
SENATE RESOLUTION

CONVENING A WORKING GROUP TO ESTABLISH 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; and
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1 WHEREAS, the Legislature has moved to consider the
2 establishment of sanctuaries for endangered and other species as
3 contemplated by S.B. 3253, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 (2026), and a working
4 group is needed to stand up the accompanying governance
5 organization that would conduct the sanctuary work; now,
6 therefore,
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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
9 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
10 that a working group is convened to establish a nonprofit
11 organization recognized by the State to support sanctuaries and
12 other conservation-related initiatives for endangered and other
13 species; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
16 to be chaired by the Chair of the Senate Standing Committee with
17 primary jurisdiction over water and land; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership of the working
20 group is requested to consist of the Chairperson of the Board of
21 Land and Natural Resources or the Chairperson's designee,
22 Executive Officer of the Land Use Commission, and other members
23 or subject matter experts invited by the Chair of the working
24 group; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
27 to:
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- 29 (1) Identify successful models for sanctuaries and
30 conservation-related nonprofit organizations in other
31 jurisdictions;
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- 33 (2) Examine governance structures and partnership models
34 used by those organizations; and
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- 36 (3) Develop and establish the structure, governance, and
37 operational framework of a nonprofit organization as
38 may be appropriate to support sanctuaries and other
39 conservation-related initiatives in the State for
40 endangered and other species from within and outside
41 the State as may be most beneficial; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
2 to submit a report of its findings and activities, along with
3 any recommendations, to the Legislature no later than twenty
4 days prior to the convening of the Regular Sessions of 2027 and
5 2028; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
9 Land and Natural Resources and Executive Officer of the Land Use
Commission.

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