

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**TESTIMONY OF THE CHAIRPERSON  
OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**on House Bill 2625 – Relating To The Designation Of April 19 As “Hawaiian Monk Seal Day”**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
WATER, LAND, OCEAN RESOURCES, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**February 8, 2008**

House Bill 2625 designates April 19 of each year as “Hawaiian Monk Seal Day.” The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure, with one minor revision described below.

The Department works closely with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and National Marine Sanctuary Program, and numerous conservation organizations and community groups to promote the protection and recovery of our critically endangered Hawaiian monk seals. For example, with funding from NMFS, Department staff on Kau‘ai manage a network of over 50 volunteers who set up “seal protection zones” around seals “hauled-out” on shore. These roped-off areas help ensure the protection of the seals and the safety of beach goers. Our Kau‘ai seal response network typically conducts more than 400 such responses every year. The Department also manages a similar NMFS-funded seal response network on Hawai‘i Island. In addition, Department staff across the State coordinates rescue responses for injured or entangled seals, and conduct a wide variety of research, education and outreach activities devoted to monk seal conservation.

The Department believes designating a State Hawaiian Monk Seal Day would help raise public awareness of the plight of the seal and bolster public support for seal conservation efforts. As one minor revision, instead of a designating a specific date (April 19), we suggest specifying the day as the third Saturday in April. This would coincide with a newly established Hawaiian monk seal count and other community activities held on this day every year by NMFS, the Department, and other organizations across the State. The Department looks forward to working with the Legislature and all concerned parties toward the continued protection of Hawaiian monk seals and their ultimate recovery from endangered species status.

The Department believes the measure is fully consistent with our goal to foster community-based conservation of Hawaiian monk seals and other indigenous wildlife species.



# Conservation Council for Hawai'i

Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Water, Land,  
Ocean Resources & Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing: Friday, February 8, 2008  
8:30 am Room 312

Support for HB 2626 Relating to the Designation of the Hawaiian Monk Seal  
as the State Mammal of Hawai'i

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 2626, which is to celebrate and raise awareness and support for the endangered 'Āli'iholoikauaua – Hawaiian monk seal.

Hawai'i's only other native land mammal is the endangered 'Āpe'ape'a – Hawaiian hoary bat, which is also worthy of recognition being the only native land mammal in Hawai'i.

We also support funding for monk seal response coordinators on each island to help save seals in danger of entanglement, harassment, and other threats (SB 3169). The coordinators are often the first line of response when seals are in trouble.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Ziegler



***Working Today for the Nature of Tomorrow!***

Telephone/Fax 808.593.0255 • email: [info@conservehi.org](mailto:info@conservehi.org) • web: [www.conservehi.org](http://www.conservehi.org)

P.O. Box 2923 • Honolulu, HI 96802 • Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 212 • Honolulu, HI 96814

***Hawai'i Affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation***

President: *Julie Leialoha* \* Vice-President: *Nelson Ho* \* Secretary/Treasurer: *Kim Ramos* \* Directors: *Fred Kraus, Ph.D.* \* *Douglas Lamerson,*  
*George Robertson* \* *Claire Shimabukuro* \* *Helene Takemoto* \* *Mashuri Waite* \* Executive Director: *Marjorie Ziegler*

From: Lloyd Lowry [mailto:lloyd@eagle.ptialaska.net]  
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2008 5:07 PM  
To: WLHtestimony  
Cc: Rep. Ken Ito; Rep. Ryan Yamane; Rep. Kymberly Pine  
Subject: Testimony in support of HB 2625 and 2626

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR HB 2625 AND HB 2626 FOR DISTRIBUTION TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE WATER, LAND, OCEAN RESOURCES AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, AND TOURISM AND CULTURE COMMITTEES

Representative Ken Ito  
Representative Kymberly Marcos Pine  
Representative Ryan Yamane

Dear Representatives Ito, Pine, and Yamane:

Today the Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Team (HMSRT) is meeting to discuss ways in which federal agencies, the State, and the people of Hawaii can take the actions needed to prevent the extinction of one of Hawaii's two endemic mammals, the Hawaiian monk seal. On Friday, the Joint Hearing of the House Water, Land, Ocean Resources and Hawaiian Affairs, and Tourism and Culture committees will hear testimony on HB 2625, which would designate a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day," and HB 2626, which would select the Hawaiian monk seal to be the Hawaii State Mammal.

Hawaiian monk seals are in crisis. There are only about 1200 of them alive today, and the total population across their entire range is in decline. A small but growing number of monk seals reside and are born in the main Hawaiian Islands. Fewer than 100 seals have been sighted here, but this population increase has led to increasing interactions of seals with humans. Some of these interactions may lead to serious problems for the seals, such as being caught on fishing gear and human disturbance of mother and pup pairs on the beaches. There may also be problems associated with transmission of diseases among seals, animals, and people. However, the presence of seals provides an opportunity for people to experience nature and to inspire them to help with monk seal recovery. Some progress has been made in developing cooperative efforts between government biologists and volunteer groups to manage problem interactions and to foster harmonious co-existence between people and the seals. But, there is a crucial need to further raise awareness and support for the conservation of the Hawaiian monk seal.

The HMSRT believes that both HB 2625 and HB 2626 will help engage Hawaiians in monk seal conservation and enhance the recovery potential of the species, and we encourage you to pass these bills.

Sincerely,  
Lloyd Lowry, Chair HMSRT,  
and HMSRT members  
William Aila  
Don Bowen  
Brian Funai  
Bill Gilmartin  
Dan Goodman  
Frances Gulland  
Don Siniff

February 7, 2008

To: The House Committee on Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs  
Mr. Ken Ito, Chair  
Mr. John Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair

From: Gerald Okamoto  
700 Richards Street  
Apartment 1810  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
(808) 291-0907  
[geraldokamoto@gmail.com](mailto:geraldokamoto@gmail.com)

Reference: For Public Hearing, Friday, February 8, 2008, 8:30 a.m., Conference Room 312  
Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2625, Relating to the designation of April 19 as "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day."

For the last three weeks in January 2008, I had the pleasure of "standing watch" over Chester, a Hawaiian Monk Seal who was molting on the beaches of Kailua, Kalama and Lanikai.

During the many hours of volunteering to protect this Hawaiian treasure, it was a pleasure to share with residents in the area and tourists from various countries, the historical significance of the Hawaiian Monk Seal to the Hawaiian Islands, culture and people. Many were also surprised to discover the Hawaiian Monk Seal is the most endangered mammal in the entire United States and had experienced a steady decline in population of approximately four percent per year for the past twenty years.

What this experience brought to the forefront was the need for outreach and education to develop a culture of coexistence between humans and the Hawaiian Monk Seal, as their very continued existence is threatened by human disturbance, habitat loss, infectious disease, fishery interactions, entanglement in marine debris (gill nets), coral/reef deterioration and food competition.

Establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal day is an incremental step to achieving this objective and I strongly support this bill and urge the state legislature to act and pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Gerald Okamoto

-----Original Message-----

From: Kanani Rayne [mailto:neski\_808@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2008 12:20 PM  
To: WLHtestimony  
Subject: RE: For Public Hearing, Friday Feb 8, 2008

To: The house on Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs  
Mr.Ken Ito, Chair  
Mr.John Karamatsu

FR. Tyneski Quintel  
2210 Girls Rd. Kamehameha Schools  
08tyquin@ksbe.edu

RE: For Public Hearing, Friday Feb 8, 2008  
Conference room 312

Testimony in support of HB2625 and HB 2626

January31, 2008  
Kamehameha Schools Marine Science  
Taking action to conserve Hawaii's Marine Resources.

Aloha Senator Tokuda,

I am a senior attending Kamehameha Schools Kapalama and I have a great passion for our island chain. I love the animals in Hawaii and would do anything in my power to protect them all.

I hope you will consider allowing a STATE DESIGNATED HAWAIIAN MONK SEA DAY to bring awareness upon this endangered species. I have just learned in class about two new bills that will hopefully be passed named the SB 2464 SB 2465 with compassion bills HB 2625 HB 2626. I think these bills will only benefit the state for the advantage of the monk seals. Also the bills will not only bring awareness, but also safety for Hawaii's precious monk seals. I think that if Hawaii is able to have a special day for the monk seals, more awareness will be taken; therefore more monk sea lives will be saved.

Hawaii is a tropical paradise that many people from around the world visit and place their footprints. I hope that you will support these bills so that everyone can leave more than their footprints and take with them new information about our endangered species.

MAHALO NUI LOA,  
Tyneski Quintel

-----Original Message-----

From: Everett Collier [mailto:09evcoll@ksbe.edu]

Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2008 1:02 PM

To: WLHtestimony

Subject: For Public Hearing, Friday, February 8, 2008 8:30 am, Conference Room 312

Importance: High

2/6/08

Dear Representatives Ito, Karamatsu, and committee members,

Thank you for raising HB2625 (Establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal day). Please accept this testimony expressing my STRONG SUPORT for this bill.

This bill is important to me because I know that there is only two native Hawaiian mammals. The Hawaiian Bat is one and The Hawaiian Monk Seal is one. The Hawaiian Monk Seal is on it's way to being extinct, but with everyone's help we can get the Hawaiian monk seal off the endangered species list.

It is Critical that the sate legislature act to pass this bill because with an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal Day; the Hawaiian monk seal could get more publicity and people would want to learn about the monk seal and how to protect this beautiful creature. Knowledge is always key.

Sincerely,

Everett Kekoa Collier

TO: The House Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs  
Mr. Ken Ito, Chair  
Mr. John Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair

FR: Kristen Fujinaga  
95-1126 Wekiu st.  
Mililani HI 96789  
(808)-223-4349  
[08krfuji@ksbe.edu](mailto:08krfuji@ksbe.edu)

RE: For Public Hearing, Friday, February 8, 2008  
8:30 am, Conference Room 312

Testimony IN SUPPORT of HB2625, Establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal day  
(second letter) Testimony in Support of HB2626, Designating the Hawaiian Monk Seal as the State Mammal

February 4, 2008

Dear Representatives Ito, Karamatsu, and Committee members,

Thank you for raising the HB2625 (HB2626). Please accept this testimony expressing my STRONG SUPPORT for this bill.

I strongly support Monk Seal Day because I think it will be a great way to raise awareness for the decline of the monk seals. The population of the Hawaiian monk seal is declining at 4% every year. This is a concern for the potential extinction of the endangered species. Community awareness and empowerment may be the only way to help this crisis. I believe that creating a state designated Hawaiian Monk Seal Day could help to inform the community of this crisis.

I understand that there are two bills, SB 2464 SB 2465 with companion bills HB 2625 HB 2626, that are being considered to help promote the Hawaiian monk seal conservation awareness. These bills focus on designating the monk seal as the state mammal. These bills also promote the idea for a state designated Hawaiian Monk Seal Day.

All in all, I thank you for taking your time to address this issue. The problem with the Hawaiian Monk Seal is a crisis in Hawaii and needs to be addressed quickly before our endangered species becomes extinct.

Aloha and Mahalo,

Kristen Fujinaga



-----Original Message-----

From: Kauai Joy [mailto:kauijoy@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2008 7:54 AM  
To: WLHtestimony  
Subject:

To: The House Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian  
Affairs

Mr. Ken Ito, Chair

Mr. John Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair

FR: Kauinohea Joy  
Kamehameha High School  
98-1718 Hapaki st. Aiea Hi 96701  
kauijoy@yahoo.com

RE: For Public Hearing, Friday, February 8, 2008  
8:30 am, Conference Room 312

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Aloha Representative Yamane,

The Hawaiian monk seal is very much an endangered species due to the drastic changes in Hawaii's environment and human interaction with these animals.

The monk seal that is from Hawaii's waters is the only endemic marine animal of this land. According to National Geographic, the population of the monk seals has decreased more than ten percent since 1989.

In order to correct the injustices done to the monk seals, the bills SB 2464 SB2465 along with the bills HB 2625 HB2626. These bills will raise awareness in the Hawaiian community about the monk seals and the predicament that they are facing. This bill will also designate a day a year for the monk seal to also raise awareness for the monk seal.

The students of the marine science classes at Kamehameha do their part everyday to help the monk seals by educating themselves and caring for the seals and their well being. There is also teams of volunteers and professionals that respond to needy monk seals. It is now your turn to do your part in the repopulation of the Hawaiian monk seal.

Thank you for your support and awareness,

Aloha,  
Kauinohea Joy

TO: The House Committee of Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs  
Mr. Ken Ito, Chair  
Mr. John Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair

FROM: Teeana Paikai  
91-237 Laupai Way Ewa Beach, HI 96706  
(808)853-9370 (mobile)  
[08tepaik@ksbe.edu](mailto:08tepaik@ksbe.edu)

RE: For Public Hearing, Friday, February 8, 2008  
8:30 am, Conference Room 312

Testimony IN SUPPORT of HB2625 and HB2626, establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal Day.

February 7, 2008

Dear Representatives Ito, Karamatsu, and committee members,

Thank you for raising HB2625 "Monk Seal Day" and HB2626 "State Mammal Designation" bills. Please accept this testimony expressing my **STRONG SUPPORT** for this bill. As you may already know the population of monk seals has been declining 4% per year causing extreme concern over the issue of possible extinction of the entire species. I believe that the best way to address this problem is by raising community awareness. My Marine Science teacher Ms. Duffy has not only shared the importance of this issue but has stressed that we are the only ones who are able to make a difference. She has therefore raised my awareness to the point where I felt that I should help to raise the awareness of the community regarding issues of monk seals by expressing my support for a Monk Seal day.

According to my studies two new bills are in the process of ratification or at least trying to become ratified in order to preserve and protect the lives of monk seals in Hawaii. Declaring the monk seal a state mammal and creating "monk seal day" will increase awareness and empowerment amongst the community to make a difference. Many groups are involved with the preservation of the monk seal and I feel that this issue should be shared more with the community and the only way to do that is to pass these two bills.

By including the community we will all be able to work together to save the lives of monk the monk seals. Everything god created is important and was placed on earth for a reason. Let's do our best to work together and continue to protect god's creations.

Sincerely,

Teeana Paikai

-----Original Message-----

From: Mishea Cook [mailto:08micook@ksbe.edu]  
Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2008 8:13 AM  
To: WLHtestimony  
Subject:

To: The House Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs  
Mr. Ken Ito, Chair  
Mr. John Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair

Fr: Mishea Cook  
Kamehameha Schools  
1506 Kaumualii St. 107 Honolulu, Hi 96817  
808-728-6570  
alwazluvu@yahoo.com

Re: For Public Hearing, Friday, February 8, 2008  
8:30 am, Conference Room 312

Testimony in SUPPORT of Hb2625, Establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal day and HB2626, designating the Hawaiian Monk Seal as the State Mammal.

February 7, 2008

Dear Representative Ito, Karamatsu, and committee members,

Thank you for raising HB2625 (HB2626) which are establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal day and designating the Hawaiian Monk Seal as the State Mammal.

I am currently a student at Kamehameha Schools and I feel that there is a great concern over the potential extinction of the species. I have a strong feeling that there should be a Monk Seal day and that the Monk Seal should be our State Mammal. We need to keep our endangered Hawaiian Monk Seals safe. We should consider the two bills that help promote conservation awareness. By having the Monk Seal as our State Mammal it will raise the awareness for the Monk Seal. This will help everyone learn more about the seal and by knowing more this will increase the population of the endangered species. We have many organizations that are always on call to help an endangered species. We all need to pull together and help a species in need. We don't want to see another one of our Hawaiian animals go extinct. There should be no reason to why the end result should be extinction. We have the power now to stop those who harm the endangered species. They just need the chance to repopulate.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my strong support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Mishea Cook

TO: The house Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs  
Mr. Ken Ito, Chair  
Mr. John Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair

FR: Wailana Kino  
P.O. Box 74  
Maunaloa Hi, 96770  
08wakino@ksbe.edu

RE: For Public Hearing, Friday, February 8, 2008  
8:30 am, Conference Room 312

Testimony in Support of HB2626, Designating the Hawaiian Monk Seal as the  
State Mammal

Please make eight copies.

February 7, 2008

Dear Representatives Ito, Karamatsu, and committeemembers,

Thank you for raising HB2626. Please accept this testimony expressing my  
**STRONG SUPPORT** for this bill.

This bill is important to me because I want to make sure that the future generations  
will have the opportunity to see the Hawaiian Monk Seal.

It is critical that the state legislature act to pass this bill because the Hawaiian Monk  
Seals are dying daily and they need our help before it's too late.

As the years go on the number of monk seals have been decreasing,  
therefore, I am writing this letter on their behalf. In order to keep the monk seal  
from becoming extinct we need to take action to try to preserve them. I have  
learned that there are two bills that are being considered that will help to promote  
the endangered Hawaiian monk seal conservation awareness.

These bills will help the monk seals by making people aware of them. Once  
monk seals become extinct there is no bringing them back. They only have one  
chance to live; therefore, we need to help keep them alive. Many people are  
unaware of their condition, which is why this day will help to inform them.

Please help us help the monk seals. We need to keep them alive before it's too  
late. I really hope you take what I have said into consideration and do what's  
right.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my strong support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Wailana Kino

-----Original Message-----

From: Charmaine Mokiao [mailto:08chmoki@ksbe.edu]  
Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2008 8:11 AM  
To: WLHtestimony  
Subject:

To: The House Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs  
Mr. Ken Ito, Chair  
Mr. John Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair

Fr: Charmaine Mokiao  
85-1366 Kaneaki St. Waianae, HI 96792  
(808)696-6794  
08chmoki@ksbe.edu <mailto:08chmoki@ksbe.edu>

RE: For Public Hearing, Friday, Febuary 8, 2008  
8:30 am, Conference Room 312

Testimony in support of HB2625, HB2626, SB2464, and SB2465  
Establishing annual Hawaiian Monk Seal day and designating the Hawaiian Monk  
Seal as the State Mammal

February 4, 2008

Dear Representatives Ito, Karamatsu, and committee members,

Thank you for raising HB2625, HB2626, SB2464, and SB2465. Please  
accept this testimony expressing my strong support for this bill.

This bill is important to me because as a Hawaiian student at  
the Kamehameha Schools I have learned much of my culture throughout the  
years of my attendance. I remember learning about these beautiful ancient  
birds in which craftsmen would use their feathers to make capes for the  
ali'i(chiefs). The birds that I speak of are the 'Iwi and the 'Apapane.

These birds, in which our ali'i cherished are no longer here for us today because they are extinct.

With that being said the Hawaiian monk seal will be most likely facing that same fate as the 'Iwi and 'Apapane if nothing is to be done. Back in the ancient days of Hawaii people did not know about endangered species and how to restore them, so I can not necessarily blame them for the extinction of those animals. But as a Hawaiian today brought in a society of great technological strides and knowledge, I feel that I can make a difference as well as my fellow Hawaiian monk seal supporters.

All I ask is for an awareness to be out there. We should not hide the fact that one of our native mammals may be facing extinction. That is why I fully support these two new bills that will help to promote endangered Hawaiian monk seal conservation awareness. These are SB 2464 SB2465 with companion bills HB 2625 HB 2626. The focus of these bills are for the monk seal to be designated as the State Mammal and for a designated day each year to raise awareness for the plight of the monk seal by having a state designated Hawaiian Monk Seal Day.

As I have said earlier we just need to get people to know what is going on in our islands. I do not want to have to live the day where monk seals go extinct; I want to live many years with the Hawaiian monk seal striving through its restoration by the people of Hawaii. We have the knowledge and skills to do so, it is just that we need to put them to use and do something about this situation.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my strong support for these bills.

Sincerely,

Charmaine Mokiao

To: The House Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs  
Mr. Ken Ito, Chair  
Mr. John Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair

From: B.J. Campbell  
1223 7<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Honolulu, H 96816  
808-753-5438  
BJTCJTSOUP@aol.com

Re: For Public Hearing on Friday, February 8, 2008  
8:30 AM, Conference Room 312

Testimony in support of HB2625, Establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal day and in support of HB2626, Designating the Hawaiian Monk Seal as the State Mammal

February 4, 2008

Dear Representatives Ito, Karamatsu, and committee members,

I have recently learned of two new bills being considered regarding the Hawaiian Monk Seal. These are SB 2264 SB 2465 and HB 2625 HB 2626. These bills would help to increase public awareness of the current state of the monk seal. With the seal's population on the decline, any type of public support in regards to the protection of the seal would be a benefit to the conservation efforts. Many state agencies are working diligently every day to oversee programs that help these endangered mammals. The support of Hawai'i's governing body would be much appreciated to help save another of Hawai'i's endangered species. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Mahalo,  
B. J. Campbell

## Wayne Yagi

---

**From:** donnafesta@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2008 8:45 PM  
**To:** WLHtestimony  
**Subject:** HB2625 Hawaiian Monk Seal Day

**TO:** The House Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs  
Mr. Ken Ito, Chair  
Mr. John Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair

**FR:** Donna Festa  
Volunteer, NOAA  
425 North Kalaheo Ave, Kailua, HI 96734  
(808)561-8112  
[donnafesta@aol.com](mailto:donnafesta@aol.com)

**RE:** For Public Hearing, Friday, February 8, 2008  
8:30 am, Conference Room 312

Testimony IN SUPPORT of HB2625, Establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal Day

Please make eight (5) copies.

February 6, 2008

Dear Representatives Ito, Karamatsu, and committee members,

Mahalo Vice Chair John Riki Karamatsu fo co-sponsoring this bill.

Thank you for raising HB2625 Hawaiian Monk Seal Day. Please accept this testimony expressing my **STRONG SUPPORT** for this bill.

This bill is important to me because I just spent 27 days in January watching over a Hawaiian Monk Seal on Kailua Beach. I was unaware of how close these mammals are to extinction. I volunteered my time because I honestly felt I had to be there, someone needed to keep this seal (Chester) safe. Although I had no knowledge of these animals prior to Chester's visit, I have learned a great deal in a short time. I am also planning on dedicating more of my time and energy to save these beautiful creatures.

It is critical that the state legislature act to pass this bill because the State of Hawaii needs to be involved in the protection and use its power to provide a safe haven for these animals. As a volunteer I need to know the right agencies and departments are involved to combat the rapid decline of the Hawaiian Monk Seals.

While the population of monk seals is declining in the northwest Hawaiian Islands, it has been increasing in the Main Hawaiian Islands during recent years. There are a variety of factors contributing to this occurrence, including the disappearance of beachfront pupping habitat due to global warming, but we should also consider the return of Hawaiian monk seals to the Main Hawaiian Islands as a direct appeal to all Hawaii's residents to participate in the protection and recovery of this twelve million year old species.

2/7/2008



Thank you for this opportunity to offer my strong support for this bill.

Sincerely,

**Donna Festa (RA)**  
**CENTURY 21 Kailua Beach Realty**  
**130 Kailua Road Suite 110**  
**Kailua, HI 96734**  
**808-561-8112 (cell)**  
**808-262-8275 (fax)**

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-----Original Message-----

From: Yvonne Lynne Geesey [mailto:geesey@hawaii.edu]  
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2008 8:52 PM  
To: WLHtestimony  
Subject: HB2625 Establishing an Annual Hawaiian Monk Seal Day

TO: The House Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs  
Mr. Ken Ito, Chair  
Mr. John Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair

FR: Yvonne Geesey, geesey@hawaii.edu

RE: For Public Hearing, Friday, February 8, 2008  
8:30 am, Conference Room 312  
Testimony IN SUPPORT of HB2625, Establishing an annual Hawaiian  
Monk Seal Day

February 6, 2008

Dear Representatives Ito, Karamatsu, and Committee Members,

Thank you for raising HB2625, Establishing an Annual Hawaiian Monk Seal Day. Please accept this testimony expressing my STRONG SUPPORT for this bill.

This bill is important to raising the public's awareness of Monk Seals.

It is critical that the state legislature act to pass this bill because the survival of these unique mammals is being threatened.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my strong support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Geesey  
1224 Nehoa Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

**From:** Karen Rohter [mailto:karenrohter@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2008 8:35 PM  
**To:** WLHtestimony  
**Subject:** HB2625 Hawaiian Monk Seal Day

TO: The House Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs  
Mr. Ken Ito, Chair  
Mr. John Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair

FR: Karen Rohter  
1684 Halekoa Dr.  
Honolulu, HI  
732-5497  
[krohter@priory.net](mailto:krohter@priory.net)

RE: For Public Hearing, Friday, February 8, 2008  
8:30 am, Conference Room 312

Testimony IN SUPPORT of HB2625, Establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal day

Please make five (5) copies.

FEB. 6, 2008

Dear Representatives Ito, Karamatsu, and committee members,

Thank you for raising HB2625 establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal Day. Please accept this testimony expressing my STRONG SUPPORT for this bill.

The Hawaiian monk seal is an endangered species found nowhere else on earth. An Hawaiian Monk Seal Day will help establish public awareness of the plight of these animals. Without state and federal help, and the general awareness of Hawaii's citizens, especially our children, we may soon no longer be able to experience the excitement of viewing seals on our beaches. Chester, the Hawaiian monk seal who graced the Kailua beach for quite a few days while molting, brought attention to this species through the news articles in the Advertiser and Star Bulletin. Children who saw the seal excitedly shared their experiences in my classroom. Another student shared her experience of seeing the seal pup that was born near Turtle Bay in 2006. Unfortunately, that seal was to die within 6 months after being caught in a gill net. The monk seal is an animal that catches people's imagination. We must do all we can to allow this unique animal its survival into the next millennium. Establishing an annual Monk Seal Day is a solid step in the right direction. Mahalo to Vice Chair John Riki Karamatsu for co-sponsoring this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my strong support for this bill.

Sincerely,  
Karen Rohter

From: patie boehm [mailto:patiemoose@hotmail.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2008 7:12 PM  
To: WLHtestimony  
Subject: HB 2625

TO: The House Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs  
Mr. Ken Ito, Chair  
Mr. John Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair

FR: Patricia Boehm  
Hawaiian Monk Seal Supporter  
944 Wanaao Road  
Kailua, HI 96734  
808-261-4238  
patiemoose@hotmail.com

RE: For Public Hearing, Friday, February 8, 2008  
8:30 am, Conference Room 312

Testimony IN SUPPORT of HB2625, Establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal day

Please make five (5) copies.

02-08-08

Dear Representatives Ito, Karamatsu, and committee members,

Thank you for raising HB2625. Please accept this testimony expressing my STRONG SUPPORT for this bill.

I have spent the last 30 days as a volunteer Monk Seal responder on Kailua Beach with "Chester" the Hawaiian Monk Seal. I educated myself as well as the many beach visitors about this endangered mammal. I witnessed a community come together in support of the Hawaiian Monk Seal.

US Senator Dan Inouye said last August at a ceremony at the Waikiki Aquarium when federal officials signed the updated Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Plan, I also want my grandchildren to grow up able to experience real living Hawaiian monk seals, not stuffed toys or photographs in a museum.

Hawaiian monk seals are the indicator species for Hawaii. If we recover their population, it will be because all of us have taken care to restore even more of what is precious and unique about the Hawaiian Archipelago. Hawaiian monk seal recovery is the bellweather campaign. Hawaiian Monk Seals are declining by 4% every year and have been for the last 20 years. They are the most critically endangered species in the United States.

It is critical that the state legislature act to pass this bill. It is indigenous to our Island and we need to all work together to keep the Hawaiian Monk Seal Alive.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my strong support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Patricia Boehm

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**From:** alissa [mailto:[alohahonu@gmail.com](mailto:alohahonu@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 06, 2008 7:07 PM  
**To:** WLHtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 2625

TO: The House Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs  
Mr. Ken Ito, Chair  
Mr. John Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair

FR: Alissa Rogers  
Hawaiian Monk Seal Supporter  
864 B Kainui Drive  
Kailua, HI 96734  
808-262-0611  
[alohahonu@gmail.com](mailto:alohahonu@gmail.com)

RE: For Public Hearing, Friday, February 8, 2008  
8:30 am, Conference Room 312

Testimony IN SUPPORT of HB2625, Establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal day

Please make five (5) copies.

02-08-08

Dear Representatives Ito, Karamatsu, and committee members,

Thank you for raising HB2625. Please accept this testimony expressing my **STRONG SUPPORT** for this bill.

I have spent the last month as a volunteer Monk Seal responder on Kailua Beach with "Chester" the Hawaiian Monk Seal. I educated myself as well as the many beach visitors about this special mammal. I witnessed a community come together in support of the Hawaiian Monk Seal.

US Senator Dan Inouye said last August at a ceremony at the Waikiki Aquarium when federal officials signed the updated Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Plan, the he also wants his grandchildren to grow up able to experience real living Hawaiian monk seals, not stuffed toys or photographs in a museum.

Hawaiian monk seals are the indicator species for Hawaii. If we recover their population, it will be because all of us have taken care to restore even more of what is precious and unique about the Hawaiian Archipelago. Hawaiian monk seal recovery is the bellweather

campaign. Hawaiian Monk Seals are decreasing their population by 4% every year and has been for the last 20 years. They are the most critically endangered species in the United States.

It is critical that the state legislature act to pass this bill. It is indigenous to our Island and we need to all work together to keep the Hawaiian Monk Seal alive. There are less than 1300 of these most precious mammals left.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my strong support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Alissa Rogers

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
Mr. Ken Ito, Chair  
Mr. John Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair

VIA: WLH FAX: 586-8494

FR: Georgette Yaindl  
1312A 13th Ave.  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
808-732-3138  
yaindl@hawaii.edu

RE: **For Public Hearing, Friday, February 8, 2008**  
**8:30 am; Conference Room 312**

Testimony **IN SUPPORT** of **HB2625**, Establishing an Annual Hawaiian Monk Seal Day

Please make eight (8) copies.

February 7, 2008

Dear Representatives Ito, Karamatsu, and Committee members,

Thank you for raising for public hearing HB2625, the bill establishing an "Annual Hawaiian Monk Seal Day." And special thanks to Representative Karamatsu for co-sponsoring the bill. Please accept this testimony expressing my **STRONG SUPPORT** for the establishment of an Annual Hawaiian monk seal Day, that is, if we can not declare every day Hawaiian monk seal day!

There are many reasons why it is appropriate for the legislature to take this action. For one, as mandated by federal and state law, and two, as moral and cultural considerations also compel, these responsibilities include the recovery of the Hawaiian monk seal, an ancient, endemic mammal species found nowhere else on Earth.

But maybe most important of all is that establishing a day will mean there is a focal point during which time all the thousands of people across the Islands can mobilize, along of course with our elected officials, to draw public awareness of and engagement in the recovery of these most awesome and amazing critters. Designating a day in April is strategically important because it coincides with the start of pupping season, a most critical time for the species and need for human sensitivity and cooperation.

The population of monk seals is declining in the northwest Hawaiian Islands, but it has been increasing in the Main Hawaiian Islands during recent years. While there are a variety of factors contributing to this occurrence, including disappearance of beachfront pupping habitat due to global warming, but we should also consider the return of Hawaiian monk seals to the

Main Hawaiian Islands as a direct appeal to all Hawaii's residents to participate in the protection and recovery of this twelve million year old species.

I also believe Hawaiian monk seals are the indicator species for Hawaii. If we recover their population, it will be because all of us have taken care to restore even more of what is precious and unique about the Hawaiian Archipelago. Hawaiian monk seal recovery is Hawaii's bell-weather campaign.

It is perfectly appropriate that this bill is being raised within the jurisdiction of the Water Land, and Hawaiian Affairs Committee, whereas seals, or na ilio holo i ka uua – dogs that run in rough water- spend fairly equal shares of their days in the water and the shore (and like other dogs, most of that time is spent sleeping); and cruising the Archipelago long before the Main Hawaiian Islands had even surfaced, monk seals are the *OI* (Original Issue) Hawaiian!

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my strong support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Georgette Yaindl



Ilio holoika uua, *dog that swims in rough waters*, was born of Hawaiian rock, 12 million years ago. This pup was born at Ka'ena Point, O'ahu in July 2006!



TO: The house Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs  
Mr. Ken Ito, Chair  
Mr. John Riki Karamatsu, Vice Chair

FR: Wailana Kino  
P.O. Box 74  
Maunaloa Hi, 96770  
08wakino@ksbe.edu

RE: For Public Hearing, Friday, February 8, 2008  
8:30 am, Conference Room 312

Testimony IN SUPPORT of HB2625, Establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal day

Please make eight copies.

February 7, 2008

Dear Representatives Ito, Karamatsu, and committeemembers,

Thank you for raising HB2625. Please accept this testimony expressing my STRONG SUPPORT for this bill.

This bill is important to me because I want to make sure that the future generations will have the opportunity to see the Hawaiian Monk Seal.

It is critical that the state legislature act to pass this bill because the Hawaiian Monk Seals are dying daily and they need our help before it's too late.

As the years go on the number of monk seals have been decreasing, therefore, I am writing this letter on their behalf. In order to keep the monk seal from becoming extinct we need to take action to try to preserve them. I have learned that there are two bills that are being considered that will help to promote the endangered Hawaiian monk seal conservation awareness.

These bills will help the monk seals by making people aware of them. Once monk seals become extinct there is no bringing them back. They only have one chance to live; therefore, we need to help keep them alive. Many people are unaware of their condition, which is why this day will help to inform them.

Please help us help the monk seals. We need to keep them alive before it's too late. I really hope you take what I have said into consideration and do what's right.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my strong support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Wailana Kino