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MAR 0 9 2018

SENATE 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 20 21 WHEREAS, Hawaiian monk seals are protected by the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act, which make it illegal under federal law to harass Hawaiian monk seals, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration encourages people to stay a safe distance away from Hawaiian monk seals; now, therefore,

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

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

OFFERED BY:

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