

February 26, 2008

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair and Committee Members  
Senate Committee on Economic Development & Taxation  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
[senfukunaga@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senfukunaga@capitol.hawaii.gov)

February 26, 2008 EDT Committee Hearing @ 1:25pm Room 224

Testimony in support of SB 2465 & SB 2464

**SB 2465 Relating to the designation of 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. April as “Hawaiian Monk Seal Day”**  
**SB 2464 Relating to the designation of the Hawaiian Monk Seal, the State Mammal**

Aloha Chair Fukunaga & Members of the Committee on Economic Development & Taxation:

My name is Keiko Bonk, and I am the Program Director for the Marine Conservation Biology Institute, Hawaii. MCBI is a non-profit conservation organization that protects ocean life through science and policy development.

Thank you very much for hearing HB’s 2625 and 2626, introduced by Senator Jill Tokuda, relating to naming the Hawaiian Monk Seal, Ilio-holo-kauaua or “Dog Running Through Rough Waters” the state mammal & dedicating the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in April as an awareness day for this endemic species. The Hawaiian monk seal is a 13 million year old Hawaiian species in need of your help. This ancient Hawaiian mammal is in critical danger of going extinct. There are less than 1200 monk seals left in Hawaii and the population is rapidly declining. The reasons for the monk seal’s decline are numerous and most threats are related to human impacts:

1. Low survival rate of juveniles & sub-adults due to starvation
2. Entanglement of seals in marine debris
3. Predation of juvenile seals
4. Fishery interactions (over fishing)
5. Mother-pup disturbance on the beaches
6. Pupping beaches lost to erosion (climate change)
7. Potential disease outbreaks

I come here today to alert you to the plight of our Hawaiian seals. I hope you are motivated to take a step for the State of Hawaii to save this grand old creature. The monk seal thrived in our Hawaii home millions of years before our youngest islands were born, long before our species arrived. This mammal is worthy of respect and should be treated as an ancient “elder”. This animal is also an icon of the 21<sup>st</sup> century because its decline reflects man’s negligence and lack of respect for our natural world. I look forward to the day when we can redeem ourselves as a species by allowing this beautiful species and other endangered species the right to thrive without our assistance. But until that day this animal needs our day-to-day help.

This mammal lives both on Hawaii's land and sea and exemplifies all the wonder, beauty and environmental fragility of our archipelago. The seal a sympathetic "poster child" and would serve to develop the needed attention for all of Hawaii's endangered flora and fauna. This animal instills the charm of a faithful dog and human beings have been connected to dogs as part of our society for a thousands of years. Yes this animal emotes "cute and cuddly".

The Hawaiian Monk Seal was placed on the endangered species list in 1976. Last year, 31 years after these seals were officially designated a prioritized at-risk animal, the Federal Recovery Plan (attached Recovery Plan Summary) was signed. At this public signing last August, U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye endorsed this recovery plan and said he would do everything in his power to protect this animal and ensure generations of Hawaii's children the opportunity to live with healthy numbers of this magnificent Hawaiian mammal. Please take Senator Inouye's promise to heart and do the things necessary to make his vision a reality.

Presently, the State of Hawaii has no official monk seal program or a companion to the federal monk seal recovery plan. DAR incorporates seal response coordination into the State Humpback Whale Sanctuary Program. The State of Hawaii is presently not in compliance with the monk seal protection as required by state and federal Endangered Species and Marine Mammal laws. We need to begin to take responsibility for our natural world in Hawaii and start by caring for our wildlife.

Last year we unfortunately lost seal pups to net entanglements right here on the island of Oahu. A month ago we lost a female pup on Molokai. We need to develop the adequate response & public awareness to protect our seals or we will lose more seals in 2008. With less than 1200, we cannot afford to lose one more pup.

The NMFS Monk Seal Recovery Team met in Honolulu earlier this month. A dedicated group of scientists, policy makers and seal coordinators worked diligently on the implementation programs to save our seals. The science experts projected that if we do not start to take serious action to recover this seal, the population will decline faster in the next 5 years and once that happens, it will not look good for these mammals.

Your support for these 2 initiatives bring the awareness and education needed for residents and our visitors to respect and care for our Hawaiian Monk Seal. Please take this step to bring this species back to healthy numbers. Please take action and name the state mammal the Ilio-holo-kauaua, the Hawaiian Monk Seal. And please do not stop here, but do everything in your power to ensure that generations will live in harmony with this rare & sympathetic Hawaiian mammal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Aloha nui loa,  
Keiko Bonk  
808-734-4234; [keiko.bonk@mcbi.org](mailto:keiko.bonk@mcbi.org)

# The Hawaiian Monk Seal

Ilio-holo-ikauaua (*ee-lee-o holo ee ka ooa-ooa*) meaning 'dog running in rough water'  
Scientific name: *Monachus schauinslandi*

## About the Hawaiian Monk Seal:

Hawaiian monk seals are only found in the Hawaiian Islands, and are a very important piece of Hawaii's natural and cultural history. Hawaiian monk seals are the only tropical seal, the only marine mammal found entirely within US waters, and the best hope for the survival of monk seals on the planet. Caribbean monk seals were last seen in 1952, and the Mediterranean monk seal is on the verge of extinction. Most Hawaiian monk seals can be found around the Northwest Hawaiian Islands in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, but seals are also found on the main Hawaiian Islands. In contrast to the rapidly declining monk seal populations in the NWHI, those on the main islands are doing well. A small, but growing number of seals, perhaps 100-150, now live in the main Hawaiian Islands.

Hawaiian monk seals have been around, virtually unchanged, for over 13 million years, longer than Hawaii Island, which is less than 1 million years old. Monk seals grow to be over 7ft long and can weigh more than 400 lbs. They mature at 5-10 years of age and can live for 25-30 years, although many new seal pups fail to reach adulthood. Hawaiian monk seals eat fish and invertebrates, including reef fish, flatfish, eels, octopus, and lobsters. Monk seals dive deep for their food, often to depths of 250-300ft, and sometimes deeper than 500ft.

Monk seals are not social, which is very unusual for seals. They generally stay well away from other seals and humans, and can become aggressive when they get too close or feel threatened. Monk seals, especially pregnant or nursing mothers, appear to be greatly agitated when they are disturbed by humans, so much so that they may abandon their pups.

## The Decline of the Hawaiian Monk Seal:

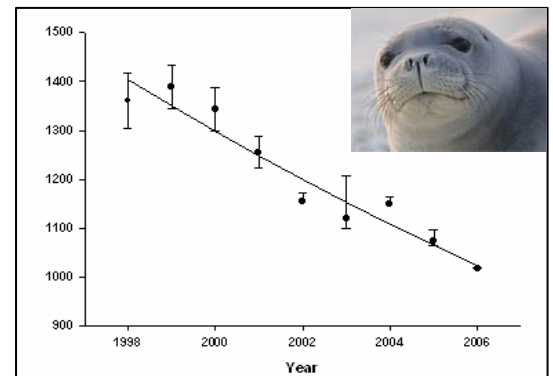
Hawaiian monk seals are the most endangered seal in the USA, and one of the most endangered marine mammals in the world. Over the last 50 years, the Hawaiian monk seal population has declined by more than 60% and is now at its lowest level in recorded history ~ 1,200 individuals. Since 1998 the total number of Hawaiian monk seals declined at an average annual rate of 3.9%. At this current rate of decline, the population size will slip below 1,000 animals in the next few years. With public support and effective state and federal management we will be able turn this situation around.

*A number of human and environmental factors have contributed to the decline, including:*

- **Habitat loss**
- **Shark predation**
- **Entanglement in marine debris**
- **Human disturbance**
- **Overfishing of lobster**
- **Reduction in food availability**
- **Harassment by male monk seals**
- **Injuries and deaths of pups**
- **Poisoning from harmful algal blooms**

## Hawaiian Monk Seal Protection:

Hawaiian monk seals are protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act, which listed the Hawaiian monk seal as endangered in 1976. A Hawaiian monk seal recovery team was established by NOAA to coordinate research and management activities for the seal's recovery. They released a new recovery plan that identifies actions that collectively could stabilize and eventually recover the species, including: improving female survival, reducing shark predation, captive care for injured or malnourished seals and seal pups, and removal of hazardous debris.

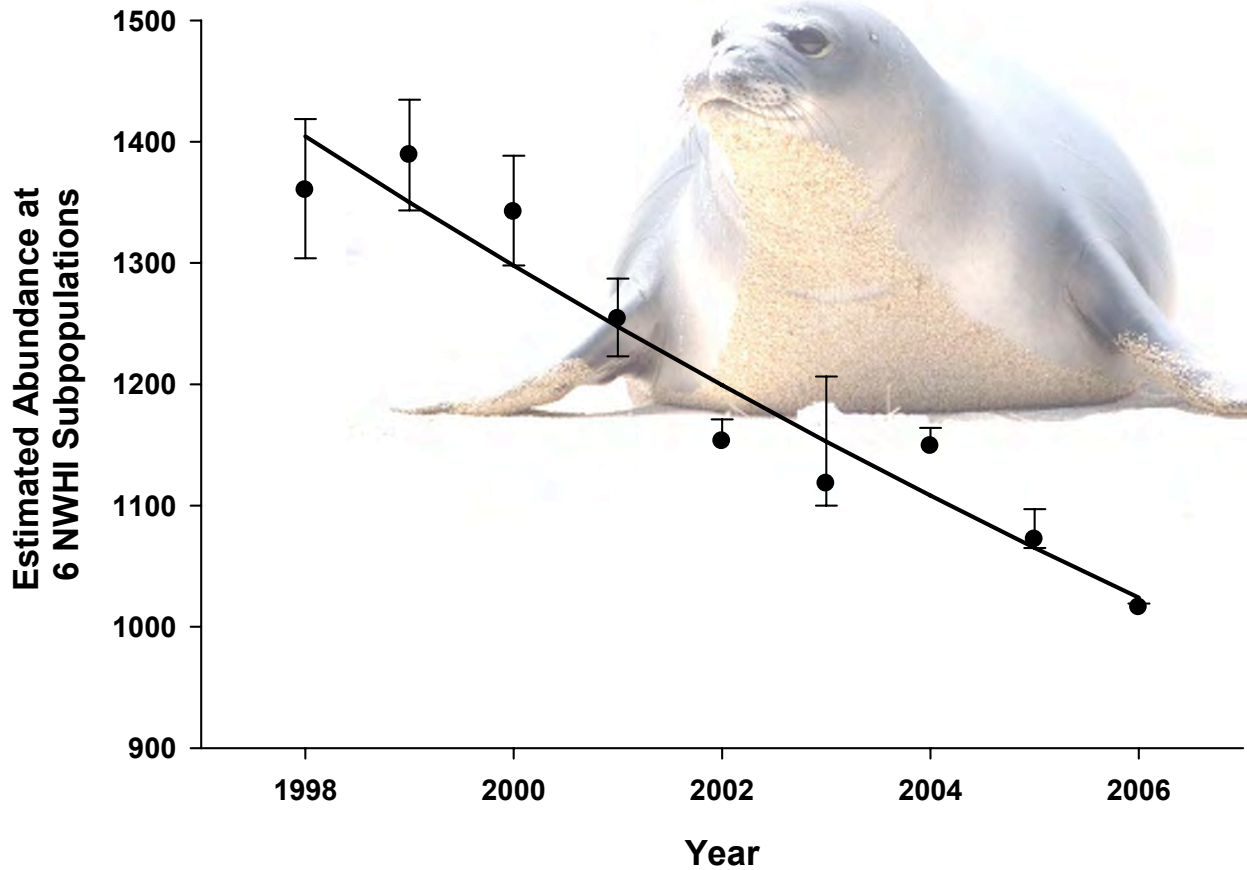


*Decline in estimated abundance of Hawaiian monk seals at the six main NWHI colonies since 1998.*



# RECOVERY PLAN FOR THE HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL (*Monachus schauinslandi*)

REVISION



National Marine Fisheries Service  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

August 2007

**RECOVERY PLAN FOR THE HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL**  
(*Monachus schauinslandi*)

REVISION

Original Version: March 1983

Prepared by

National Marine Fisheries Service  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Approved: William T. Hogarth

William T. Hogarth, Ph.D.  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Date August 22, 2007

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Hawaiian monk seal (*Monachus schauinslandi*) is in crisis: the population is in a decline that has lasted 20 years and only around 1200 monk seals remain. Modeling predicts the species' population will fall below 1000 animals in the next five years. Like the extinct Caribbean monk seal and the critically endangered Mediterranean monk seal, the Hawaiian monk seal is headed to extinction if urgent action is not taken. Implementation of this plan, adequate resources, and improved coordination and cooperation provide hope that the species decline can be reversed.

For more than two decades, great effort has been made to manage, study, and recover the Hawaiian monk seal. However, actions to date have not been sufficient to result in a recovering population. The species status would undoubtedly have been worse but for these actions. Nonetheless, significant threats face this species:

- Very low survival of juveniles and sub-adults due to starvation (believed to be principally related to food limitation) has persisted for many years across much of the population
- Entanglement of seals in marine debris has and continues to result in significant levels of seal mortality
- Predation of juvenile seals by Galapagos sharks has significantly increased
- Human interactions in the Main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) including recreational fishery interactions, mother-pup disturbance on popular beaches, and exposure to disease
- Hawaiian monk seal haul-out and pupping beaches are being lost to erosion in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands (NWHI), and monk seal prey resources in the NWHI may have been reduced as a result of climate cycles and other factors
- Potential disease outbreaks could have a devastating effect due to small population size and limited geographic range

Due to low juvenile survival and an aging, breeding female population, there will not be sufficient replacement of breeding females, and birth rates subsequently will decline. This underscores the irony of past and current efforts to reduce these threats in that initial success may only slow a process of decline and even more actions will be required to reverse the decline and prevent the extinction of this species. Recovery of the Hawaiian monk seal depends upon a range of comprehensive actions detailed in this Recovery Plan, as well as the full participation and support of all federal, state and private stakeholders. These actions should be pursued aggressively to prevent the extinction of this species, and funding decisions should give highest priority to actions that will contribute directly to mitigating impacts and sources of mortality that reduce survival rates of Hawaiian monk seals, particularly females and juveniles.

In order to preserve the future reproductive potential for recovery, one of the highest priorities being pursued by NMFS is the development of a captive care program to nutritionally supplement juvenile female seals. The goal of the program will be to increase the survival of female seals during the critical juvenile life stages that are now experiencing low survival. This will likely be a combined effort of NMFS and animal care organizations. A workshop on the development of a 10-year captive care plan was held in June 2007. Without such efforts, the loss of young females will significantly decrease the recovery potential of the species, as there will not be enough females in the population.

**CURRENT SPECIES STATUS:** The Hawaiian monk seal was listed as an endangered species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on November 23, 1976 (41 FR 51611) and remains listed as endangered. The species has a recovery priority number of one, based on the high magnitude of threats, the high recovery potential, and the potential for economic conflicts while implementing recovery actions. Based on recent counts, the current population is approximately 1200 individuals. Since the publication of the last Recovery Plan for Hawaiian monk seals over two decades ago (Gilmartin, 1983), much has been done to reduce the impact of many of the most direct, and obvious, causes of decline. Nonetheless, the present total population of the species is small and declining. The population is already so small as to be in the range where there is concern about long-term maintenance of genetic diversity.

**HABITAT REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITING FACTORS:** The Hawaiian monk seal has the distinction of being the only endangered marine mammal whose entire species range – historical and current – lies within the United States (however the species has been sighted outside the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone). The majority of the population of monk seals now lies in the NWHI with six main breeding sub-populations. The species is also found in lower numbers in MHI where the population size and range both appear to be expanding. The main terrestrial habitat requirements include: haul-out areas for pupping, nursing, molting, and resting. These are primarily sandy beaches, but virtually all substrates are used at various islands.

Monk seals also spend nearly two-thirds of their time in marine habitat. Monk seals are primarily benthic foragers (Goodman-Lowe 1998 et al.), and will search for food in a broad depth range up to 500 m and over different substrates (Parrish et al., 2000, 2002, in review). The food available in their marine habitat seems to be a limiting factor to population growth in the NWHI, with the greatest impact of food limitation being on the survival of juvenile and yearling seals, age of sexual maturity, and fecundity.

**RECOVERY GOAL:** The goal of this revised recovery plan is to assure the long-term viability of the Hawaiian monk seal in the wild, allowing initially for reclassification to threatened status and, ultimately, removal from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife.

**RECOVERY STRATEGY:** While recommendations within this report are many and detailed, there are four key actions required to alter the trajectory of the Hawaiian monk seal population and to move the species towards recovery:

1. Improve the survivorship of females, particularly juveniles, in sub-populations of the NWHI. To do this requires the following:
  - maintaining and enhancing existing protection and conservation of habitat and prey base;
  - targeting research to better understand the factors that result in poor juvenile survival;
  - intervening where appropriate to ensure higher survival of juvenile and adult females;
  - continuing actions to protect females from individual and multiple male aggression and to prevent excessive shark predation; and

- continuing actions to remove marine debris and reduce mortality of seals due to entanglement.
- 2. Maintain the extensive field presence during the breeding season in the NWHI. Field presence is critical not just to the monitoring and research efforts, but also to carry out the active management and conservation of Hawaiian monk seal sub-populations in these areas.
- 3. Ensure the continued natural growth of the Hawaiian monk seal in the MHI by reducing threats including interactions with recreational fisheries, disturbance of mother-pup pairs, disturbance of hauled out seals, and exposure to human and domestic animal diseases. This should be accomplished with coordination of all federal, state, local and non-government parties, volunteer networks, and increased outreach and education in order to develop a culture of co-existence between humans and seals in the MHI.
- 4. Reduce the probability of the introduction of infectious diseases into the Hawaiian monk seal population.

RECOVERY CRITERIA: The population will be considered for a reclassification as “threatened” if all the following three conditions are met:

**Downlisting Criteria:**

1. aggregate numbers exceed 2,900 total individuals in the NWHI
2. at least 5 of the 6 main sub-population in the NWHI are above 100 individuals and the MHI population is above 500
3. survivorship of females in each subpopulation in the NWHI and in the MHI is high enough that, in conjunction with the birth rates in each subpopulation, the calculated population growth rate for each subpopulation is not negative.

**Threats-based Criteria:**

**Factor A. Present or Threatened Destruction, Modification, or Curtailment of Its Habitat or Range**

Criteria: Measures are in place to manage human factors affecting food limitations, habitat loss and contaminants in the NWHIs. Management measures are also in place to a) minimize human disturbance of monk seals that haul-out on beaches in the MHI, and b) protect major monk seal haul-out habitat in the MHI.

**Factor B. Overutilization for Commercial, Recreational, Scientific, or Educational Purposes**

Criteria:

1. Procedures, including data collection and analyses, are in place to evaluate and ensure that scientific research on Hawaiian monk seals, including their



observation, handling, and instrumentation, will not cause significant adverse impacts on monk seal survival, behavior, or population growth.

2. Procedures are in place to ensure that any proposed NWHI operations that may increase seal disturbance or threaten survival will be reviewed and carefully scrutinized, and that all applicable laws protecting monk seals and their habitat have been used and enforced.
3. Management and permitting measures are in place to ensure that people, including scientists and research teams, visiting the Midway Islands or any other atoll in NWHI do not disturb monk seals or restrict their haul-out habitat in ways that could adversely affect monk seal survival, behavior, or population growth.

#### **Factor C. Disease or Predation**

Criteria:

1. Credible measures for minimizing the probability of introduction of diseases to any of the NWHI subpopulations, or the spread of diseases from the MHI to the NWHI, or importation of diseases that are not yet present in Hawaii are in place.
2. Contingency plans are in place to respond to a disease outbreak or introduction should this occur.
3. Research measures are in place to monitor population size, vital rates, and possible disease outbreaks or disease introductions, in all the subpopulations.
4. Management measures are in place to minimize shark predation and are demonstrably effective at maintaining predation sources at low enough levels to be consistent with continued meeting of the birth rate and survivorship criterion.

#### **Factor D. Inadequacy of Existing Regulatory Mechanisms**

Criteria: Measures are in place to manage fishery interactions and are demonstrably effective at reducing these threats and maintaining fishery-related sources of mortality or stress at decreasing or low levels that are consistent with continued meeting of the birth rate and survivorship criterion.

The principle, direct fishery interaction threat currently facing monk seals are MHI recreational fisheries, particularly gillnets and shore-cast gear, which are managed by the State of Hawaii and known to cause monk seal mortalities. Two monk seals drowned in recreational gillnets on Oahu within the past year. Gillnets will still be used in other areas, and enforcement of the new regulations will be important to ensure that the threat is actually reduced. There is a continuing need for intervention for Hawaiian monk seals in the MHI to remove embedded hooks from recreational fishing; however this effort does not remedy the interaction problem itself. More management measures and enforcement of those measures are needed to ensure that this serious threat is reduced.

#### **Factor E. Other Natural or Manmade Factors Affecting Its Continued Existence**

Criteria:

1. Management measures are in place to control male aggression, entanglement, biotoxins, and other sources of human-caused mortality or stress. These measures are demonstrably effective at maintaining these threats at low enough

levels to be consistent with continued meeting of the birth rate and survivorship criterion.

2. The causes of the anthropogenic threats to the species are clearly identified and are well-enough understood to be controlled or mitigated, and any newly identified threats are controlled adequately before downlisting.

### **Delisting Criteria:**

The population will be considered for a delisting if the downlisting criteria continue to be met for 20 consecutive years without new crucial or serious threats being identified.

**ACTIONS NEEDED:** The following 14 categories of actions are necessary for the recovery of the Hawaiian monk seal:

1. Investigate and mitigate factors affecting food limitation
2. Prevent entanglements of monk seals
3. Reduce shark predation on monk seals
4. Minimize the risk of exposure to or spread of infectious disease
5. Conserve Hawaiian monk seal habitat
6. Reduce Hawaiian monk seal interactions with fisheries
7. Reduce male aggression toward pups/immature seals and adult females
8. Reduce the likelihood and impact of human interactions
9. Investigate and develop response to biotoxin impacts
10. Reduce impacts from compromised and grounded vessels
11. Reduce the impacts of contaminants
12. Continue population monitoring and research
13. Create and implement a main Hawaiian Islands Hawaiian Monk Seal Management Plan
14. Implement the Recovery Plan for the Hawaiian Monk Seal

**Estimated Cost of Five-Year Recovery Efforts (in thousands):**

	<b>FY 01</b>	<b>FY 02</b>	<b>FY 03</b>	<b>FY 04</b>	<b>FY 05</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Crucial Threats</b>							
1. Food limitation	1,920	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	9,520	
2. Entanglement	1,260	1,260	1,260	1,260	1,260	6,300	
3. Shark predation	300	300	300	300	300	1,500	
<b>Subtotal - Crucial Threats</b>							<b>17,320</b>
<b>Serious Threats</b>							
4. Infectious diseases	605	585	585	585	585	2,945	
5. Habitat loss	250	50	50	0	0	350	
6. Fishery interaction	200	200	200	200	200	1,000	
7. Male aggression*	*	*	*	*	*	0	
8. Human disturbance	800	800	800	800	800	4,000	
<b>Subtotal - Serious Threats</b>							<b>8,295</b>
<b>Moderate Threats</b>							
9. Biotoxins	250	125	125	75	75	650	
10. Vessel groundings	0	0	0	0	0	0	
11. Contaminants	50	0	0	0	0	50	
<b>Subtotal - Moderate Threats</b>							<b>700</b>
<b>* All included in other costs</b>							
<b>Essential Long-term Recovery Actions</b>							
12. Monitoring & Research	1,550	1,600	1,650	1,550	1,550	7,900	
13. MHI Management Plan	200	200	150	150	150	850	
14. Implement Recovery Plan	170	170	170	170	170	850	
<b>Subtotal - Essential Long-term Recovery Actions</b>							<b>9,600</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL ACTIONS</b>	<b>7,555</b>	<b>7,190</b>	<b>7,190</b>	<b>6,990</b>	<b>6,990</b>	<b>35,915</b>	<b>35,915</b>

**ESTIMATED COST OF RECOVERY (FIRST 5 FISCAL YEARS): \$35,915,000**

**ANTICIPATED DATE OF RECOVERY:** The time to recovery is not predictable with the current information, but the best case scenario (which is extremely improbable given recent trends) is that the population could grow to the stipulated total population size in the NWHI within 12 years, and the stipulated numbers in the MHI could be reached within 34 years. Provided that the threats-based criteria have also been met, this would elevate the population to a “threatened” classification. The population may be considered “recovered” if the downlisting criteria continue to be met for 20 consecutive years. Therefore, the total time to recovery is anticipated to be 54 years. The Total Estimated Cost of Recovery can be calculated by multiplying the estimated cost of FY 05 (\$6,990) for the next 49 years. Then add that sum to the estimated cost for the first five fiscal years (in Table above). Realistically, the population is not expected to recover in the foreseeable future. In the future, if more is learned about the causes for the current continuing decline, it should be possible to make more informative projections about the time to recovery, and its expense.

**TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF RECOVERY (54 YEARS): \$378,425,000**



## KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

**For Public Hearing, February 26, 2008; CR 224; 1:25 pm.**

**Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB2464, Designating the Hawaiian Monk Seal as the State Mammal**

Aloha Senator Fukunaga, Espero, and committee members,

Thank you for raising SB2464, Designating the Hawaiian Monk Seal as the State Mammal. Please accept this testimony expressing my **STRONG SUPPORT** for this bill.

It is critical that the state legislature act to pass this bill for many reasons. I am sure you are aware that this year, 2008, has recently been declared the Year of the Reef. While the Hawaiian archipelago is home to a number of beautiful coral reefs, our islands are also known for the marine animals who reside in the beautiful waters of the Pacific. The Hawaiian Monk Seal is one of the two mammals who are native to the Hawaiian islands, and as the other is the hoary bat, the monk seal is surprisingly the only native marine mammal.

As a senior, I am currently enrolled in an excellent Marine Science course, both informative and current in research and practical application. This class provided me with the invaluable opportunity to learn about Monk seals, or more specifically Hawaiian Monk Seals. I, along with my classmates learned what they eat, where they live, and why they have become a threatened and endangered species. I was sad to learn that while there used to be three types of monk seals, Caribbean Monk seals, Mediterranean Monk Seals, and Hawaiian Monk Seals, there are now only two, as the Caribbean Monk Seals are extinct. While the Hawaiian Monk seals are said to be numbered in the 1000s, the Mediterranean Monk Seal population sadly numbers closer to the 300s. As these numbers are rapidly declining, it is our responsibility as citizens of Hawaii to do what we can to ensure that the Hawaiian Monk Seals are around to see the 21st century in its entirety.

I was originally appalled to find that Hawaii was the only state in the union with no state mammal, but with 2008 named as the Year of the Reef, I strongly believe that it is the perfect time to raise awareness not only about our beautiful tropical environments, but also the amazing marine animals who live there. Naming the Hawaiian Monk Seal as the state mammal can help bring local and national awareness to the issues surrounding these amazing creatures. Perhaps with awareness, the Hawaiian Monk Seal population can thrive once again.

Thank you for your time and effort in helping to rescue a very special marine species. In doing so, you will ultimately be helping to inspire a people, and rekindle a culture.

Yours most sincerely,

Kanani Kawika  
Kamehameha Student

1311 Ala Kapuna St. Apt #103 Honolulu HI 96817  
(808) 833-7864

45615 Kūlūkeʻe Rd

Kaneohe, HI 96734

To whom it may concern,

I think we all should  
agree on the monk seal as the  
state mammal because they  
will be protected. The monk seal  
is native to Hawaii and they are  
smart and cute.

For these reasons I hope that  
our sea mammals should be our  
state mammal.

Sincerely,

Ignatius

46-110 Hinapu St.  
Kaneohe HI  
96744

To whom it may concern,

I think the Hawaiian Monk Seal should be the next Hawaii State Mammal. My first reason is they are native to Hawaii. Another reason is because they are peaceful animals that don't harm us. My last reason is hopefully if they win the title they will become more of a priority to save them. For these reasons I hope you have been convinced that the Hawaiian Monk Seal will become the next state mammal.

Sincerely,

Kaily M. Lum

# VOTE FOR ME IN THE SEA!

45-838 Luana pl.

Kaneohe, HI

96744

To whom it may concern,

The Monk seal is almost extinct so that means they are special. Monk seals should be our state sea animal because I predict that if it was a state sea animal maybe people in the whole U.S. will treat them better and fairly. An obvious reason we should have the Monk seal as our state sea animal is because they're so... CUTE! So from my writing, monk seals are perfect for being our state sea animal. Aloha!

Sincerely,

Kariz M. Villalon

719 Nakine St  
Winona, MN 55994

To who it may concern  
You should make the monk seal  
our state mammal because the monk  
seal is cute and nice because when  
they lay on the beach and there  
molting and just minding there  
own business you they don't harm  
any one. Plus they are cutely  
to But they are almost extinct  
For all these reasons we want to  
make the monk seal our state  
mammal

sincerely,  
Rahian antone student



45-670 A Kam HWY

Kaneohe HI 96744

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to vote for the Hawaiian Monk Seal. The Hawaiian Monk Seal should be the next Hawaii sea mammal, because it is cute and no one would like to hurt it. Also because it is an endangered animal, so if someone plays with it, they will be in a lot of trouble. My last reason is because they are tame so they will not hurt anyone. Thank you for reading my letter. I hope that the Monk Seal will be the Hawaii sea mammal.

Sincerely,  
Jordan Viermes

719 Kekoa Dr.  
Kailua, HI 96734

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to make the  
Monk Seal the state mammal.

By making the Monk Seal our state  
mammal it could be protected and it come  
off the endangered list. The monk seal is  
native to Hawaii. The monk seal is also kind  
and peaceful. And they very cute.

I hope with this letter, the monk seal  
will be our new state mammal.

Sincerely,  
Madie Still Kieth

# Vote 4 Monk Seal

45-230 Popoki Pl.

Kaneohe, HI.

96744

To whom it may concern,

I think the Monk Seal should be our state animal for many reasons. The first reason is that the Monk Seal is really cute! Secondly, it does not harm people or do any damage. Thirdly is that the Monk Seal is only found on the Hawaiian Islands and no where else. Lastly I think the Monk Seal should be our state animal because its almost endangered and needs to be protected. These are reasons why the Monk Seal should be our state animal.

Sincerely,  
Jayli Thuyamote

47-493 Apau Lp  
Kaneohe, Hawaii  
96744

To whom it may concern,

My class and I decided we should vote the Hawaiian Monk Seal to be our state mammal. I want it to be our state mammal because we would never forget about the Hawaiian Monk Seal if it gets extinct. We would have to vote by schools and have a choice between a turtle, a dolphin, or a monk seal. We the Peiki of Oahu would be proud to have the Hawaiian Monk Seal as our state mammal. I, Katelyn Mahelona, approve of this message.

Sincerely,  
Katelyn Mahelona  
Student at Kapunahala El

# MONK SEAL

45-804

Puupele St.  
Kaneohe Hawaii

To Whom It May Concern,

I will convince you by telling you that the monk seal should be a state mammal because they are cute and are also from Hawaii. And they give no harm to anyone of us. They are also harmless to people that are at a place near them. But remember these cuts.

Sincerely,  
Sundance  
Kapunahala  
Student

719 Kahoa Dr.

Kailua, HI 96734

To Whom it may Concern,  
Me and my class are trying to make the monk seal the state mammal because we love the monk seal. Here are a few reasons why we love the monk seal, they're cute, they're almost extinct so when it becomes the state mammal it would be protected, it doesn't cause any harm, and there's only a small amount of them left. For all those reasons we want to make the monk seal our state mammal.

Sincerely,  
Braden Pagano

Kaneohe, Hawaii

Kamau place

96744

To whom it may concern

Me and my class is trying to make the Hawaiian Monk Seal our state sea mammal.

Because its cute and we dont want a ugly sea mammal. Another thing is its part of hawaii and my last one is its endangered. Thats why me and my class wants the monk seal our state sea mammal.

Sincerely  
Perry, Jonah

2034 Pakowiki  
Hondulu Hi,  
96819

To who it may concern,

I would want to make our state animal the Hawaiian Monk seal because it won't ever be endangered again, also they are so adorable. Another reason is that the whole world can learn about this mammal. Mostly we only learn about sharks, turtles, and dolphins. But, we can all learn about this animal. I hope you pick this animal.

Sincerely,

MONKSEALS RULE! ♡ Layla Isaacs  
NATIVE Animals ~~is~~ MONKSEALS RULE!



44-717 Puamohala st.  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

To Whome it May Concern:

I would elect the hawaiian monk seal as the state sea animal. First, there would be alot more of them in hawaii. Secondly, they'd be much happier because they'll be protected. They wouldn't be endangered. There also native to hawaii and were adorable. Lastly, I hope you make our hawaiian monk seal the state sea animal.

Sincerely,  
Kaya Copella  
Kupunahala Student

45-456 Ioli St.

Kanone HI 96744

To Whom it May Concern

My class and I decided we should have a Monk seal for our state mammal. One reason we should have the Monk seal for our state mammal because its native to Hawaii. Another reason is they are endangered. This reason you might not agree with us I think they are cute.

For all these reasons I hope our state mammal will be the Monk seal.

Turtle



= 0

Monk seal = 1000



Dolphin



= 0

Sincerely,

Daily Ortega

1771 Akone Place  
Kalihi, Hi  
96819

To who it may concern,

Please make the Hawaiian monk seal the Hawaii state sea mammal. This seal is native to Hawaii and endangered. If that seal is our state sea mammal it will be protected. The Hawaiian monk seal is peaceful and loving animals. This is why this Hawaiian monk seal should be elected as Hawaii's state sea mammal.

Sincerely,

P.S. please send  
back the good  
news.

Bryan Mahika

Kapunahala student

45-270 puuue Rd. F  
Kaneohe, HI,  
96744

To whom it may concern,

We should vote for Monk Seal, so they could be our state mammal.

One reason why it should be our state because it could represent Hawaii. The Monk are helpful and friendly to people, like the seals at Sea Life Park. Monk seals could also be our state mammal, so they won't become extinct. That's why you should vote for Monk seals to be our state mammal.

Vote for Monk seals!

Sincerely,  
Honoree Montez

(Kapunahala student)