

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

3044

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 06 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2983
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 Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 2983, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish the offense of criminal destruction of a tree on state or county property, punishable as a misdemeanor.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from three individuals.

Your Committee finds that trees offer significant benefits to the State including improving air quality, restoring healthy groundwater, and protecting marine ecosystems. Your Committee believes that increasing loss of tree canopy throughout the State can be mitigated through increased enforcement mechanisms for intentional tree destruction. This measure will ensure trees have the same protection as destruction of any other public property.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2983, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary,

Karl Rhoads

KARL RHOADS, Chair



