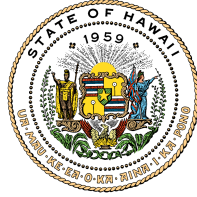


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LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on
WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, April 8, 2026
1:01 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 100
and
SENATE RESOLUTION 94

Senate Concurrent Resolution 100 and Senate Resolution 94 propose convening a working group to develop recommendations for establishing and structuring a nonprofit organization recognized by the State to support sanctuaries and other conservation-related initiatives for endangered and other species. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support.**

Hawai'i faces an unprecedented biodiversity crisis, with many native species continuing to decline due to habitat loss, invasive species, and diseases such as avian malaria. Addressing these threats requires not only sound science and management but also sustained, flexible, and diversified funding mechanisms to complement existing state efforts.

The Division of Forestry and Wildlife and its partners have made significant progress in implementing conservation actions, including habitat restoration, predator control, and mosquito suppression. However, current funding streams are often limited, inflexible, or short-term, constraining the ability to implement large-scale, long-term conservation strategies. Establishing a state-recognized nonprofit entity could provide several important benefits, including increased funding flexibility and capacity, support for sanctuary development and management, enhanced partnership and coordination, and greater operational agility. Convening a working group will help ensure that the development of such an organization is thoughtful, transparent, and inclusive, incorporating input from key stakeholders, including state agencies, conservation organizations, cultural practitioners, and the broader community.

Given the scale and urgency of Hawai'i's conservation challenges, particularly for endangered species, this resolution represents a proactive and strategic step toward strengthening our collective capacity to respond effectively.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

SR-94

Submitted on: 3/31/2026 9:51:11 AM

Testimony for WLA on 4/8/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!