appropriate for the protection of rescue animals and larger species of wildlife;

(5) Inserting language allowing the Hawaii Conservation Sanctuary to provide for on-site visitor access and accommodation as it deems appropriate to support its mission;

(6) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2026; and

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

As affirmed by the record of votes of the managers of your Committee on Conference that is attached to this report, your Committee on Conference is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 3253, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Final Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 3253, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the managers:

of the managers:

ON THE PART OF THE HOUSE

MARK J. HASHEM
Co-Chair

NICOLE E. LOWEN
Co-Chair

DEE MORIKAWA
Co-Chair

ON THE PART OF THE SENATE

CHRIS LEE
Chair

MIKE GABBARD
Co-Chair

HERBERT M. RICHARDS, III
Co-Chair

Hawai'i State Legislature

Record of Votes of a Conference Committee

CCR 218-26

Bill / Concurrent Resolution No.: **SB 3253, SD 2, HD 1**	Date/Time: 5/1/26 1pm

☒ The recommendation of the House and Senate managers is to pass with amendments (CD).

☐ The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision.

☐ The recommendation of the Senate Manager(s) is to AGREE to the House amendments made to the Senate Measure

☐ The recommendation of the House Manager(s) is to AGREE to the Senate amendments made to the House Measure.

Senate Managers	A	WR	N	E
LEE, Chris, Chr.	✓			
GABBARD, Mike, Co-Chr.	✓			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim", Co-Chr.	✓			
TOTAL	3			

House Managers	A	WR	N	E
HASHEM, Mark J., Co-Chr.	✓			
LOWEN, Nicole E., Co-Chr.	✓			
MORIKAWA, Dee, Co-Chr.	✓			
SHIMIZU, Garner M.			✓	
TOTAL	3		1	

A = Aye **WR** = Aye with Reservations **N** = Nay **E** = Excused

Senate Recommendation is:
☑ Adopted ☐ Not Adopted

House Recommendation is:
☒ Adopted ☐ Not Adopted

Senate Lead Chair's or Designee's Signature:

House Lead Chair's or Designee's Signature:

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