

MAR 16 2026

SENATE RESOLUTION

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.

1 WHEREAS, numerous species in the State are on the brink of
2 extinction, in particular many indigenous birds found nowhere
3 else in the world, and while the State has made progress in
4 addressing the myriad causes contributing to extinction,
5 existing efforts must be supplemented to prevent further loss of
6 biodiversity; and

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8 WHEREAS, numerous successful sanctuary models around the
9 world rely on flexible quasi-government partnerships that
10 generate substantial revenue for conservation efforts; provide
11 critical habitat for endangered and other species; and serve as
12 educational centers for local communities, schools, and
13 visitors; and

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15 WHEREAS, given its significantly greater number of
16 endangered species compared to most other states, the State is
17 uniquely positioned to become a national center for endangered
18 species research, education, and protection; and

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20 WHEREAS, establishing sanctuaries in the State similar to
21 those that have proven successful elsewhere can raise revenue;
22 advance the State's position as the premier place for endangered
23 species work; and create pathways for local education, jobs,
24 investment, and research; and

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26 WHEREAS, successful models for the establishment and
27 operation of specialized endangered species sanctuaries
28 efficiently supplement broader government-run efforts and
29 programs, as many quasi-government sanctuary models provide more
30 flexibility and adaptability for fundraising, management,
31 innovation, and community engagement; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
3 that a working group is convened to develop recommendations for
4 establishing and structuring a nonprofit organization recognized
5 by the State to support sanctuaries and other conservation-
6 related initiatives for endangered and other species; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
9 to be chaired jointly by the Chairs of the Senate and House of
10 Representatives Standing Committees with jurisdiction over water
11 and land; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership of the working
14 group is requested to consist of the Chairperson of the Board of
15 Land and Natural Resources or the Chairperson's designee,
16 Director of the Land Use Commission, and other members or
17 subject matter experts invited by the Chairs of the working
18 group; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
21 to:

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- 23 (1) Identify successful models for sanctuaries and
24 conservation-related nonprofit organizations in other
25 jurisdictions;
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 - 27 (2) Examine governance structures and partnership models
28 used by those organizations; and
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 - 30 (3) Develop and establish the structure, governance, and
31 operational framework of a nonprofit organization as
32 may be appropriate to support sanctuaries and other
33 conservation-related initiatives in the State for
34 endangered and other species from within and outside
35 the State as may be most beneficial; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
38 to submit a report of its findings and activities, along with
39 any recommendations, to the Legislature no later than twenty
40 days prior to the convening of the Regular Sessions of 2027 and
41 2028; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
3 Land and Natural Resources and Director of the Land Use
4 Commission.

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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. L. ...', is written over a horizontal line.