

S.B. NO. 2875

JAN 23 2014

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY COMMITTEE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Section 195D-25, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:
3 "(a) There is established within the department for
4 administrative purposes only, the endangered species recovery
5 committee, which shall serve as a consultant to the board and
6 the department on matters relating to endangered, threatened,
7 proposed, and candidate species. The committee shall consist of
8 two field biologists with expertise in conservation biology, a
9 person possessing a background in native Hawaiian traditional
10 and customary practices, the chairperson of the board or the
11 chairperson's designee, the ecoregion director of the United
12 States Fish and Wildlife Service or the director's designee, the
13 director of the United States Geological Survey, Biological
14 Resources Division or the director's designee, and the director
15 of the University of Hawaii Environmental Center or the
16 director's designee.
17 Nongovernmental members shall be appointed by the governor
18 pursuant to section 26-34. Nongovernmental members shall not

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1 serve for more than two consecutive terms. Nongovernmental
2 members shall serve for four-year staggered terms, except that
3 one of the members first appointed shall serve for two years.

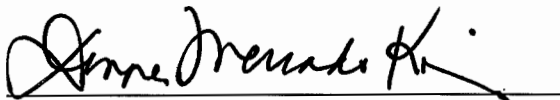
4 Governmental members from the federal agencies are
5 requested but not required to serve on the committee. The
6 ability of the committee to carry out its functions and purposes
7 shall not be affected by the vacancy of any position allotted to
8 a federal governmental member."

9 SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: 

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BY REQUEST

Report Title:

Endangered Species Recovery Committee Membership; Native Hawaiian Traditional and Customary Practices

Description:

Amends the composition of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee by adding a member possessing a background in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Land and Natural Resources

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY COMMITTEE.

PURPOSE: To amend the composition of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee by adding a member possessing a background in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.

MEANS: Amend section 195D-25(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes.

JUSTIFICATION: Native Hawaiian culture has knowledge that has been passed on for generations and is still practiced for the purpose of perpetuating traditional protocols, caring for and protecting the environment, and strengthening cultural and spiritual connections.

Pursuant to various statutes, nearly all the boards and commissions under the jurisdiction of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) require a member with a background in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices. Currently however, the Endangered Species Recovery Committee does not include a member with a background in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.

Incorporating members with such a background on the Endangered Species Recovery Committee would provide an opportunity for valuable knowledge of native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices to be included in decisions regarding endangered species of significance to the native Hawaiian culture.

Impact on the public: This bill would allow the public to benefit from knowledge of native Hawaiian traditional and customary

practices with regard to decisions affecting endangered species.

Impact on the department and other agencies:
This bill would provide the Department with valuable knowledge of native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices with regard to decisions affecting endangered species.

GENERAL FUND: None.
OTHER FUNDS: None.
PPBS PROGRAM DESIGNATION: LNR 402.
OTHER AFFECTED AGENCIES: None.
EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.