
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED AQUATIC MAMMALS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The Hawaiian monk seal (*monachus schauinslandi*)
2 has existed for over thirteen million years, longer than the
3 Hawaiian Islands themselves, but has unfortunately suffered a
4 rapid decline in its population over the past twenty years. The
5 population of Hawaiian monk seals is currently estimated at only
6 1,150 and experts predict that the population will be less than
7 one thousand within the next four and a half years. As a
8 result, the Hawaiian monk seal is registered on the endangered
9 species list and is the most endangered mammal in the entire
10 United States.

11 To combat the rapid decline in Hawaiian monk seals, the
12 State of Hawaii requires the establishment of two seal
13 coordinator positions within the department of land and natural
14 resources division of aquatic resources sanctuary program that
15 will:

16 (1) Enable the State to be in compliance with the
17 incidental take permit conservation plan for the



1 protection of registered animals on the endangered
2 species list; and

3 (2) Enhance the coordination between the State of Hawaii
4 and federal agencies with the objective of reversing
5 the declining population of Hawaiian monk seals.

6 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to
7 establish two seal coordinator positions in the division of
8 aquatic resources sanctuary program.

9 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$160,000 or so much
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for two
12 seal coordinator positions in the division of aquatic resources
13 sanctuary program.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
15 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.



Report Title:

Aquatic Resources Sanctuary Program; Hawaiian Monk Seals;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to create two seal coordinator positions in the department of land and natural resources division of aquatic resources sanctuary program to reverse the decline in the population of Hawaiian monk seals. (SD1)

