

MAR 09 2018

SENATE 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
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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



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.

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