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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HABITAT CONSERVATION PLANS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. Section 195D-21, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

3       "(b) (1) Except as otherwise provided by law, the board, upon  
4                recommendation from the department, in cooperation  
5                with other state, federal, county, or private  
6                organizations and landowners, after a public hearing  
7                on the island affected, and upon an affirmative vote  
8                of no less than two-thirds of its authorized  
9                membership, may enter into a habitat conservation  
10              plan, if it determines that:

11            (A) The plan will further the purposes of this  
12                chapter by protecting, maintaining, restoring, or  
13                enhancing identified ecosystems, natural  
14                communities, or habitat types upon which  
15                endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate  
16                species depend within the area covered by the  
17                plan;



1 (B) The plan will increase the likelihood of recovery  
2 of the endangered or threatened species that are  
3 the focus of the plan; and

4 (C) The plan satisfies all the requirements of this  
5 chapter.

6 In the event the board votes to enter into a habitat  
7 conservation plan for which the majority of the  
8 endangered species recovery committee recommended  
9 disapproval, the board may not enter into the habitat  
10 conservation plan unless the plan is approved by a  
11 two-thirds majority vote of both houses of the  
12 legislature. Habitat conservation plans may allow  
13 conservation rental agreements, habitat banking, and  
14 direct payments. Any habitat conservation plan  
15 approved pursuant to this section shall be based on  
16 the best available scientific and other reliable data  
17 available at the time the plan is approved.

18 (2) Each habitat conservation plan shall:

19 (A) Identify the geographic area encompassed by the  
20 plan; the ecosystems, natural communities, or  
21 habitat types within the plan area that are the



1 focus of the plan; and the endangered,  
2 threatened, proposed, and candidate species known  
3 or reasonably expected to be present in those  
4 ecosystems, natural communities, or habitat types  
5 in the plan area;

6 (B) Describe the activities contemplated to be  
7 undertaken within the plan area with sufficient  
8 detail to allow the department to evaluate the  
9 impact of the activities on the particular  
10 ecosystems, natural communities, or habitat types  
11 within the plan area that are the focus of the  
12 plan;

13 (C) Identify the steps that will be taken to minimize  
14 and mitigate all negative impacts, including  
15 without limitation the impact of any authorized  
16 incidental take, with consideration of the full  
17 range of the species on the island so that  
18 cumulative impacts associated with the take can  
19 be adequately assessed[+], and the funding that  
20 will be available to implement those steps;



- 1 (D) Identify those measures or actions to be
- 2 undertaken to protect, maintain, restore, or
- 3 enhance the ecosystems, natural communities, or
- 4 habitat types within the plan area; a schedule
- 5 for implementation of the measures or actions;
- 6 and an adequate funding source to ensure that the
- 7 actions or measures, including monitoring, are
- 8 undertaken in accordance with the schedule;
- 9 (E) Be consistent with the goals and objectives of
- 10 any approved recovery plan for any endangered
- 11 species or threatened species known or reasonably
- 12 expected to occur in the ecosystems, natural
- 13 communities, or habitat types in the plan area;
- 14 (F) Provide reasonable certainty that the ecosystems,
- 15 natural communities, or habitat types will be
- 16 maintained in the plan area, throughout the life
- 17 of the plan, in sufficient quality, distribution,
- 18 and extent to support within the plan area those
- 19 species typically associated with the ecosystems,
- 20 natural communities, or habitat types, including
- 21 any endangered, threatened, proposed, and



1 candidate species known or reasonably expected to  
2 be present in the ecosystems, natural  
3 communities, or habitat types within the plan  
4 area;

5 (G) Include an agreement to enter into and maintain  
6 an annual service contract with a stand-by and  
7 response facility available to provide emergency  
8 medical and rehabilitation services to native  
9 wildlife affected by activities undertaken within  
10 the plan area;

11 (H) Contain objective, measurable goals, the  
12 achievement of which will contribute  
13 significantly to the protection, maintenance,  
14 restoration, or enhancement of the ecosystems,  
15 natural communities, or habitat types; time  
16 frames within which the goals are to be achieved;  
17 provisions for monitoring (such as field sampling  
18 techniques), including periodic monitoring by  
19 representatives of the department or the  
20 endangered species recovery committee, or both;  
21 and provisions for evaluating progress in



1           achieving the goals quantitatively and  
2           qualitatively; and  
3           (I) Provide for an adaptive management strategy that  
4           specifies the actions to be taken periodically if  
5           the plan is not achieving its goals[-];  
6           provided that any habitat conservation plan in effect  
7           as of the effective date of Act       , Session Laws of  
8           Hawaii 2026, that does not include the agreement  
9           required under subparagraph (G) shall be amended to  
10          include the services in the agreement."

11          SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
12 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

13          SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

Habitat Conservation Plans; Emergency Medical and Rehabilitation Services Agreement

**Description:**

Requires 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. Effective 1/1/3000. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

