



Senate Committee on Judiciary
Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in Support of S.B. 2849 S.D. 1, Relating to Public Meetings
Hearing: March 3, 2026 at 10:15 a.m.

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ben Creps. I am a staff attorney at the Public First Law Center, a nonprofit organization that promotes government transparency. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support** of S.B. 2849 S.D. 1.

S.B. 2849 S.D. 1 reflects best practice for preparing agendas. The most important part of an agenda is the agenda. But many boards provide lengthy “boilerplate” instructions and non-substantive meeting information at the beginning of a meeting notice. While that can be frustrating for anyone, we have heard consistent concerns that it is particularly difficult for individuals using assistive “screen reading” technology.

Clear and accessible meeting notices are critical to effective public participation. By standardizing and prioritizing the placement of substantive agenda items (as in the attached example), S.B. 2849 S.D. 1 reduces barriers to access and helps ensure that all members of the public can quickly find the information they need.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 2849 S.D. 1.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

DAWN N.S. CHANG
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RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
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CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
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MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY COMMITTEE (ESRC)
PUBLIC MEETING**

DATE: March 6, 2026

TIME: 9:00 AM HST

LOCATION: DLNR – DLNR Boardroom at Kalanimoku Building
1151 Punchbowl St,
Room #132, Honolulu, Hawai'i
Online via [this Zoom link](#), or livestream with [this YouTube link](#)
Zoom Meeting ID: 868 5661 3256
Zoom Passcode: 2ks4Rv

Meeting materials are available at: <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wildlife/esrc/meeting-archives/>

AGENDA

ITEM 1. Call to order

ITEM 2: Status of the Hōkūala (Kaua'i Lagoons) Habitat Conservation Plan, Kaua'i

- Licensee Presentation
- DOFAW HCP Presentation
- ESRC Discussion and Comments

ITEM 3: Status of the Kamehameha Schools Keauhou and Kīlauea Forest Lands Safe Harbor Agreement, Hawai'i Island

- Licensee Presentation
- DOFAW HCP Presentation
- ESRC Discussion and Comments

ITEM 4: Status of the Safe Harbor Agreement for the Introduction of Endangered Orangeblack Hawaiian Damselfly (*Megalagrion xanthomelas*) to a Conservation Area on the Island of Lānaʻi

- Licensee Presentation
- DOFAW HCP Presentation
- ESRC Discussion and Comments

ITEM 5: Haleakalā Safe Harbor Agreement, Maui; Puʻu O Hōkū Safe Harbor Agreement and Programmatic Nēnē Safe Harbor Agreement, Molokaʻi

- DOFAW HCP Presentation
- ESRC Discussion and Comments

ITEM 6. 2025 Status of Kauaʻi Seabird Habitat Conservation Plan (KSHCP) Seabird Mitigation at Kahuama`a Seabird Preserve

- Presentation by Pacific Rim Conservation
- ESRC Discussion and Comments

ITEM 7. Adjournment

This public meeting will be held using interactive conference technology in accordance with section 92-3.7, Haw. Rev. Stat. (HRS). Committee members, staff, participants, and testifiers can choose to participate either in person, via ZOOM, or by telephone. Anyone attending in person is encouraged to wear a mask.

The public may also view the live meeting via its livestream at:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7wF8qRwctkxwAUwHxv9H-A>

Meeting materials, if applicable, will be available for public review in advance of the meeting at:
<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wildlife/esrc/meeting-archives/>

The meeting will be live-streamed and recorded at:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7wF8qRwctkxwAUwHxv9H-A>

To provide in-person testimony (Masks are encouraged):
Attend live at 1151 Punchbowl Street Rm. 132 (Kalanimoku Building), Honolulu, Hawaiʻi.

To provide Video Testimony by ZOOM:
Send your request via email to dofaw.hcp@hawaii.gov or call Jason D. Omick at (808) 347-6869 or Jesse W. Adams at (808) 265-3276. Please include your name, phone number, email address, and the agenda item on which you would like to provide testimony for in your email request. Requests may be made during the meeting and will be processed as soon as practicable. You will need a computer with internet access, a video camera, and a microphone to participate via video. If you require access by phone only, please indicate that in your email request.

To provide Written Testimony by Mail or E-Mail:
Interested persons can submit written testimony in advance of each meeting that will be distributed to Committee Members prior to the meeting. Submit written testimony to dofaw.hcp@hawaii.gov or via postal mail to Endangered Species Committee c/o HCP Section, Division of Forestry & Wildlife, 1151 Punchbowl St. #325, Honolulu, HI, 96813. We request written testimony be submitted no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting to ensure time for Committee Member review. Written testimony that is received later than 24 hours prior to the meeting will be retained as part of the record and distributed to

Committee Members as soon as practicable, but we cannot ensure that Committee Members will receive it with sufficient time for review prior to decision-making.

If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, contact Jason D. Omick at (808) 347-6869 or Jesse W. Adams at (808) 265-3276 or via e-mail at dofaw.hcp@hawaii.gov as soon as possible. Requests made as early as possible have a greater likelihood of being fulfilled. Upon request, this notice is available in alternate/accessible formats.

The Committee may go into Executive Session pursuant to section 92-5(a)(4), HRS, to consult with its attorney on questions and issues relating to the Committee's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities.