

JAN 23 2015

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SPINNER DOLPHINS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the expansion of
2 recreational activities in the ocean has resulted in continuous
3 harassment of Hawaii's spinner dolphins. Spinner dolphins have
4 a rigid daily schedule: hunting in the ocean at night and
5 resting in shallow bays close to the shore during the day.
6 Human activities frequently disrupt their rest periods and
7 endanger the population. It is important to respect spinner
8 dolphins' need for space in order to safeguard the species for
9 future generations to appreciate.

10 The legislature recognizes the valuable contributions these
11 animals make to the marine ecosystem and the tourism industry
12 and finds that limiting human interaction with spinner dolphins
13 will help protect their current population.

14 The purpose of this Act is to protect Hawaii's small
15 population of spinner dolphins so that visitors and locals can
16 continue to enjoy the aerial acrobatics of these marine mammals



1 by establishing fines and penalties for anyone who knowingly
2 harasses a spinner dolphin.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 187A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
5 and to read as follows:

6 "§187A- Taking a spinner dolphin prohibited. (a) A
7 person commits the offense of taking a spinner dolphin if the
8 person intentionally or knowingly takes a spinner dolphin
9 (Stenella longirostris).

10 (b) Any person convicted of taking a spinner dolphin shall
11 be guilty of a class C felony; provided that in addition to any
12 other sentence, the court may impose a fine up to \$50,000.

13 (c) For the purpose of this section:

14 "Take" means to touch, ride, harass, harm, pursue, hunt,
15 shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or to attempt to
16 engage in any such conduct."

17 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
18 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
19 begun before its effective date.

20 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.



S.B. NO. 720

1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Randy H. Baker
Randy H. Baker



S.B. NO. 720

Report Title:

Spinner Dolphins; Taking

Description:

Prohibits the taking of a spinner dolphin.

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