STAND. COM. REP. NO.



Honolulu, Hawaii APR 14 2009

RE: S.R. No. 117 S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa President of the Senate Twenty-Fifth State Legislature Regular Session of 2009 State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Energy and Environment, to which was referred S.R. No. 117 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE OF HAWAII TO RECOGNIZE THE THIRD SATURDAY OF EVERY APRIL AS "HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL DAY" AND TO COORDINATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOVERY PLAN FOR THE HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL WITH THE FEDERAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENTS, "

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to urge the State to recognize the third Sunday of every April as "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to coordinate the implementation of the recovery plan for the Hawaiian monk seal with the federal and county governments.

Testimony in support of this measure was submitted by one state department, two private organizations, and eight individuals. Written testimony presented to your Committee may be reviewed on the Legislature's website.

Your Committee finds that the Hawaiian monk seal is critically endangered—over the past fifty years, the Hawaiian monk seal population has declined by more than sixty per cent. Through the efforts of many government and non-governmental agencies, the population of Hawaiian monk seals seems to be slightly increasing in the Main Hawaiian Islands; however, overall, the seal population in our Hawaiian archipelago is still declining by approximately four per cent a year.

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Your Committee finds that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) conducts a semi-annual Hawaiian Monk Seal Count in April, with the assistance of many dedicated volunteer residents throughout Hawaii. In addition to keeping track of the number of seals in the Main Hawaiian Islands, this project helps to educate the public of the appropriate actions to be taken when encountering a critically endangered monk seal. Because one of the challenges facing monk seals that live on populated islands is human disturbance, this public information is critical to protect these animals and help their population recover from endangerment.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive changes for style, consistency, and accuracy.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Energy and Environment that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 117, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.R. No. 117, S.D. 1.

> Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Energy and Environment,

MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate Twenty-Fifth Legislature State of Hawaii

Record of Votes Committee on Energy and Environment ENE

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:		Date:	
SR 117	ENE		2 April	2009
The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.				
If so, then the previous decision was to:				
The Recommendation is:				
Pass, unamended Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2312 2311 2310 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WF	R) Nay	Excused
GABBARD, Mike (C)				
ENGLISH, J. Kalani (VC)				
GREEN, M.D., Josh				1
HOOSER, Gary L.				
IHARA, Jr., Les		men of the class of the second	n ootaa dha kaa amaa waxaa waxaa ahafad waxaa aha	
KOKUBUN, Russell S.				1
HEMMINGS, Fred				
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TOTAL	<u> </u>			3
Recommendation:				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes