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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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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  
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5 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian monk seal is one of the world's most  
6 critically endangered species of marine mammal; and  
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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  
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13 WHEREAS, there have been other harmful human interactions  
14 that arise when Hawaiian monk seals are fed by people; and  
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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  
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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  
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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



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  
 10 of 2018, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is  
 11 urged to prohibit individuals from approaching within fifty feet  
 12 of a Hawaiian monk seal except for a licensed professional that  
 13 is qualified to provide aid to the Hawaiian monk seal, such as  
 14 first responders and veterinarians; and

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 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
 17 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
 18 Land and Natural Resources.  
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OFFERED BY:

Sen. Clark

Sen. Clark  
Sen. Ito  
Sen. J. K. C.  
Sen. K. H.  
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Sen. O.  
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Sen. Y.  
Sen. Z.

