

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 13 2008

RE: S.B. No. 3169  
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2008  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Water and Land, to which was referred S.B. No. 3169 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED AQUATIC MAMMALS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to establish two seal coordinator positions in the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Aquatic Resources Sanctuary Program.

Testimony in support of this measure was submitted by the Marine Conservation Biology Institute, Hawaii; Conservation Council for Hawai'i; Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Team; and twelve individuals. The Department of Land and Natural Resources submitted testimony expressing concerns with this measure.

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



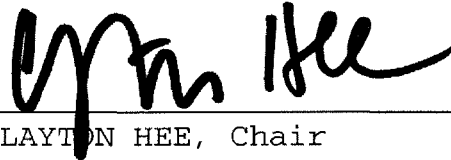
Your Committee further finds that to combat the rapid decline in Hawaiian monk seal population, the State requires the establishment of two seal coordinator positions within the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Aquatic Resources Sanctuary Program that will:

- (1) Enable the State to be in compliance with the incidental take permit conservation plan for the protection of registered animals on the endangered species list; and
- (2) Enhance the coordination between the State and federal agencies with the objective of reversing the declining population of Hawaiian monk seals.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purpose of clarity.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water and Land that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 3169, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 3169, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Water and Land,

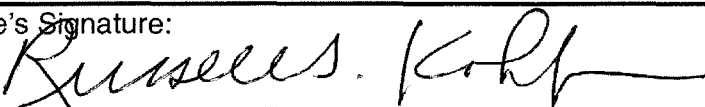


CLAYTON HEE, Chair



The Senate  
 Twenty-Fourth Legislature  
 State of Hawaii

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Water and Land**  
**WTL**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
S.B. 3169	WTL, WAM	2/6/08		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310		
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
HEE, Clayton (C)	/			
KOKUBUN, Russell S. (VC)	/			
FUKUNAGA, Carol				/
TOKUDA, Jill N.	/			
WHALEN, Paul	/			
<b>TOTAL</b>	4			1
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes