Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 2 0 2026

RE:     S.B. No. 2084
        S.D. 1


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

Sir:

        Your Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts, to which
was referred S.B. No. 2084 entitled:

        "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MARINE LIFE CONSERVATION
        DISTRICTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

        The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

        (1)  Require the Department of Land and Natural Resources to
             establish and conduct a Marine Life Conservation
             District Carrying Capacity Program;

        (2)  Require the Department to submit a report to the
             Legislature and adopt administrative rules; and

        (3)  Appropriate funds for the Department to establish and
             conduct the Program.

        Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Land and Natural Resources; The Nature
Conservancy, Hawaiʻi and Palmyra; Activities and Attractions
Association of Hawaiʻi, Inc.; Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea; Hui Aloha
Kiholo; Hawaiʻi Ocean Legislative Task Force; Friends of Hanauma
Bay; Hawaiʻi Reef Ocean Coalition; and one individual.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from Calypso Charters.

Your Committee finds that, while tourism levels are recovering from COVID-19, the State needs to plan for the impact of increased visitation to marine life conservation districts. Your Committee further finds that Act 31, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022 (Act 31), established the Pupukea Marine Life Conservation District Carrying Capacity Pilot Program to identify long-term management options to reduce the impact of humans on the health and abundance of marine life within that district. Your Committee believes Act 31 should serve as a model for all marine life conservation districts in the State. Accordingly, this measure will ensure all marine life conservation districts address their capacity limits and are prepared for the task of preserving the State's most valuable marine resources in the face of future threats.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

(1) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and

(2) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

Your Committee notes that this measure contains an appropriation for an unspecified amount. Should your Committee on Ways and Means choose to deliberate on this measure, your Committee respectfully requests that it consider inserting an appropriate amount.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2084, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2084, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water, Land,
Culture and the Arts,

_____

CHRIS LEE, Chair

The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawaiʻi

## Record of Votes
## Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
## WLA

| Bill / Resolution No.:* | Committee Referral: | Date: |
|---|---|---|
| SB 2084 | WLA, WAM | 2-18-2026 |

☐ The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.

If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

☐ Pass, unamended 2312    ☑ Pass, with amendments 2311    ☐ Hold 2310    ☐ Recommit 2313

| Members | Aye | Aye (WR) | Nay | Excused |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| LEE, Chris (C) | ✓ | | | |
| INOUYE, Lorraine R. (VC) | ✓ | | | |
| CHANG, Stanley | | | | ✓ |
| LAMOSAO, Rachele | ✓ | | | |
| DECORTE, Samantha | ✓ | | | |
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| **TOTAL** | 4 | | | 1 |

Recommendation:    ☑ Adopted      ☐ Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:

_Lorraine R. Inouye_

| Distribution: | Original | Yellow | Pink |
|---|---|---|---|
| | File with Committee Report | Committee | Drafting Agency |

## *Only one measure per Record of Votes