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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
WATER, LAND, CULTURE, AND THE ARTS
and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Wednesday, February 11, 2026
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 3253
RELATING TO CONSERVATION**

Senate Bill 3253 establishes the Hawai'i Conservation Sanctuary as a nonprofit group to work with the Department of Land and Natural Resources to support conservation, wildlife preservation, and ancillary programs by establishing sanctuaries in the State. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The Department's mission is to enhance, protect, conserve, and manage Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources for present and future generations. The Department recognizes that achieving this mission increasingly requires collaboration with non-governmental partners, including nonprofit organizations that can complement State conservation programs and priorities and increase public engagement and education.

The Department stresses the importance of making sure that any nonprofit established under this measure works together, and not at cross purposes, with the Department in accordance with existing Department mandates or State laws.

The Department agrees with the goal of Senate Bill 3253 to improve conservation through partnership and collaboration. Clear roles, responsibilities, and coordination can help this measure make a positive impact on conservation, wildlife preservation, and public engagement across the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

SB-3253

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:31:51 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT