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

Before the House Committee on
WATER AND LAND

Thursday, April 16, 2026
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 411

In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 100, SENATE DRAFT 1

Senate Concurrent Resolution 100, Senate Draft 1, proposes convening a working group to develop recommendations for the establishment and structure of a state-recognized nonprofit organization to support wildlife sanctuaries and other conservation initiatives for endangered and other species. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

Hawai'i is facing an unprecedented biodiversity crisis, with many native species continuing to decline due to habitat loss, invasive species, and diseases such as avian malaria. Addressing these threats requires not only sound science and effective management but also sustained, flexible, and diversified funding mechanisms to complement existing state efforts.

The Division of Forestry and Wildlife and its partners have made significant progress in implementing conservation actions, including habitat restoration, predator control, and mosquito suppression. However, current funding sources are often limited in scope, inflexible, or short-term, which constrains the implementation of large-scale, long-term conservation strategies.

Establishing a state-recognized nonprofit entity could provide several key benefits, including increased funding flexibility and capacity, enhanced support for sanctuary development and management, strengthened partnerships and coordination, and greater operational agility. Convening a working group will help ensure that the development of such an organization is deliberate, transparent, and inclusive, incorporating input from key stakeholders, including state agencies, conservation organizations, cultural practitioners, and the broader community.

Given the scale and urgency of Hawai'i's conservation challenges, particularly for endangered species, this resolution represents a proactive and strategic step toward strengthening the State's collective capacity to respond effectively.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

SCR-100-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 4:41:58 PM

Testimony for WAL on 4/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!