HOUSE OF RÉPRESENTATIVES TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, 2018 STATE OF HAWAII

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO PROHIBIT INDIVIDUALS FROM APPROACHING WITHIN FIFTY FEET OF A HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL EXCEPT WHEN PROVIDING AID TO THE HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL.

1 WHEREAS, in order to protect the population of Hawaiian
2 monk seals (Neomonachus schauinslandi), it is necessary to limit
3 human interaction with them; and

5 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian monk seal is one of the world's most 6 critically endangered species of marine mammal; and

8 WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric 9 Administration has reported that a number of habituated seals 10 have become a serious safety risk to humans, or suffered 11 injuries as a result of human infringement and interaction; and 12

13 WHEREAS, there have been other harmful human interactions14 that arise when Hawaiian monk seals are fed by people; and

16 WHEREAS, when the seal becomes focused on the source of 17 food, the seal may begin to beg for the food more aggressively; 18 and

20 WHEREAS, Hawaiian monk seals have sustained injury from 21 boat propellers or ingestion of fishing hooks as they attempt to 22 access human food sources near boats and docks; and 23

24 WHEREAS, in most cases, once a Hawaiian monk seal has been 25 socialized to interact with humans, there are few options to 26 extinguish this behavior; and



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H.C.R. NO. 45

1 WHEREAS, Hawaiian monk seals are protected by the 2 Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act, 3 which make it illegal under federal law to harass Hawaiian monk 4 seals, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 5 encourages people to stay a safe distance away from Hawaiian 6 monk seals; now, therefore, 7

8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 9 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Land and 10 Natural Resources is urged to prohibit individuals from 11 approaching within fifty feet of a Hawaiian monk seal except for 12 13 a licensed professional that is qualified to provide aid to the Hawaiian monk seal, such as first responders and veterinarians; 14 15 and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
Board of Land and Natural Resources.

21 22 OFFERED BY: I dai t HCR HMS 2018-155 2 2 6 2018