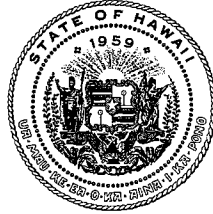
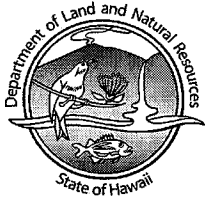


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RUSSELL Y. TSUJI
FIRST DEPUTY

KEN C. KAWAHARA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

on SENATE BILL 2465 – Relating To Hawaiian Monk Seal Day

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TAXATION**

February 26, 2008

Senate Bill 2465 designates the third Saturday in April of each year as “Hawaiian Monk Seal Day.” The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure as we believe it is fully consistent with our goal of fostering community-based conservation of Hawaiian monk seals and other indigenous wildlife species.

The Department works closely with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Marine Fisheries Service 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 NOAA, Department staff on Kau‘ai manages a network of over 50 volunteers who set up “seal protection zones” around seals “hailed-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. Department staff also manages a similar NOAA-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. 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.

To: The Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

From: B.J. Campbell
1223 7th Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96816
808-753-5438
BJTCJTSOUP@aol.com

Re: For Public Hearing, Tuesday, February 26
1:25 P.M., Conference Room 224

Testimony in support of SB2465, Establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal day.

February 4, 2008

Dear Senators Carol Fukunaga, Will Espero and Senate committee members,

I have recently learned of a new bill being considered regarding the Hawaiian Monk Seal. This bill is bill SB2465 regarding a Hawaiian Monk Seal day. This bill 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

TO: The Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Chair

RE: For Public Hearing, Tuesday, February 26
1:25 PM, Conference Room 224

Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB2465, Establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal day

Please make six (6) copies

February 22, 2008

Dear Senator Carol Fukunaga, Will Espero and Senate Committee Members,

Obtaining Monk seal day and Monk seal as the state mammal is important to Hawaii because monk seals are endemic. If the monk seal protection were removed, there would be a higher rate of endangered monk seals. Hawaii has already had numerous amounts endemic and indigenous plants and animals become extinct because we did not take care of it nor protect it. However, we can start to save the monk seals now and put an end to extinction.

Human interaction is a problem for monk seals. Although it may not seem like it, fishing is one of the biggest problems for a monk seal. Big fishing nets could trap monk seals. Long fishing lines could hook a monk seal instead of an intended fish. Besides fishing, other human interaction, for example touching or petting the monk seal, is potential dangerous. Monk seal are not used to interacting with people and if someone does touch the monk seal, its reaction could be deadly.

However, I am thankful that the monk seals are currently protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. It is nice to know that there is a law or act protecting monk seals, but it is disappointing to know that even though people are aware of the law, they still go out and bother monk seals anyway. Perhaps we should make the monk seal protections more well known, because until my Marine Biology class in my senior year, I was not fully aware of monk seal protection acts myself.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Aloha and Mahalo,

Ashley Williams

TO: The Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

FR: Christopher J. Pokipala
85-1025 Ho'oku'ikahi Street
Wai'anae, HI 96792
08chpoki@ksbe.edu

RE: For Public Hearing, Tuesday, February 26
1:25 P.M., Conference Room 224

Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB2465, Establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal Day

February 22, 2008

Dear Senators Carol Fukunaga, Will Espero and Senate Committee Members,

Mahalo for raising SB2465, establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal Day. Please accept this testimony expressing my STRONG SUPPORT for this bill.

This bill is not only important for me but for Hawaii because the monk seal is part of our culture. When people come to Hawaii, they want to experience our culture, which include our foods, performing arts, and animals. The Hawaiian Monk Seal was one of the first creatures to land in the Hawaiian Islands. It is probably the oldest living species in Hawaii. As a Hawaiian, it is my duty to help my culture to live, and saving this magnificent creature is a great part.

It is critical that the state legislature act to pass this bill because it's a way to show the world that we care. With all these constructions and technology, many of our natural resources and wildlife are starting to decline. As our state's nickname being the Aloha State, meaning the loving state, we must share this aloha with not only our visitors, but to the plants and animals that were here before the first Hawaiians. This bill will make us for cautioned and respectful to all the natural environments we have here in Hawaii.

Once again, mahalo for this opportunity to offer my STRONG SUPPORT for this bill.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Pokipala

TO: The Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

FR: Bransen Luna
45-476 Lipalu St.
808-247-0372
kamuella90@yahoo.com

RE: For Public Hearing, Tuesday, February 26
1:25 P.M., Conference Room 224

Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB2465, Establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal day

2-22-08

Dear Senators Carol Fukunaga, Will Espero and Senate Committee Members,

As you may already know the situation facing the population of monk seals is at a critical point where any future decisions can ensure their safety or extinction. Now is our time as a community to come together to help the monk seal population survive. I have become educated about two new bills that will further the progress of the conservation of monk seals.

Having the monk seal as our state mammal will bring awareness to the species allowing for increased education within our society. I believe that SB 2464 is crucial to the survival of the Hawaiian monk seal.

Hawaii is a unique place whose species are constantly under the threat of becoming extinct, lets take the time now to help one species in particular whose role in our society cannot be replaced by any other animal. Once the Hawaiian monk seal is gone there's no way of bringing it back.

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

Sincerely,

Bransen Luna

-end-

TO: The Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

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

RE: For Public Hearing, Tuesday, February 26
1:25 P.M., Conference Room 224

Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB24665, Establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal day

February 22, 2008

Dear Senators Carol Fukunaga, Will Espero and Senate Committee Members,

Thank you for raising SB2465. Please accept this testimony expressing my **STORNG SUPPORT** for this bill.

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 Monk Seal should be our State Mammal. We need to keep our endangered Hawaiian Monk Seals safe. We should consider this bill to 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 Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

FR: Pua'ala Pascua
Kamehameha Kapalama Student
2017 A Dole St. Honolulu 96822
292-5811
puaalaikahoni@gmail.com

RE: For Public Hearing, Tuesday, February 26
1:25 P.M., Conference Room 224

Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB2465, Establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal day
Please make six (6) copies

February 22, 2008

Aloha Senators Carol Fukunaga, Will Espero and Senate Committee Members,

Thank you for raising SB2465. Please accept this testimony expressing my
STRONG SUPPORT for this bill.

My name is Pua'ala Pascua and I am a senior at Kamehameha Schools. I am
currently enrolled in the Marine Science class here at Kamehameha. I also have six years
of Hawaiian Language and various Hawaiian History classes under my belt.

As you probably already know, the ocean was of great importance to the
Hawaiians. They knew how to make the most of, yet at the same time manage their
resources. In this day and age, we have forgotten to *malama* our resources and, as a
result, many species of marine animals are either endangered or extinct.

For the position of state mammal, I can think of no better candidate than the
Hawaiian monk seal. They are endemic to Hawai'i and their solitary existence makes
them ever prone to injury by boats, curious humans, and make other influences. Making
the monk seal the state mammal would offer this nearly extinct species a thicker shield of
protection.

The second bill for the state designated monk seal day is also a very important bill
which should not be taken lightly. So many individuals here don't realize the plight of
the Hawaiian monk seal. Their declining population rate would startle many if they
knew. This Hawaiian monk seal day would make that education possible. The first step
to prevention is education. In the Hawaiian monk seal's case, the first step to prevention
from extinction is education. It would be a pity for an animal that our ancestors took care
of for so long, perished forever on our watch.

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

Mahalo nui,

Pua'ala Pascua

TO: The Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

FR: Reyna Pila
Student of Kamehameha Schools
949 Honokahua Place
(808) 753-6342
ihilanigurl@gmail.com

RE: For Public Hearing, Tuesday, February 26
1:25 P.M., Conference Room 224

Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB2465, Establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk
Seal day

February 22, 2008

Dear Senators Carol Fukunaga, Will Espero and Senate Committee Members,

Thank you for raising SB2465. Please accept this testimony expressing my
STRONG SUPPORT for this bill.

This bill is important to me and to Hawaii because it is important that we publicly recognize monk seals to show both tourists and residents of Hawaii the beauty and rarity of this animal. Having a "Monk Seal Day" provides awareness to these animals and will hopefully lay the foundation for the restoration of the monk seals. The Hawaiian Monk Seal is only found in the Hawaiian Islands and they have become important creatures to our people as well as our economy. Hawaiian Monk Seal populations are slowly declining almost to extinction. They have lived on this earth as long as the Hawaiian Islands have been around. We must take responsibility for the major declination of the monk seal population and in return must owe them by helping to restore this once abundant species.

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

Sincerely,

Reyna Pila

TO: The Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

FR: Kepola Iervolino
Student of Kamehameha Schools
3916 Sierra Dr.
Honolulu, HI 96816
(808)-783-5142
iervolino@hawaii.rr.com

RE: For Public Hearing, Tuesday, February 26
1:25 P.M., Conference Room 224

Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB2465, Establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal day

Please make six (6) copies.

02/22/08

Dear Senators Carol Fukunaga, Will Espero and Senator Committee Members,

Thank you for raising SB2465. Please accept this testimony expressing my STRONG SUPPORT for this bill.

It is critical that the state legislature act to pass this bill because the Hawaiian Monk Seals are currently an endangered species and their population continues to decline. With a state "Monk Seal Day," much public awareness will be raised throughout our local communities and more people will be educated about the Hawaiian Monk Seal and how to protect them. With community awareness and support, the Hawaiian Monk Seal can become greatly protected by more people and hopefully recover from its current state. The Hawaiian Monk Seal is crucial to Hawaii's ecosystem and tourism. Not only does the Hawaiian Monk Seal play a crucial part in the food chain, but it is also one of the attractions that bring tourists to these beautiful Hawaiian Islands. It is all our duty to do all that we can to protect these precious animals that can only be found here in Hawaii.

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

Sincerely,

Kepola Iervolino

-end-

TO: The Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

FR: Brooke Hong
Affiliation, if appropriate
1355 Nanawale Place Kailua, HI 96734
808 221-7391
08brhong@ksbe.edu

RE: For Public Hearing, Tuesday, February 26
1:25 P.M., Conference Room 224

Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB2465, Establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk
Seal day

Please make six (6) copies.

February 22, 2008

Dear Senator Carol Fukunaga, Will Espero and Senate Committee Members,

Thank you for raising SB2465. Please accept this testimony expressing my
STRONG SUPPORT for this bill.

This bill is important to me/Hawaii because the monk seal's population is in such danger that the public needs to know about it. The best way for conservations is awareness and there are still many people out there that are not aware of these unique creatures to our islands. It would be a great tragedy to not only Hawai'i but to the entire world if we were to lose these precious creatures that call these islands home. Therefore, to have a Monk Seal Day would be the first step in raising awareness to save the monk seals. After all, Hawai'i will never be the same if we lose these monk seals.

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

Sincerely,

Brooke Hong

TO: The Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

FR: Derek Vidinha
Kamehameha Schools, Student
1417 Hoohui Street
808-456-4165
08devidi@ksbe.edu

RE: For Public Hearing, Tuesday, February 26
1:25 P.M., Conference Room 224

Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB2465, Establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal day

Please make six (6) copies.

February 22, 2008

Dear Senators Carol Fukunaga, Will Espero and Senate Committee Members,

Thank you for raising SB2465, "Monk Seal Day." Please accept this testimony expressing my STRONG SUPPORT for this bill.

This bill is important to Hawaii because of the current status of the Hawaiian Monk Seal. These seals are both endangered and endemic, putting them in a very unique predicament. With the passing of this bill, more attention can be given to the seals, and something can be done to help save them. I am not saying that nothing is currently being done, as there are plenty of people working hard to help, but more people in Hawaii need to become involved in the restoration process.

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

Sincerely,

Derek Vidinha

-end-

testimony

From: Rachel Chambrella [08racham@ksbe.edu]
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2008 8:19 AM
To: testimony
Subject: monk seals

To: The Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

FR: Rachel Chambrella
08racham@ksbe.edu <mailto:08racham@ksbe.edu>

RE: For Public Hearing, Tuesday, February 26
1:25 P.M., Conference Room 224

Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB2465, Establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal day

February 22, 2008

Dear Senators Carol Fukunaga, Will Espero and Senate Committee Members,

Thank you for raising SB2465. Please accept this testimony expressing my STRONG SUPPORT for this bill. This bill is important to me because it will raise awareness for the monk seals. As you know, they are an endangered species. By having a monk seal day, we would be able to protect the monk seals and help save them from extinction. We don't need to have another species go extinct just like many of the Hawaiian birds. Extinction is a big deal and it's sad that we as humans can't do our part in the world to try and help protect animals. We need to help save the monk seals and by passing this bill; we will take the first step in preventing the decline of monk seals.

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

Sincerely,

Rachel Chambrella

testimony

From: Reeves Kanakaole [08rekana@ksbe.edu]
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2008 8:56 AM
To: testimony
Subject: SB2465 & SB 2625

To: The Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation
Senator Carol Fukunaga
Senator Will Espero

Fr: Reeves Kanakaole
Kamehameha Schools
91-1055 Keekolo St. Kapolei, HI 96707
808-351-3002
08rekana@ksbe.edu

Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB2465 "Monk Seal Day" and HB2625 "State Mammal Designation."

February 22, 2008

Dear Senators Carl Fukunaga, Will Espero, and Senate Committee Members,

While living in Hawaii over all these years, I was under the impression that our state mammal was the Humpback Whale. However, I was recently informed that Hawaii is the only state without a state mammal. I feel it's very important that Hawaii has an aquatic mammal that reflects Hawaii's aquatic lifestyle, that's why I propose that the State of Hawaii designate the Hawaiian Monk Seal as our state mammal.

It has also come to my attention that also vying for this state mammal title is the Horay Bat, which is mainly found on Hawaii Island. It would make no sense for the state to honor a bat that is found on a few islands and does not reflect the view of an aquatic Hawaii in any way. Although the Hawaiian Monk Seal would be the most obvious choice for the title, it wouldn't be bad to have a competition of Hawaii's marine mammals (Monk Seal, Humpback Whale, Spinner Dolphin).

Not only will the Monk Seal reflect Hawaii's aquatic lifestyle; but also the Monk Seal would somewhat portray the stereotypical view that many tourists have. When people come to Hawaii they want to see the fishes and the whales and those who know about them want to see the seals. Any marine mammal would be nice, but the Monk Seal would captivate this audience with its cute looks and mischievous behavior.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration on this issue. I look forward to hearing more about this bill later in the future.

Maholo Nui Loa,

Reeves Kanaka'ole

testimony

From: Kyle Smith [09kysmit@ksbe.edu]
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2008 8:21 AM
To: testimony

TO: The Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

RE: For Public Hearing, Tuesday, February 26
1:25 P.M., Conference Room 224

Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB2465, Establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal day

Please make six (6) copies.

2/22/08

Dear Senators Carol Fukunaga, Will Espero and Senate Committee Members,

Thank you for raising SB2465, [name each]. Please accept this testimony expressing my STRONG SUPPORT for this bill.

This bill is important to me/Hawaii because the Hawaiian Monk Seal is a very important part of the Hawaiian Culture. They are also in danger. We together can possibly save a species with a little help from you. This is our chance to make a positive impact on Hawaii's already struggling marine world.

It is critical that the state legislature act to pass this bill because we are the ones who put these precious animals in danger so we should do something to fix the wrongs that were done to them. Please make the right decision.

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

Sincerely,

Kyle Smith

-end-

testimony

From: Ashleigh Carbonel [08ascarb@ksbe.edu]
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2008 8:21 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal Day

February 22, 2008

TO: The Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

FR: Ashleigh Carbonel
Kamehameha High School
2210 Girls Road
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96817
(808) 842-8237
08ascarb@ksbe.edu

Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB2465, Establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal Day

Dear Senator Carol Fukunaga, Will Espero and Senate Committee Members,

Thank you for raising SB2465, Establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal Day.

Many times during my visits to the beach, I see monk seals lying and resting on the beach. I just learned that the population of the monk seals is declining at 4% per year and there is a great risk in potential extinction of the monk seals. At that rate, there will be a day where I will not see any monk seals on the beach.

There is a very important bill that is being considered to help promote the monk seal awareness and I support this. This bill is SB 2465. I would like to see the monk seal as the state mammal and I would defiantly like for a designated each year to raise the awareness of the monk seals by having a state designated Hawaiian monk seal day.

With this bill raising the awareness of the monk seals, people will realize that the monk seal is a species in which we need to help. We should help lower the declining rate of these monk seals so that they won't go extinct. I would still like to see the seals on the beaches when I go there and so this is why I support this bill to raise the awareness of the monk seals.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Aloha and Mahalo,

Ashleigh Carbonel

testimony

From: Kerilyn Gallagher [08kegall@ksbe.edu]
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2008 10:34 AM
To: testimony
Subject: SB2465

TO: The Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

FR: Kerilyn Gallagher
Kamehameha Schools
728 Iana Street, Kailua, HI 96734
808 263-4757
08kegall@ksbe.edu

RE: For Public Hearing, Tuesday, February 26
1:25 P.M., Conference Room 224

Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB2465, Establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal day

Please make six (6) copies.

February 22, 2008

Dear Senators Carol Fukunaga, Will Espero and Senate Committee Members,

Thank you for raising SB2465. Please accept this testimony expressing my **SUPPORT** for this bill.

This bill is important to the state of Hawaii because the Hawaiian Monk Seal is a part of these islands. The monk seal has lived in these waters since before the creation of the islands themselves. The low number of monk seals currently living worries me. As people of Hawaii we should respect these mammals and do all we can to ensure their continued existence for many more generations. The establishment of an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal day will increase public awareness of these mammals. The public should be aware of the laws regarding protection of the monk seal and the impacts humans have on their existence. We cannot let the success of the existence of the monk seal slip through our fingers.

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

Sincerely,
Kerilyn Gallagher

testimony

From: Lea Kaahaaina [08lekaah@ksbe.edu]
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2008 12:16 PM
To: testimony
Subject: monk seal testimony

TO: The Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

FR: Lea Kaahaaina
Kamehameha Schools Student
41-041 Hinalea St. Waimanalo, HI 96795
808-259-5376
08lekaah@ksbe.edu

RE: For Public Hearing, Tuesday, February 26
1:25 P.M., Conference Room 224

Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB2465, Establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal day.

Please make six (6) copies.

February 22, 2008

Dear Senators Carol Fukunaga, Will Espero and Senate Committee Members,

Thank you for raising SB2464, "Monk Seal Day." Please accept this testimony expressing my STRONG SUPPORT for this bill.

It is critical that the state legislature act to pass this bill because the community needs to be aware of the critical situation of the Hawaiian monk seal. The monk seal is one of the most endangered mammals on the planet. There are only 1,200 left in the Hawaiian islands, and the other tropical populations are near extinction. We do not want the Hawaiian monk seal to go the same way as the Carribean monk seal, which has disappeared completely. Currently, Hawaiian monk seals are suffering from population decline due to starvation, as well as human imposed threats. They are often caught in fish nets and other debris.

Hawaiian monk seals are an integral part of our ocean ecosystem. If they were to go extinct, there would be numerous effects on our islands. If we had a day designated as "Monk Seal Day," we could raise awareness about their decline and their importance to our islands.

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

Sincerely,

Lea Kaahaaina

-end-

testimony

From: Zoe Finn [08zofinn@ksbe.edu]
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2008 1:02 PM
To: testimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT of SB2465

TO: The Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation Senator Carol Fukunaga,
Chair Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

FROM: Zoe Finn
Senior attending Kamehameha Schools Kāpalama Campus
1649 A-1 10th Ave. Honolulu HI 96816
(808) 346-1011
08zofinn@ksbe.edu

RE: For Public Hearing, Tuesday, February 26
1:25 P.M., Conference Room 24

Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB2465, Establishing an annual Hawaiian Monk Seal day

Please make six (6) copies.

February 22, 2008

Dear Senators Carol Fukunaga, Will Espero and Senate Committee Members,

Thank you for raising SB2465, thus bringing the people of Hawaii one step closer to reaching our goal of a Hawaiian Monk Seal Day. Please accept this testimony expressing my STRONG SUPPORT for this bill, and in doing so, setting the Monk Seals on a path of revival.

This bill is important to me because the Hawaiian Monk Seal is one of the few native creatures that Hawaii can claim, so the people of Hawaii must protect and preserve the species. As a little girl growing up on the island of Kauai, I go to the beach Salt Pond, where many Monk Seals would bask in the sun. As this tradition was part of my childhood, I would like my children to have the same opportunity. The Hawaiian Monk Seals are incapable of speaking up for themselves, so it is imperative that those who are concerned for the livelihood of marine life to speak on their behalf. I could not turn my back on the Hawaiian Monk Seal.

It is critical that the state legislature act to pass this bill because one of the main reasons for Monk Seal violations is ignorance. The people and visitors of Hawaii are not aware of the current Monk Seal situation; in fact, many people do not even know the rules and laws one must uphold when encountering a Hawaiian Monk Seal. These incidents are not done maliciously, only carelessly, thus the need for public awareness is essential, and this bill would do just that. I firmly believe this bill would serve as a catalyst for the comeback of the Hawaiian Monk Seal.

Now is the time to take action, before its too late, before irreversible damage is done. Thank you for this opportunity to offer my strong support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Zoe Finn

testimony

From: donnafesta@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, February 24, 2008 10:18 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for Bill SB2465 Hawaiian Monk Seal Day

DATE: February 24, 2008

TO: Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT For SB2465 Hawaiian Monk Seal Day

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

Please make six (6) copies.

Dear Senators Fukunaga, Espero and committee members

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 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.

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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TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TAXATION
Ms. Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Mr. Will Espero, Vice Chair

VIA: Senate Sergeant at Arms FAX: 586-6011

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

RE: **For Public Hearing, Tuesday, Feb. 26 2008**
Please make six (6) copies.
1:25 pm; Conference Room 224

Testimony IN SUPPORT of SB2465, Establishing an Annual Hawaiian Monk Seal Day

February 25, 2008

Dear Representatives Fukunaga, Espero, and Committee members,

Thank you for raising SB24165, "Establishing an Annual Monk Seal Day" bill for public hearing. Please accept this testimony expressing my STRONG SUPPORT for this bill.

This bill is important to for many reasons, not the least of which is because 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 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 and visitors to participate in the protection and recovery of this twelve million year old species. The third Saturday in April corresponds to the start of pupping season so this is the perfect time for us to schedule the annual Hawaiian monk seal day.

Sincerely,

Georgette Yaindl

February 25, 2008

To: The Senate Economic Development and Taxation Committee
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation

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

Reference: For Public Hearing, Tuesday, February 26, 2008, 1:45 p.m., Conference Room 224
Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2465, Designating an annual 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 and concerned 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, lost gear, marine debris), coral/reef deterioration and food competition.

Establishing the Annual Hawaiian Monk Seal Day is an incremental step to achieving this objective. This designation has allows this subject to be better understood by the people of Hawaii and those who come to visit our beautiful island and allows us to continue to share this special treasure of the Hawaiian Island. As indicated by my most recent experience, even the brief interaction with the Hawaiian Monk Seal established a memorable bond to those who happened to be visiting Hawaii and a provided a greater sense of our history for those who reside in Hawaii.

For humanity, economic, tourism and local cultural reasons, I strongly support this bill and urge the state legislature to act and pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Gerald Okamoto



Conservation Council for Hawai'i

Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

Hearing: Tuesday, February 26, 2008
1:25 pm
Room 224

Support for SB 2465 Relating to Monk Seal Day

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 2465, which designates the third Saturday in April Hawaiian Monk Seal Day.

We also support funding for monk seal response coordinators on each island to help save seals in danger of entanglement, harassment, and other threats. 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 • web: 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 Leleka • 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

TO: Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT For SB2465 Designating an Annual Monk Seal Day

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

Please make six (6) copies.

Dear Senators,

We would like to give testimony to support SB2465 to make a Hawaiian Monk Seal Day. Designating a special day to recognize our endemic and very endangered monk seals would bring more attention to them and even to other endemic animals. We would like future generations to enjoy these animals. Several of us saw Chester, the seal, at Kailua beach when he was molting and it made us want to learn more about this beautiful species. If this bill was passed, more people would learn about them and help to prevent them from becoming extinct. People could help keep more of them alive in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands by preventing sharks from attacking the pups and by taking the fishing nets out of the water. We hope that you will pass this bill.

Sincerely,
The 5th grade class
St. Andrew's Priory
Ph: 536-6104

testimony

From: Natalie L Torkelson [nlt@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2008 6:26 PM
To: testimony
Cc: myuen@hawaii.edu
Subject: Committee on economic development and taxation- Feb. 26, 1:25 pm

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

My name is Natalie Torkelson, and I am a marine biology student at UH. I recently heard about the idea to make the Hawaiian Monk Seal the state animal, as well as the idea to designate a monk seal day. I think these are great ideas and will help to increase awareness about the plight of the monk seal. I am from Michigan and came to Hawaii to study because of all the unique and endemic species here. The experience I can gain from studying the animals here is an experience that I could not have gotten anywhere else. The Hawaiian Monk Seal is one of these animals that is endemic, and it is in danger of going extinct. I am interested in marine animals because that is what I am studying, but as a person who did not grow up in Hawaii I am amazed at how many people from here do not know about the Monk Seal and the kind of danger it is in. I think that by designating a Hawaiian Monk Seal day, and by making the Hawaiian Monk Seal the state animal, it will help to increase awareness about this amazing marine mammal.

Thank you for your time,

Natalie Torkelson

testimony

From: Maureen H Thompson [mhthomps@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2008 8:18 PM
To: testimony
Cc: myuen@hawaii.edu
Subject: SUPPORT FOR SB 2464 AND SB 2465

Dear Committee on Economic Development and Taxation,

I am a student at the University of Hawaii and I am originally from the east coast. Living in Hawaii for the past four years has been a privileged opportunity and I love it here! I have gotten to see and experience many cultural aspects of the islands. One event that stands out in my memory is the day I saw my first Hawaiian monk seal at Sandys Beach. It was absolutely amazing and I can not even begin to describe the excitement I felt. It has always been a dream of mine to see one in its natural habitat and I was lucky to be in the right place at the right time!

I am majoring in biology at UH and I am currently taking a course about marine mammals. I was devastated when I found out that there are less than 1200 Hawaiian monk seals alive today in the Hawaiian archipelago and the population just keeps on declining. There are some Hawaiian monk seals that live within the main Hawaiian Islands, but this can be hazardous for the seals because it increases their chances of interactions with humans. The Hawaiian monk seals can be caught in fishing gear, diseases can be transmitted, or people could potentially harass the seals and not be aware that they are doing so. I think the public needs to be made aware of the critical state the Hawaiian monk seal population is in and what they can do to help the Hawaiian monk seal population recover. That is why I support SB 2464, which would designate a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and SB 2465, which would make the Hawaiian monk seal the state mammal. I think these two bills will help in public awareness, which will bring the public support to aide in the population recovery of the Hawaiian monk seals. After all, these fascinating creatures are found ONLY in the Hawaiian Islands and I encourage you to pass these two bills! Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Maureen H. Thompson

testimony

From: Takashi Yamaya [yamaya@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2008 10:49 AM
To: testimony
Subject: support for SB 2464 and SB 2465

Dear Senator Fukunaga

Hawaiian monk seals are now in danger and I think they need to be protected. The existence of Hawaiian monk seal provides us, especially young generations, with great opportunity to get interested in marine mammals. Watching the real creature in the field is much better than reading encyclopedias or looking at pictures, because they move, they yell, and they swim. Getting interested in living things is the first step to be a scientist. If Hawaiian monk seals go extinct in Hawaii, the number of students who want to be marine biologist might decrease. This will be a serious problem, because the future of science world depends on children and students who somehow got interested in science. To maintain the quality of science world, we need to make any effort to make children and student get interested in science. Preserving Hawaiian monk seal is one of the ways to keep the sight of children to marine mammals. Therefore, I think we need to protect this endangered creature.

SB2464, which would designate a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day", and SB2465, which would select the Hawaiian monk seal to be the Hawaiian State Mammal, will help the preservation of this specious species. I encourage you to pass these bills

Best regards

Senator Carol Fuknaga
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 216
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

21 February 2008

To: Senator Fukunaga

Re: Support for SB 2464 and SB 2465

Coming from a small island not too different from Hawaii, I've come to appreciate the rarity of many animals and plants that are found in island habitats. As a biology major at the University of Hawaii at Manoa my biology courses have provided me with insight to how special Hawaii is to the world due to the species found here. Hawaii contains the highest amount of endemic and endangered plant and animal species in the nation. Because of this fact I have come to realize the importance of habitat conservation in order to ensure the survival of the wildlife. One of the most significant species, to me, that is found only in Hawaii is the Hawaiian Monk Seal. Although there is very little information provided on this species it is obvious that with populations so small, and Hawaii being its only habitat, I feel it is the responsibility of the state and its residents to know more and to spread awareness of the severe situation of this rare species. I can say before coming to Hawaii I had never heard of the Hawaiian Monk Seal. The conservation and study of their species is necessary to its survival. It would be a tragic lost to Hawaii and the world to lose another rare species.

To approve SB 2464 to designate an "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and SB 2465 to make the Hawaiian Monk Seal the state mammal will help raise awareness to the people of Hawaii and to educate the visitors who travel to Hawaii to experiences the island life and the rare species found here. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Benavente

testimony

From: Charmaine Mokiao [08chmoki@ksbe.edu]
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2008 8:03 AM
To: testimony

To: The Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Will Espero, 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, February 8, 2008
8:30 am, Conference Room 312

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

February 22, 2008

Dear Senators Carol Fukunaga, Will Espero and Senate 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 strives 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 and SB2465 bills. 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

testimony

From: hyperliltenshi@gmail.com on behalf of Christina P Rintravilai [cpr@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Sunday, February 24, 2008 8:05 PM
To: testimony
Cc: myuen@hawaii.edu
Subject: Support to pass bill SB 2464 and SB 2465

To: Committee on Economic Development and Taxation
Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2008
Time: 1:25 P.M.

The current population of the monk seals is in serious crisis. There are approximately 1,200 of them alive today, and small amount of them live on the main Hawaiian Islands. Everyday there has been increasing interactions of seals with humans, leading to possible complications to the lifestyles of monk seals. The existence of monk seals is a great way for people to experience one of the rare beauties of Hawaii, and can inspire the people to help preserve the monk seals. Currently there has been some cooperative efforts between government biologist and volunteer groups that been helping to keep a harmonious relationship between people and seals. However we still need more people to raise awareness and support for the conservation of the Hawaiian monk seal.

I support to pass bill SB 2464 and SB 2465 that would both designate a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and make the Hawaiian monk seal to be the Hawaii State Mammal.

Sincerely,
Christina Rintravilai

testimony

From: Alice Fongtran [fongtran@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 11:57 AM
To: testimony
Cc: myuen@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony SB2464 and SB2465

Senator Carol Fukunaga
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 216
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR SB 2464 AND SB 2465

Dear Senator Fukunaga:

I believe that both SB 2464, which would authorize a Monk Seal Day and SB 2465, which would make the Hawaiian monk seal our state mammal are important because it will help boost the recovery of this endangered species through awareness. The Hawaiian monk seal populations have been declining over the years and there are only 1,200 alive today. The Hawaiian monk seals also encounter many problems that are detrimental to their survival which includes anthropogenic factors such as entanglement in marine debris caused by fishing nets and human disturbance to mother and pup. There are many people that know very little about the Hawaiian Monk Seal and that it is an endangered species. Having SB 2464 and SB 2465 passed will allow the general public to be educated on this species, allow peaceful co-existence between humans and monk seals, and help preserve the Hawaiian monk seal for future generations potentially aiding in Hawaiian monk seal recovery.

Sincerely,
Alice Fongtran

From: <Franinkauai@aol.com>

Date: Sun, 24 Feb 2008 19:42:25 EST

To: "senfukunaga@Capitol.hawaii.gov" <senfukunaga@Capitol.hawaii.gov>, <senhooser@capitol.hawaii.gov>, <sentokuda@Capitol.hawaii.gov>

Subject: Hawaiiin Monk Seal bills

Hawaiian monk seals are critically endangered and extinction is feared if we don't raise awareness for the recovery of the species. The Humpback whale is the state "marine mammal" and we need the Hawaiian monk seal to be the "state mammal" to help raise public consciousness. Both species need our continued protection. The Humpback whale is increasing at 7% year and monk seals are declining at 4% per year.

Please support all bills to preserve and protect these fragile and marvelous creatures!



Rare Hawaiian Monk Seal pup and mom on Kauai
Born Oct 2007

Mahalo,

Fran

Fran McDonald

Realtor Associate

Accredited Buyer's Representative

FEB 25 2008

St. Andrew's Priory
224 Queen Emma Square
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Thank you for raising and passing SB 246.5 to make a Hawaiian Monk Seal Day and SB 2464 making the Hawaiian Monk Seal our State Mammal! We enjoyed our visit to your office and meeting you and Astronaut Barbara Morgan. Thank you also for giving us a tour of the Senat Chamber. We are learning a lot about how our government works.

Sincerely,
The 5th Grade Class

Lyn Titata ♥

Meredith

Sally Espindola

Samantha



Olivia

Megan
Hidemi Ichi

Brooke

Brittney
Chasey

Kacie

Taylor

Sophia

Leighan

Melissa

Kyra

Eme

Rachel

Maddie

Sarah

Kimberly

Kusti

Katelyn

Tyler (Tdog)

Taylor

Taylor

Meghana

Hitomi

Mia

Lindsay

Breanna

Maria

Fowler

February 22, 2006
Kathryn McKee
Sacred Hearts Academy
3253 Waialae Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

Senator Carol Fukunaga
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 216
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR SB 2464 AND SB 2465

Dear Senator Carol Fukunaga,

I recently learned that the Hawaiian Monk Seal is one of only 3 species of monk seals. Of the other two species, the Caribbean monk seal is now thought to be extinct. The Mediterranean monk seal is also close to extinction. Its population ranges from only 500 to 1,000 individuals.

We should help the Hawaiian monk seal avoid the danger of extinction. I believe that if Hawaii could have a "Hawaiian monk seal day" and if the Hawaiian monk seal was made Hawaii's state mammal, many people would want to protect the Hawaiian monk seal.

Sincerely,
Kathryn McKee
Grade 6
Sacred Hearts Academy

February 22, 2006
Mackenzie Wales
Sacred Hearts Academy
3253 Waialae Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

Senator Carol Fukunaga
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 216
415 South Boretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR SB 2464 AND SB 2465

Dear Senator Fukunaga:

There are less than 1,200 Hawaiian monk seals alive today, and their population is continuing to decline. Out of curiosity and/or ignorance, humans interact and compromise the health and well-being of these mammals. Many of these interactions lead to serious problems for the monk seal and the survival of its species.

The monk seals that reside in the main Hawaiian Islands constantly struggle with human disturbances, infectious diseases, fishery interactions, and habitat loss. These threats are contributing to the extinction of our Hawaiian monk seals. Threats that the monk seals in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands face include lack of food, entanglement in marine debris, and shark attacks.

Hawaiian monk seals have become an endangered species and it is up to the people to protect these creatures from complete extinction. We can provide a more stable and secure future for the monk seals by further raising awareness and support for the conservation of the Hawaiian monk seal.

I support bills SB 2464, which would designate a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and SB 2465, which would designate the Hawaiian monk seal as the state mammal. I believe that with the passing of these bills, awareness will be spread to all the citizens of Hawai'i and all of its visitors as well. As our state motto avows, "Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono," The life of land is perpetuated in righteousness. By passing these bills, our people will learn about this precious species and be reminded of the Hawaiian monk seals at least one day out of every year. These bills present a simple change for a complex problem.

Sincerely,
Mackenzie Wales
Grade 10
Sacred Hearts Academy

Mackenzie Wales

1 of 12

Island Pacific Academy

909 Haumea St.
Kapolei, HI 96707
Ph: (808) 674-3523
Fax: (808) 674-3575

FAX

Senate Sargent at Arms

To: Attn: Sen. Fukunaga

Date: 2/25/08

Fax: 586-6659

Phone: 674-3523

Total # of Pages (including cover page): _____

From: Lisa Fabro / Island Pac. Academy

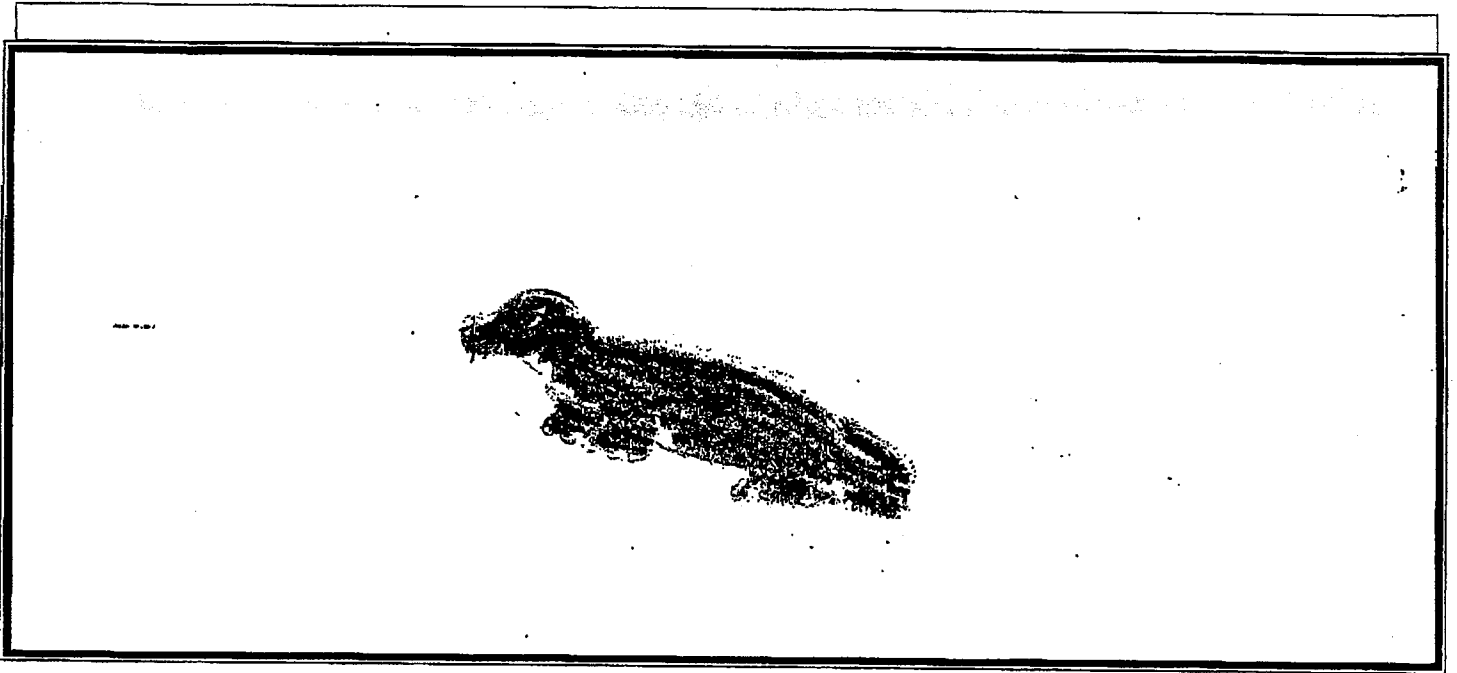
Re: Monk Seal Grade 4
SB 2464 + SB 2465

Comments:

We were busy writing letters to Sen. Fukunaga today to please sign & pass SB 2464 + 2465. Here are several letters. We will mail hard copies.

Mahalo!

Lisa Fabro's Class
674 3523 x410
Grade 4



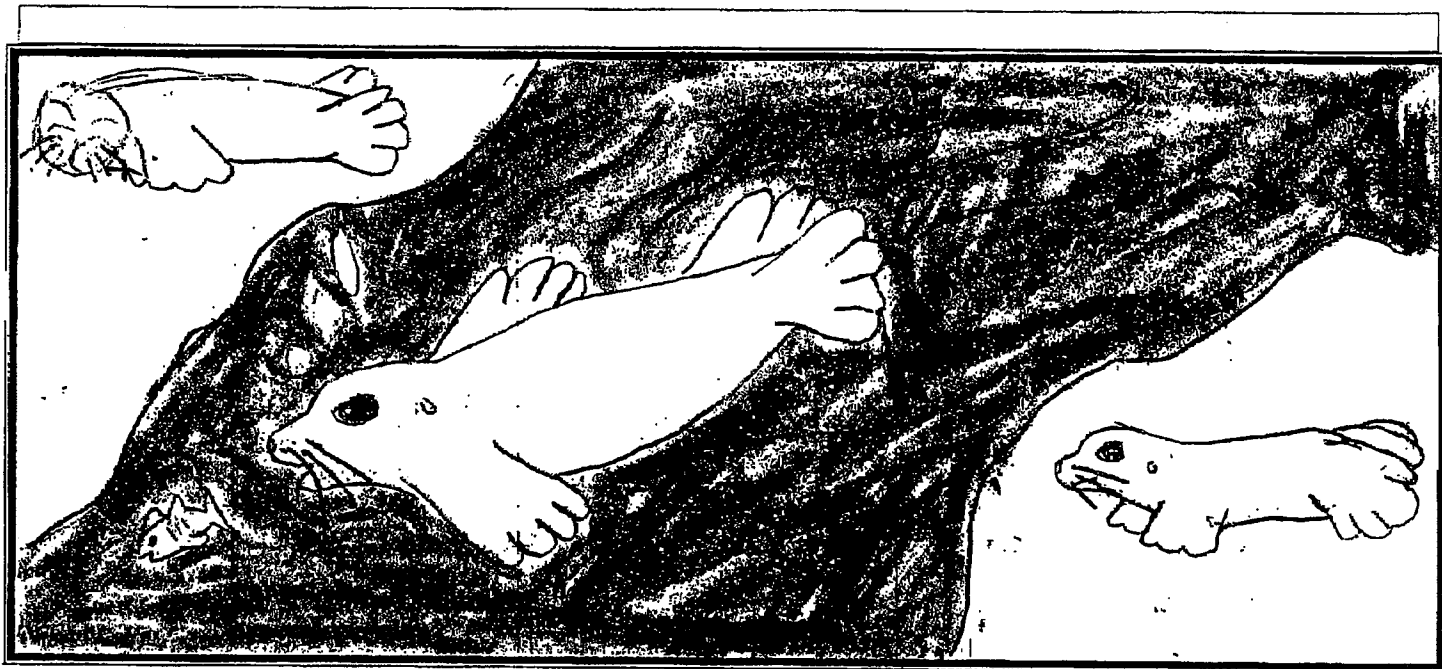
Dear Senator Fukunaga

Thank you for giving some of your time to read this important letter. I have written this letter because we would like you to sign and pass these two bills. By the way, I hear you are a very penetrating person. The first bill (SB2464) is to have an official "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day." The second bill (SB2465) is to make the Hawaiian Monk Seal the state mammal. My concern is that there are only 1,200 Hawaiian Monk seals left in Hawaii. So that is why I would like for you to sign bills SB2464 and SB2465 in order to protect and save the Hawaiian Monk Seals. So take out your pen and sign these two bills!

I appreciate your attention and I hope your intelligence will make a difference.

Sincerely,

Hunter S.



Dear Senator Fukunaga

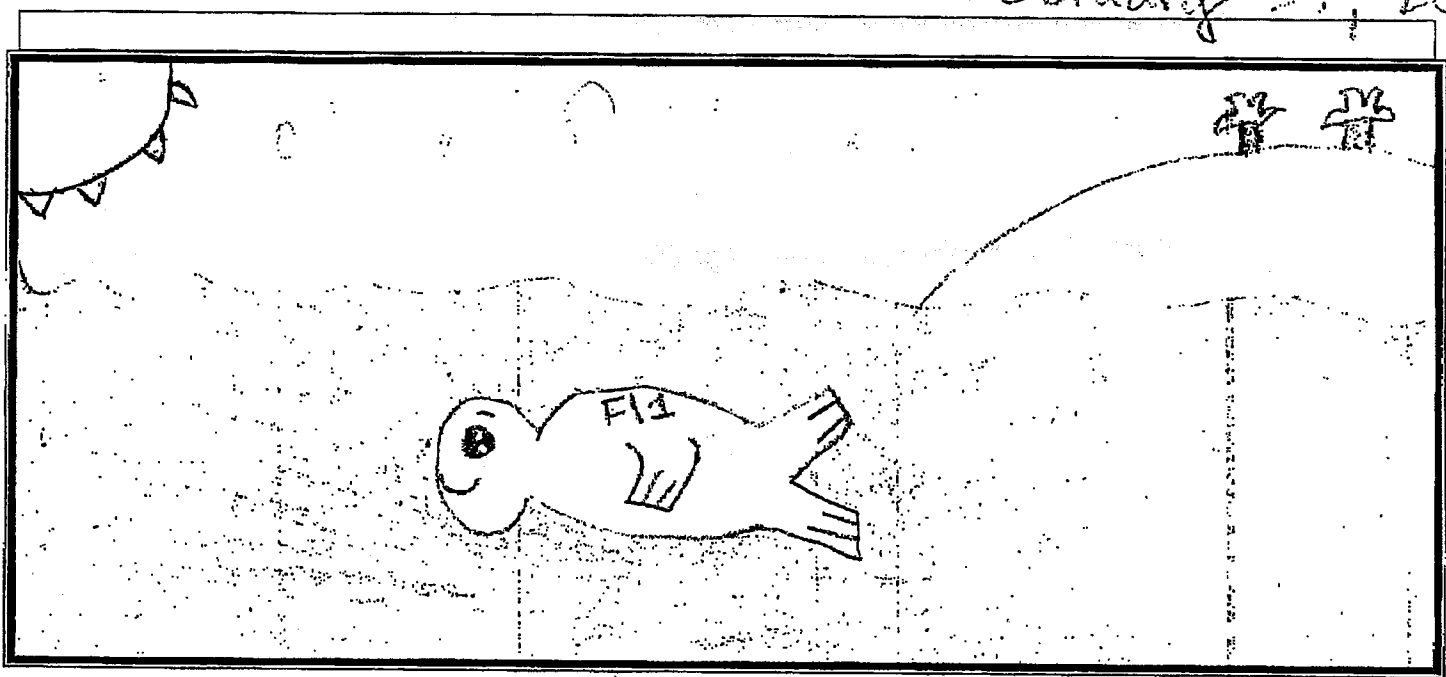
We heard you're a very smart person. Therefore, we're writing about a problem, the Hawaiian monk seal. It only lives here and nowhere else! However, the Hawaiian monk seal is very endangered and there are fewer pups than there should be.

We want you to sign two bills. Bill 2464 will create a Hawaiian Monk Seal Day so people will become more aware of the Hawaiian monk seal's crisis.

Bill 2465 will replace the Humpback Whale and raise the Hawaiian monk seal to State Mammal status because the humpback whale is indigenous and the Hawaiian monk seal is endemic. The Hawaiian monk seal is really great. Its Hawaiian name is 'ileo-halo-kai, the-dog-of-the-sea. It's a solitary, playful, gentle giants.

Sincerely
Joelle Pang

February 25, 2008



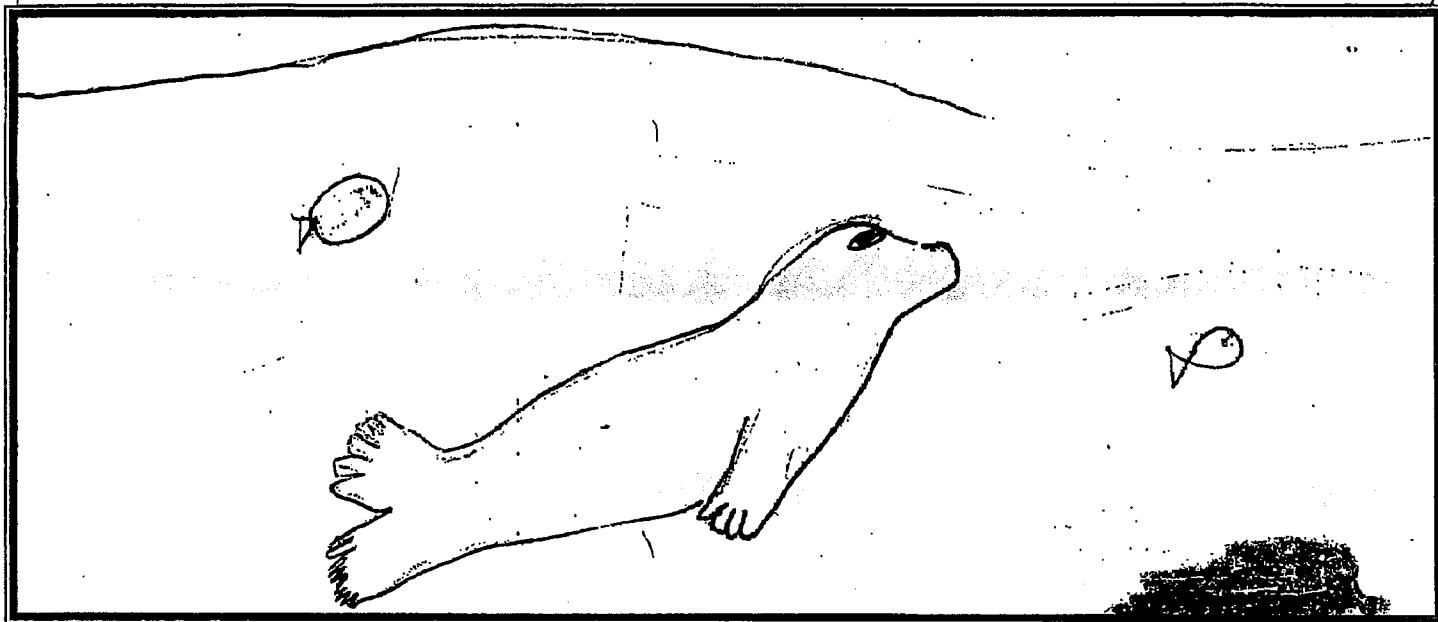
Dear Senator Fukunaga

Hello, Senator! I heard you are a very hard worker. It is very hard to work as a senator, isn't it? You seem like you are a very helpful person. However, I've heard that the Hawaiian Monk Seal is being killed by people throwing nets in the water. I want people to help save the Hawaiian Monk Seal! Maybe when you see people throwing nets in the water, you can call the police. I want also for the two bills (SB 2464 + SB 2465) to be signed to protect and save the Hawaiian Monk Seal!

I also want the "official" state mammal to be the Hawaiian Monk Seal and have a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day". I hope this plan will work; will you? Thank you for saving the Hawaiian Monk Seal!

From
 Gabby L. Puccio, IPA

February 25, 2008



Dear Senator Fukunaga

You have the power to change, and other things to improve our beautiful State. However, the Hawaiian Monk Seals are only found here and close to extinction. If the Hawaiian Monk Seal is an official State Mammal, people will pay more attention to them. You can sign bill SB 2464 and bill SB 2465, and help save the Monk Seal. You are very nice so I trust you to make the right choice. Thank you for reading this.

Sincerely,
Olivia Gabriel

Nevyn Tyau
91-1018 Wahinoho Street
Kapolei, HI 96707

February 24, 2008

Senator Carol Fukunaga
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 216
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Fukunaga:

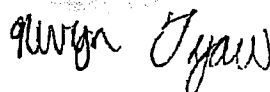
My name is Nevyn Tyau and I go to Island Pacific Academy. I am in fourth grade and am 9 years old. I am writing this letter because I would like to have a Monk Seal Day because the Hawaiian monk seals are disappearing, and if we don't stop to think about them, they will be extinct.

Hawaiian monk seals are very important to Hawai'i because they are a native and endemic mammal. There are only 1,200 Hawaiian monk seals left in the world. People are the main cause that the monk seals are almost extinct. When people fish too much, they are taking more than they need. The Hawaiian monk seal then are left with a small amount of fish to eat. Some Hawaiian monk seals have starved to death. When balloons fly away, they fall into the ocean and monk seals eat it. When they eat it, the Hawaiian monk seals suffocate to death. The monk seals are a beauty to Hawai'i, and if the monk seals are extinct, that would make so many people sad, including me.

If we have a Monk Seal Day, I would use that day to remind people not to fish too much and to not release balloon into the air, even if it's fun to do. We can help people understand the things that threaten monk seals like marine debris, infectious diseases and human disturbances. We can teach people how to behave around a monk seal when they see it in the ocean and on the beach.

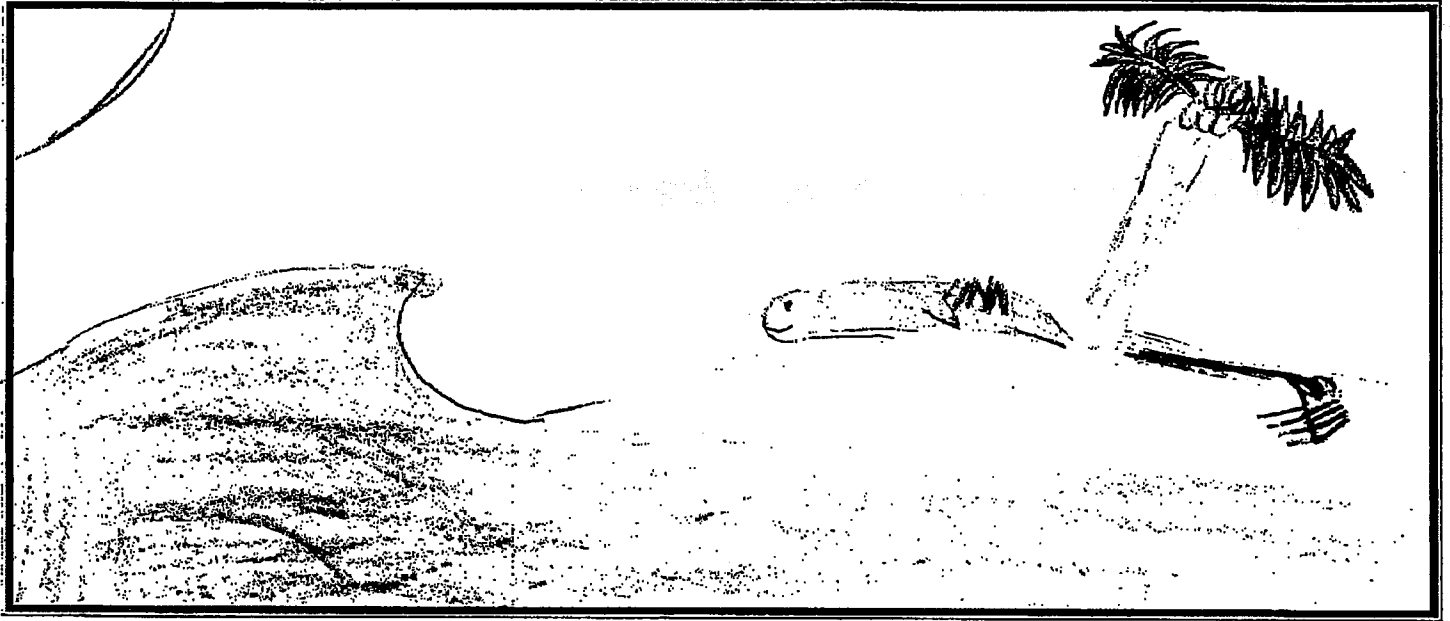
Thank you for reading my letter and I hope you will have a Monk Seal Day!

Sincerely,



Nevyn Tyau

February 25, 2008

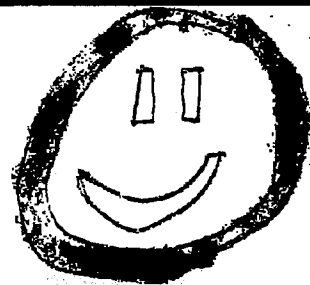


Dear Senator Fukunaga

You are very smart to be a senator because you decide very hard decisions. However Hawaiian Monk Seals are dying because of many things causing only about 1200 of them left. We want the Hawaiian Monk Seals to no longer be endangered and at least have a population of 2000 in Hawaii! To help do this we should create a state holiday for the Hawaiian Monk Seals, so people will think of them. Secondly, you should make the Hawaiian Monk Seals our state mammal so people will think of them again. Thank you for taking some of your time to read this letter.

Sincerely
Taylor Kimura

SIGN BILLS



2464

2465

AND

PLEASE

February 25, 2008

Dear Senator Fukanaga,

I hear that you are an amazing Senator and that you are very smart. However, I am concerned about our state's amazing Hawaiian Monk Seals! They are Native and Endemic to Hawaii which makes them so unique! Our problem is that some people are destroying the Monk Seals' habitat. Hawaii citizens keep littering, they disturb sleeping Monk Seals and they lure sharks near the shore by littering. If we made Hawaiian Monk Seals the official State Mammal and we make an effort it would raise awareness to all citizens! Thank you for your time, I hope you sign both bills SB 2464 and SB 2465.

Sincerely,

Erica Breuner
IPA - grade 4

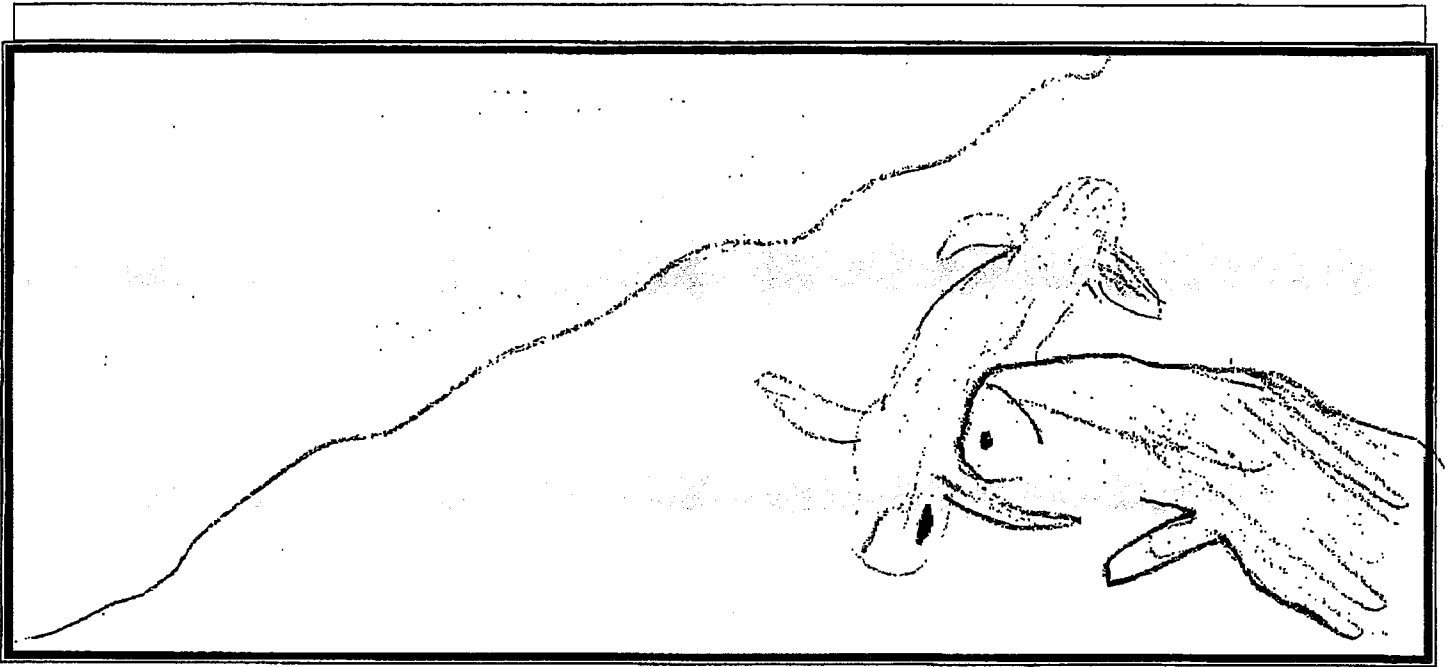
Please pass and sign the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to change the State Mammal to the Hawaiian Monk Seal and make a Hawaiian Monk Seal Day because it will educate Hawaiian people about this unique and precious marine mammal.

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

February 25, 2008

Thank you for being Hawaii's Senator. Did you know that Hawaiian Monk Seals are endemic to Hawaii? Most people are curious about and are fascinated by Monk seals. However, people are lessening the population of Monk seals by disturbing and harrasing them. Not looking out when fishing can make the ocean an unsafe place for the seals to live in. Help make the ocean a safer place for the seals to live and breed. Please make fishermen more careful of seals by not cutting off lines so seals don't get strangled. Give more useful knowledge about Monk Seals so they are aware of what needs to be done. Thank you for your time.

Mahalo,
Jaime



February 25, 2008

Dear Senator Fukanaga

You must do a very great senator. I've heard a lot of great things about you. Since you're such a great senator, please listen to these suggestions. The Hawaiian Monk Seal is an endangered animal. The only thing is that there are things to be done. I would like to see two bills passed so they are the official State Mammal and there would be a Hawaiian Monk Seal day. However, the Monk Seal is losing their habitat and their species. I think we need to stop fishermen from over-fishing and going near them and doing much more. I think bills 2464 and 2435 need to be done.

The Monk Seal has always been great and is loved by everyone. Even the Hawaiians adore it. I think it's our time to give it a chance.

Thank you for your support and attention.

Sincerely,

Michael



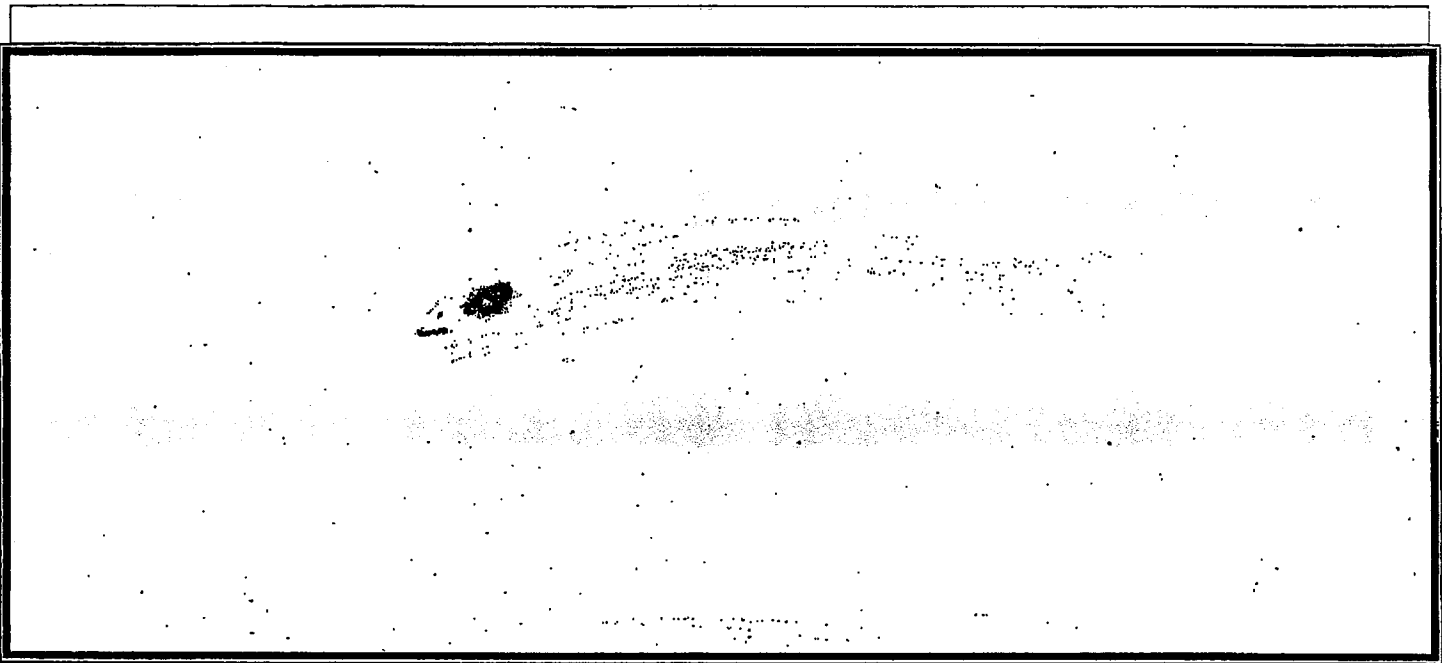
Dear Senator Carol Fukunaga,

You must be very brainy. I love to go to the beach but it is not as unique of an experience without the "Arf, arf!" of a Hawaiian Monk seal. The problem is, they are going extinct. They are endangered because of overfishing which lowers the food supply, pollution which can entangle them and crown them or infect them. The main cause is the loss of habitat. To solve the problem, there could be a Hawaiian Monk Seal holiday and our official state mammal could become the Hawaiian Monk Seal.

If you want to save the whole population of Hawaiian Monk seals please sign the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465.

Aloha!

Sincerely,
Keoni O'Reilly



Dear Senior Fukunaga,

You are the only person I know who would like you to help with the Mark Seal Day and make the mark seal. Mark seal is a native animal for mammals. However, mark seal are also an animal. Mark seal are also a marine debris and sign. If you sign the two bills people will be able to learn to help and protect the mark seal. It will help the mark seal greatly.

You have been a great senior and this will mean a lot to us. Please sign and pass bill SB 2414 and 2415. I trust you make the right decision.

From _____
 Daniel Tom IP Academy

From: Sterling Leatherman <sterlingleatherman@hotmail.com>
Date: Mon, 25 Feb 2008 23:30:00 -0800
To: <senfukunaga@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Cc: <myuen@hawaii.edu>
Subject: Letter of support for Hawaiian monk seal day...

Senator Carol Fukunaga
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 216
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: SUPPORT FOR SB 2464 AND SB 2465

Dear Senator Fukunaga:

Over the Christmas holiday of 2006, I had the unlikely privilege of witnessing a monk seal resting on one of Kauai's beautiful beaches. I was able to share this once in a lifetime experience with my mother, and I'll never forget it.

I realize how rare the sighting was, but I hope that others could someday share the occasion.

These incredibly endangered seals need all the help we can provide, and I believe this letter is proof enough that awareness brings change. If I hadn't encountered the sun bathing Hawaiian monk seal, I wouldn't be submitting this letter now.

I believe that SB 2464, which would designate a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day," and SB 2465, which would name the Hawaiian monk seal the Hawaii State Mammal, will increase the chances of recovery of this fading treasure. I strongly encourage you to pass these bills!

Sincerely,
Sterling Leatherman

James Campbell
High School

2-19-08

Dear Senator Fukanaga,

Hey How's it going Mr. Fukanaga. My name is
Darrin Alexander and I'm a student at James Campbell
high school. I'm in marine science and my teacher
is Ms. Wallace. She told us that this week was a week
of water mammal awareness. We studied ~~ecoss~~ a mammal
that was almost extinct that live in Hawaii and that's
the Hawaiian Monk Seal. There are only about 1200
of them alive today and their population is declining at
a steady pace. The thing about that is that ~~that~~ only place
they live is here in Hawaii. If people start being more
cautious about what they're doing to the Hawaiian Monk
Seals then maybe we can save them because once
their gone their gone you know.

When people are around the Hawaiian sea
monks they just have to learn how to behave.
They are very shy animals and very scared of them.
If they ^{are} nursing their pups and people approach they
~~run~~ run away leaving their pups to die. So we need
to build up a state wide awareness so people can understand
what's going on. Please senator Fukanaga let's take this into consideration.

Sincerely,

Darrin Alexander

James Campbell High

February 11, 2008

Dear Senator Furukawaga

Aloha, this is my Junior year at James Campbell High School and in Marine Science class, my teacher was explaining to me about the endangered species, The Hawaiian Monk Seal.

These creatures are so beautiful to the Hawaiian Islands. They're one of the things that makes the islands beautiful. The way we could save the seals is by watching out for fishermen because most of the time they catch them in the nets, or just by people scaring them. Like, there should be some certain spots on each island for the Monk seals to be so we won't harm them.

Also everyone should be careful about the Monk seals. They should be cautious around the seals because the seals would get more frightened and probably attack the people. Thank you for hearing my reasons on why we should save the Monk seals.

Sincerely,

Autumn Backman

James Campbell High S.
021908

+5

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our State Mammal.

These bills are important because it's sad to know that there are only 1200 of them left here in Hawaii and in the world. I think that is like a privilage and an honor to have us surrounded by the seals. I dont know if what I already told you has made a difference and convince you to have a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day".

But if it didnt then I dont know what else to say that can make you do that.

Sincerely,
Angela Imbo

+5

2/19/06

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our State Mammal. These bills are important because, there are only 1,200 of them left in the world! These bills would help make people more aware of the endangered status of the Hawaiian monk seal and the crisis situation it is in. The Hawaiian monk seal is very special to Hawaii and it doesn't exist anywhere else in this world. We also need to save the Hawaiian monk seal because they are a big part of our marine ecosystem and our 'āina. So please take this in consideration.

Sincerely,
Emily Rājasa

James Campbell
High
19, Feb '08

+5

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Please hear the bills SB 2404 & SB 2405 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" & to make the Hawaiian monk seal our state mammal. These bills are important because I feel that they should be preserved in this land where there are only 1200 Hawaiian monk seals left. Also this is the only place in the world where they are found. So preserving an endemic & endangered mammal is a great way to keep our land preserved & in tip-top shape. The Hawaiian Monk seal is also a fascinating & amazing mammal. They are a very rare site to see, but when you do, it's worth it. So we also need to behave & do the right things when they are around so we don't disturb or disrupt their ways. The Hawaiian monk seal is a part of Hawaii, a part I want my kids & future family to be able to enjoy. By the bills being heard, that would be possible. Thank you for taking the time to listen.

sincerely,

Taynesha Prothero

JAMES CAMPBELL HIGH SCHOOL
2/19/08
Pd. 3

45

Dear senator FUKANO.

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our state mammal. These bills are important because the Hawaiian Monk seal is special to Hawaii and doesn't exist anywhere else in the world. There should be a day made after them also because there are only 1200 of them left in the world. That's not very much, having a Hawaiian Monk seal day could be used to show how important they are and how unique they are because they don't show up just anywhere, it's only on the Hawaiian Islands.

People should be more aware of how important Hawaiian Monk seals are and we should try and help to save them.

Sincerely,
Shawn Vera Cruz

+5

Dear senator Fukunaga,

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our state mammal. These bills are important because according to the world today, there are only 1200 monk seals left and with a short notice, that's quite a small and decreasing amount. These bills would definitely help make people more aware of the endangered status of the Hawaiian monk seal and the crisis situation it is in. As of people's fascination by seals, they should know how to behave around them. They shouldn't even be near them and not pass a hundred feet. That would really help because with people's curiosity against monk seals, it causes a decline among them. A lot of fishermen has harmed them and so they should be more aware of monk seals. It may sometimes be difficult for the declining of monk seals because some faults are caused by accidents. For instance, the monk seals are declining because of ciguatera or also known as poisoning from animals to animals being eaten from each other. Another accidents are fishermen's fishing too much. Monk seals share the same food as we do and without food, they won't survive. Otherwise, tigersharks aren't accidents. If tigersharks are still searching, then the more the population will decrease. On the other hand, fishermen's and curious people of other poisoning should be more aware. With their safety and encouragement, we really can make a difference. That's why I would want to make the Hawaiian monk seal our state mammal. It would be great if Hawaiian monk seal Day would fall on the same day as Valentine's day so that others will realize that not only people can be loved. Everyone deserves to be loved. Even animals. Thank you for taking your time in reading my letter. I know that we can make a big difference!

Sincerely,

Paul Ramirez

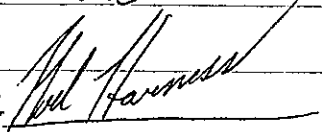
James Campbell high
2/19/08

+5

Dear Senator Eukanao

I think that we should make a Hawaiian Monk Seal Day and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our new state Mammal. We should do this because there are only 1200 of them left in the world the SB 2464 and SB 2469 bills would be helpful because it will make people more aware of the endangered animals of Hawaii like monk seals. The Hawaiian monk seal should also be our state mammal because they are only in the Hawaiian islands and there is none anywhere else in the U.S. or the world.

The Hawaiian Monk Seal should be able to live long and not die out and if it does then it should be remembered. ~~There~~ and people could know to respect them. So monk seals are the bomb and should be the state mammal so please make it happen.

sincerely: 

15

JAMES CAMPBELL HIGH SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 19, 2008

DEAR SENATOR FUNAKA,

PLEASE HEAR THE BILLS SB 2464 AND SB 2465 TO
CREATE A "HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL DAY" AND TO MAKE THE
HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL OUR STATE MAMMAL. THESE BILLS ARE
IMPORTANT BECAUSE THE HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL IS SPECIAL
TO OUR 'AINA, AND THEY ARE A PART OF IT, INCLUDING OUR
MARINE ECOSYSTEM. THE HAWAIIAN MONK SEALS ARE PINNIPEDS,
RELATED TO DOGS. MANY PEOPLE ARE FASCINATED BY THESE
SEALS. HOWEVER, PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW HOW TO BEHAVE AROUND
THEM. THESE SEALS CAN DIVE 600 FT DEEP IN ABOUT 20 MINUTES!
HOW AMAZING IS THAT?! THEY WEIGH ABOUT 500 LBS AND
THEY SPEND MORE TIME IN POPULATED AREAS. GRACKERS AND
FISHERMEN HAS HARMED THEM, BUT HOW CAN WE PROTECT THEM?
BY HAVING A HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL DAY OR EVEN REPORT
THEM SICK / INJURED TO NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE.
THESE BILLS ARE IMPORTANT, BECAUSE THEY MEAN A LOT TO HAWAII,
AND THEY MEAN A LOT TO US.

Sincerely,

Deann Oasay

Campbell High
School

part

2/19/07

Dear Senator Fukanaga.

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our State Mammal. These bills are important because there are not alot left and there only found in Hawaii. They are very peacefull and hasent bert anyone and some are geting bert by marine debris. The bat dosent represent the Hawaiian mammal right it shou be the monk seal cause they live in the water and go to the beach and chill out, thats more Hawaiian style than a bat.

Sincerely

Nicolas deCastille

Cory Thompson,

P. 1st

2/19/07

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Please hear the bills SB 2464 & 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian Monk Seal our State Mammal. These bills are important because it is a rare and endemic to Hawaii. The Monk seal is more ~~and~~ cool than the Hoary Bat and people are more impressed with the Monk Seal.

Second, I think you should declare a day to be called, "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day." This is because they are an endangered species and this will make people aware of this. Many of these mammals are dying due to human disturbance, I think on this day people should be educated on how they should act around these creatures. They are also a valuable part of the ecosystem and the extinction of these creatures can lead to serious harm the the balance of the ecosystem. Thankyou for your time.

Sincerely,

Cory Thompson

2-18-08

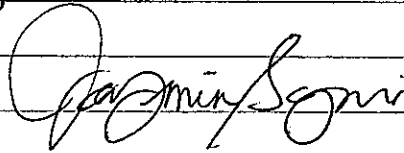
Dear Senator Fukanaga,

This is my senior year in high school and this quarter, here at James Campbell, my first period is Marine biology. We've been learning about the ocean waters around the world and the living things inside it. Recently we've been getting around to the waters of the Hawaiian Islands. I think it is very interesting learning about the waters surrounding us, but I have concerns about the extinction of our native Hawaiian monk seal.

I would like to propose that you please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465. A "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" would be a great way to raise public awareness to help protect the population of these mammals. If the Hawaiian monk seal was our state mammal, it would preserve the memory of it, in case it does enter extinction.

Our state as a whole should come together to do everything we can to help these mammals and their endangered status to decrease. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Jazmin Segui

James Campbell High School

19/February/08

Dear Senator Fukanaga,

I feel that there should be a "Hawaiian Monk seal Day" and that the state Mammal should be changed from the Hoary bat to the Hawaiian Monk Seal. The bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 would help to make more people aware that the Hawaiian Monk Seal is an endangered species. Also, it could help call attention to the things that threaten them (such as human disturbance, infectious diseases, and marine debris).

I feel that it is important to also remind tourists and locals that even if they seem docile, they have the potential to be dangerous. Although the Hawaiian Monk Seals are fascinating and adorable people tend to forget that they are wild animals and people should stand at least 100 feet away. As more monk seals spend more time in areas where people are present its prudent for people to know how to behave around the Hawaiian Monk Seal.

I urge you to hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465. It could greatly help the Hawaiian Monk Seal.

Sincerely,
Mamele Aloma Peterson
Mamele Aloma Peterson

James Campbell High School
2/19/08

Dear Senator Fukanaga,

Being an animal lover, I would like to help make others aware of the problems monk seals face. It is important that we try our best to preserve the life of these mammals because it is only one of two native animals here in our state. Please hear the bills SB 2404 and SB 2405 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our state Mammal. These bills are important because there is only a small amount of monk seals left. Only 1,200 are left in this world. Hopefully these bills will help people realize how serious this problem is.

There are more fatalities than births amongst monk seals. A lot of these deaths are due to the carelessness of the people in Hawaii. Things like marine debris, infectious diseases, and human disturbance kills monk seals. Although these creatures are very amusing, it is important to stay at least 100 feet away from them, but unfortunately, people are not educated by this.

Having a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" might help the state of Hawaii to be more cautious around beaches so that we can help keep the environment clean. We think that just because we don't live at the beach that there aren't other forms of life that live there. We wouldn't want someone coming to our home and trashing it so we should be more considerate of the Hawaiian monk seals and other marine life.

Sincerely,
Bianca Pagan

James Campbell High School
February 19, 2008

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our state mammal. These bills are important because it will help keep them alive.

There are fewer seals being born and their population is declining. The ratio of male to female is 3 to 1. Since there are more males than females there are fewer births. Also because of tourists they go up so close to them they get so scared they leave their pups by themselves and die. Tiger sharks are also their natural predators.

More monk seals are spending time in populated areas and people need to know how to behave around them. First thing you should know is to stay 100 feet away from them, so you won't harm them. You should also report if there is any sick or injured to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Here's other information about the Hawaiian monk seal. There are only 1200 of them left. It doesn't exist anywhere else in the world. They weigh about 600 pounds. They can dive as deep as 600 ft., and has something called gradicardia. Monk seals breed in the spring or summer time. More during the warm seasons.

Hopefully these reasons will make you think about having a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day."

Sincerely,

Jasmine Mendola

JCHS
91-1001 Ulukouli
Ewa Beach, HI
2-14-08

Dear Senator Fukunaga

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day". Also, to make the Hawaiian monk seal our State Mammal. They are on the verge of extinction. With only 1200 Hawaiian Monk Seal left within the world

If these bills were heard, people will be more aware of how endangered these mammals are. They are in a big crisis situation. These seals are special and precious. They exist only in Hawaii. No other place have these seals

This Hawaiian Monk Seal is an endemic to Hawaii. Going extinct shouldn't be allowed. There are few seals being born and their population is going down

It would help call attention to things threatening them. Such as marine debris, infectious diseases, and human disturbance. We are naturally attracted to seals. They are part of our ecosystem.

Sincerely,
Brian Noble

02/19/08

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Please hear the bills SB 2464
and SB 2465 to create a
"Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to
make the Hawaiian Monk seal
our state mammal. This bill is
important because this animal
is very special to the people
in Hawaii. It is only one
of two native mammals.
It doesn't live anywhere
else but here in Hawaii.
But, sadly, fewer than 100 seals
have been sighted here due to
the threats they face on
our island. like, Human
Disturbance, Fishery Interactions,
and Habitat Loss. People need
to know how to behave when
they see a Monk Seal. That is
why when we have "Hawaiian
Monk Seal Day", people will know
to leave them alone so they
can have a day to themselves.
Let them be free without
no disturbance of any kind.
If we, I mean you, Officially
name the seal our state
mammal then people
will leave them alone for good.

James Campbell
High School

2/19/09

Dear Senator Fulkandga,

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our state Mammal. These bills are important because only about 1200 of the seals still exist. The bills would educate people about them, hopefully protecting them from any human involved harm. This monk seal doesn't exist anywhere else in the world, making the cause to protect it that much more important. There are fewer seals being born, and now their population is falling. People are interested in Hawaiian Monk Seals, so preserving them for generations in the future would draw attention. The seals are staying in human populated areas, so now people need to know how to behave.

Sincerely,
Ryan Tinoso
Ryan Tinoso

James Campbell

2/19/08

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our state mammal. These bills are important because there are only 1200 of them left in the world. These bills would help make people more aware of the endangered status of the Hawaiian monk seal and the crisis situation it is in. By making them the state mammal it may help there population by by stoping fishermen from catching them. We could teach people about there habitat and the way they live so we don't lesser there population. Thanks for your gratitude

Sincerely, Richard
Cuthbert

JEFFS
PAT BEN
2/19/09

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our State Mammal. These bills are important because the Hawaiian monk seal is special to Hawaii and doesn't exist anywhere else in the world. Another reason is that the Hawaiian monk seal is very endemic to Hawaii and shouldn't be allowed to go extinct.

Just to let you know that there are fewer seals being born and their population is declining. It would help call attention to the things that threaten them like marine debris, infectious diseases and human disturbance. We as people, are naturally fascinated by seals. They are a part of our marine ecosystem and 'āina.

More monk seals are spending time in populated areas and people need to know how to behave around them. Please pass the bills to allow the Hawaiian Monk Seal to have its own personal day. It would help the growth of the seals. Also to allow it to be state mammal.

PAT BEN

James Campbell
High School

2/14/08

Dear Senator Fukushima,

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to help create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our new Hawaii State mammal. These bills are important because the Hawaiian monk seal is a very special mammal here in Hawaii because it doesn't exist anywhere but here in Hawaii. This is true because the Hawaiian monk seal is very endemic to our waters here in Hawaii and it would go extinct every other place.

You should know that there are fewer seals being born every year and their population is declining as we speak. It would help call attention to the things that threaten them like marine debris, infections, diseases, and women disturbances. We as people of our state are naturally fascinated with our marine life. They are part of our ecosystem and our 'aina.

More monkseals are spending time in populated areas and people need to know how to behave around them. Please pass these bills so they can seal and allow the Hawaiian Monk Seal to have its own personal day. It would ultimately help the population grow and allow it to be our State mammal.

Sincerely,
Leon A. Pascoe

JAMES CAMPBELL HIGH
91-980 NORTH ROAD
FEBRUARY 19, 2008

DEAR SENATOR FUKUNAGA,

PLEASE HEAR THE BILLS SB 2464 AND SB 2464 TO CREATE A "HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL DAY" AND TO MAKE THE HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL OUR STATE MAMMAL. THESE BILLS ARE IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEY'RE AN ENDANGERED SPECIES, AND IF YOU PASSED THESE BILLS IT WOULD HELP PROTECT THEM. IF THEY GOT DEPLETED THEY WOULD BECOME EXTINCT BECAUSE THEY ONLY EXIST IN HAWAII.

THEY ARE STARTING TO COME MORE BY CIVILIZATION SO PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW HOW TO BEHAVE AND REACT AROUND THEM. PEOPLE ARE FASCINATED BY SEALS AND WANT TO GO CLOSE TO THEM, BUT THEY'RE AGGRESSIVE AND WOULD ATTACK IF THEY FEEL THREATENED. THEY ALSO GET HARMED BY POLLUTION IN OUR OCEAN WATERS AND ON OUR BEACHES. THEY HAVE BEEN HARMED A LOT IN THE PAST ALSO BY SCALERS, FISHERMAN, AND WORLD WAR II BOMBS THAT POLLUTED THE OCEAN. ALSO BY NATURAL CAUSES LIKE TIGER SHARKS AND CIGUATERA. BUT WE CAN PROTECT THEM BY TEACHING PEOPLE ABOUT THEM AND BY HAVING PEOPLE STAY 100 FEET AWAY.

SO THIS IS WHY WE SHOULD HELP PROTECT HAWAIIAN MONK SEALS.

SINCERELY,
Brandi-lee Farinas
Brandi-lee Farinas

James Campbell High School
91-980 North Road
February 19, 2008

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian Monk Seal our state mammal. These bills are important because the Monk Seal is an endangered animal and we need people to be aware that they are so they won't become extinct. Making a day for the monk seal would make the people of Hawaii more aware that it is endangered. The monk seal is special to Hawaii; it only lives in the Hawaiian islands. Making it our state mammal would also help make people more aware as well instead of the Hoary Bat which is not endangered. So please make these bills and pass them.

Sincerely,
Zorben Largo
Zorben Largo

James Campbell High.

2/19/08

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our state mammal. These bills are important because:

- There are only around 1,200 of them still alive in the world. These bills would help people be more aware and concerned about the Hawaiian Monk Seal crisis situation.

- The Hawaiian Monk Seal doesn't exist anywhere else in the world and that this is a serious matter.

- The bills could help the seals from the threats that danger them to allow them to go through extinction.

- The bills could help more people be more aware by them and know the importance of their habitat to survive. People are naturally fascinated by them. Helping the people of Hawaii know how important this is could help a lot.

- The Hawaiian Monk Seal is endemic to Hawaii and shouldn't be allowed to be extinct from the Hawaiian Islands.

Sincerely,

Eli Navarro

2/19/08

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2460 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to Make the Hawaiian monk seal our state Mammal. These bills are important because they are unique to Hawaii, you will never see it anywhere else except here. More people will care about it and respect it's boundaries because this is an mammal that represents the state of Hawaii. It will also help increase there population, because there will be laws for them. It will also help are marine ecosystem. Also another thing that will call attention is the things that threaten them like for example marine debris, infectious diseases and human disturbance and etc... This would be important because you'll be taking care of them and the ocean and land's in Hawaii. The Hawaiian Monk seal's is so rare to Hawaii, if it does become are State mammal it'll attract more people to come to Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Stephen Almaraz

Feb. 19, 2008

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Please hear the bills SB2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our State Mammal. These bills are important because the public will be informed on how the status of the Hawaiian Monk seal is endangered. In the entire world, there are only a roughly 1200 left. It's a big deal that the Hawaiian Monk seal is endemic to Hawaii, as Hawaii's locals and residents, we should be doing all we can, to protect them. Over time, the population number is decreasing, fewer seals are being born. Infectious diseases, human disturbance and marine debris are a couple main threats to the seals. People interested in the seals may seem innocent, but without them knowing it, they're doing harm. We have to keep the 'aina alive in Hawaii, the ocean is a huge part of Hawaii obviously, so we have to keep the Hawaiian Monk seals a part of our marine ecosystem. If the people of Hawaii don't know of the issue, nothing will be resolved. Hopefully if the bills are passed, more concerned people will try to help and offer ideas to help handle the situation.

Sincerely,

Jesse Romero

James Campbell High

2-19-02

Dear senator Iukanao,
please hear the bill SB 2464 and
SB 2465 to create a "Hawaii Monk Seal
Day" and to make the Hawaii monk
seal our state mammal. These bills
are important because there
are only 1200 of them left in
the world. These bills would help
make people more aware of the
endangered Hawaii monk seal.

The Hawaii monk seal is special
to Hawaii and doesn't exist
anywhere else in the world.
It would help call attention to
the things that threaten them like
marine debris, infectious disease
and human disturbance.

Sincerely,

John Minoda

James Campbell High
2/19/08

Dear Senator Fukunaga

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our state Mammal. These bills are important because there are only 1200 monk seals left in the world. They are an endangered mammal. These bills would help make people more aware of the endangered status. They don't know who harms these animals. Sealers and fishermen the things they do hurt and kill them which lessens the monk seals. If you haven't known there are more males than females. When the females are adults they attack the younger females. The Hawaiian monk seal is special to Hawaii doesn't go anywhere but Hawaii which is really cool. Since that's cool that they only come to Hawaii they shouldn't allow these seals to extinct. People are always fascinated to see a seal so they should know how to behave around them. There not only part of the Marine eco system but their part of the 'aina. So it would help if we made the monk seal are state mammal. And have a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day"

Sincerely, John Bojones
JOHN

Dear Senator Fukunaga

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our State mammal, these bills important because there are only 1200 left in the world. The bills would help people more aware of the endangered status in Hawaii or in the world. A lot of people are fascinated by them, they are a part of our marine ecosystem and "uhia

Sincerely

Albert Aquilino

2/19/08

Dear senator Fukunaga,

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian Monk Seal our state Mammal. It is important to give awareness to the people of Hawaii and the people who visit here. These mammals have had a major decline due to lack of food, shark attacks, human disturbance, and infectious diseases. There are now only 1200 of them left in the world. The Monk Seal is in a desperate situation and we as humans and citizens of Hawaii should make an effort to spread knowledge in attempt to preserve their species because the Hawaiian Monk Seal doesn't exist anywhere else in the world. People are naturally fascinated by seals and saving their species will protect a special part of our marine ecosystem and our 'āina. Teaching people about how to cooperate around monk seals will also help protect them since they are spending time in populated areas.

Sincerely,
Clara

February 19, 2006

Dear Senator Fukanaga,

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian Monk Seal our state mammal. These bills are important because there are only 1200 of them left in the world and these bills would help make people would be more aware of the endangered status of the Hawaiian Monk Seal and the crisis situation it is in. The Hawaiian Monk Seal is special to Hawaii and doesn't exist anywhere else in the world. The Hawaiian Monk Seal is special to Hawaii people are about these animals and should not be allowed to go extinct. There are more Monk Seals that are spending time in populated areas and people need to know how to behave around them. The reasons that Monk Seals are becoming extinct is because people tend to get close and the seals get scared and leave their young without nursing and baby Monk Seals die. I ask you to please hear these bills and help to save the Hawaiian Monk Seals.

Sincerely

Brittney Garcia

Campbell High

2/19/08

Dear Senator Fukunaga

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our state Mammal.

These bills are important because:

Reason for this letter is to save the seal from extinction. The population is being to drop rapidly. Monk seal is special to Hawaii and not found no where else. Fewer seals are being born. Many things are endangering the seals such as fishermen, sharks, etc. They should make the mammal the state mammal cause they are becoming extinct and the bats are not extinct. So think about it and do whats right.

Sincerely,

Shane Sime

FEBRUARY 19, 2008

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Please hear the bills SB2464 and SB2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our State Mammal. These bills are important because in a few years there won't be any more monk seals. Since the male seals are so aggressive, they attack pre-mature females. Because the males do that the young females die. If there isn't enough females, how will the Hawaiian Monk seals reproduce.

If we get to have the Hawaiian Monk as the state Mammal, then how can we help to protect them. The seals are soon to be extinct. Or maybe have a Hawaiian Monk Seal Day, when no fishermen can fish. So there can be one day where the fishes could populate so that the seals can have food. Why should the Hoary Bat be the state mammal. The bat isn't endangered and there still able to produce. Put the Hawaiian Monk Seal because they are endangered. They need help in populating their population. And that's all I have to say.

Sincerely,
Antonio Silva

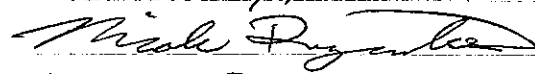
James Campbell High School

February 19th 2008

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

I think that you should really consider hearing the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 so that a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" may be created. Making the Hawaiian monk seal our State Mammal can also be made possible. The monk seals are endangered, there are only about 1200 of them left in the world. These bills can help bring awareness to this species and possibly bring them out of endangerment. They're native only to Hawaii which makes them very unique and special. If people are more aware of these things than they'll be more careful around them. Their population is declining! We have to do something about it. Pollution, curious people, fishermen are contributing to the endangerment and population decline. The monk seals are a part of our ecosystem and MUST be protected. Please consider this and really think about creating a seal dedicated day for Hawaii and possibly changing our state mammal to this animal. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Nicole Rezentes

James Campbell
high school

Dear Senator Fuganaga,

Please hear the bills SB2464 and 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our State Mammal. These bills are important because there are less than 2000 monk seals left in the world. Also because the monk seal can only be found in Hawaii. The monk seal is endangered in being extinct. The monk seals population is declining cause of fishermen's nets, over fishing and people's behavior toward them. With these bills it'll make people more aware about what's going on with the monk seal.

If you hear these bills out the monk seals probably will not be extinct, with the bills it'll protect the monk seals and will see them more in the future. With the pass of the bills it'll help the monk seal to still be in Hawaii and people will be able to see them a lot.

Sincerely,

James Campbell

James Campbell High School
91-980 North Road
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
February 19, 2008

Dear Senator Fytanaga,

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian Monk Seal our state mammal.

These bills are important because Hawaiian Monk Seal is native to our island, only one of two native mammals. Also Hawaiian Monk Seal only live on this island no where else. That's why they are important, but also they are in decline. It's because of lack of food, shark attacks, entanglement in marine debris, fishermen hurt them and fewer births. Their are rare male and female seals. Monk seal can swim to 600 feet in 20 minutes and weight is about 500 lbs. These mammals are very special. That's why they should be our state mammal and have a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day." In that way to show effort in gain more public awareness and support.

Sincerely,

JOSEPHINE SERRA FLETA

James Campbell High

February 19, 2008

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian Monk Seal our State Mammal. These bills are important because this animal is special and important to Hawaii. There are not that many seals alive today because their total population is decline. Only around 1200 of them are alive and they do not live anywhere else but here in Hawaii. Not many seals are being born because the many threats for example, the lack of food, entanglement in marine debris and shark attacks. Also there are more females than male seals, fishery interactions, diseases and etc. The seals are a part of our marine ecosystem. The people around the seals need to know how to act towards them. We can save them by making a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and or our State mascot. We need to save these innocent mammals. Lets help them out because they did not harm us in anyway. No one should be hurt and left behind.

Sincerely,

Faith J. Manupule.
Faith Manupule

Keanu
2/19/08

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Please hear the bills SB 2464 SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our state mammal. These bills are important because the monk seals are an endangered species. With only 1200 of them left the Hawaiian Monk Seal should be recognized as a dying branch of marine life. The Monk seal should be given more respect & attention.

The Hawaiian Monk Seal is a native animal from the old Hawaiian days & is a surprise they're still alive. Being from Hawaii they should be treated with care & be paid more attention. Also because of the few birth rates for seals, they're going extinct. Trying to stop all the bad people doing the bad things are what we should do. Putting up more consequences for harming the monk seal is what should be done. This would make the rate of all those bad incidents for the seal go down.

Lastly the Hawaiian Monk Seal are part of our marine ecosystem & our 'aina. Keeping the marine ecosystem is important so why not start on saving them. Also killing off the seals & throwing them to the side is like throwing away a piece of Hawaiian History. So please try & save the seals & create a new movement for Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Joseph Baclaan

James
Campbell High
School
02/19/08

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our state mammal. These bills are important because there are only 1200 of them left in the world, and they are only found here around the Hawaiian Islands. They are naturally born here in the Hawaiian Islands. It is a special animal, and it is native to our islands. Many of them are dying, and their population are decreasing. The reasons is because the people who harmed them are sealers, fishermen who seems to leave the nets out in the ocean and the animals choke on the bottle caps, also World War II harmed them, also curious people sets to close to them when the seals nurse their babies, so as people sets close the seals runs off and leaves the baby un-nursed, and they tend to die. We should make a special day for the monk seals because their not found anywhere but here, and their special to our islands. I would surely appreciate if there would be a special day for these monk seals.

Sincerely,

Lagipua, student of
James Campbell High School.

February 19 2008

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian Monk Seal our state mammal. These bills are important because:

I believe that the Hawaiian Monk Seal makes a big part of Hawaii. No one else in the world has a "Hawaiian" Monk Seal like us and it is becoming an endangered species. I believe that if we had a holiday for the Monk Seal, it would create a tradition so people would care. Fishermen that harm them wouldn't be able to fish or anything.

By making the Hawaiian Monk Seal our state mammal, it can be illegal to touch the mammals and harm them. The state mammal now isn't endangered but the Hawaiian Monk Seal is.

Sincerely,

Warren Estencio

James Campbell High School
North Road Ewa Beach, HI
February 19, 2008

Dear Senator Fukunaga.

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our State Mammal. These bills are important because the Hawaiian monk seal is one of the special species that can only find on Hawaiian island. We should give care for these species because they are now decreasing in number. We should not wait for the moment that one day will these species will now gone because we don't give the caring and importance that they need. So Senator you should think all of this for the seek of our Hawaiian monk seal.

Sincerely yours,
Mac Crisbel Ramirez

FEBRUARY 19TH
~~1991~~

DEAR SENATOR FUKANAGA

PLEASE HEAR THE BILLS SR 2464 AND 2465 TO CREATE A HAWAII MONK SEAL DAY AND TO MAKE THE HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL OUR STATE MAMMAL. THESE BILLS ARE IMPORTANT BECAUSE:

A: THEIR ARE FEWER SEALS BEING BORN & POPULATION IS DECLINING.

B: THERE ARE ONLY 100 OF THEM LEFT IN THE WORLD.

C: THEY ONLY BREED IN THE SPRING, SUMMER SO FEWER TIME.

D: FISHERMEN & SEAMEN HAS HARRIED THEM.

E: THE HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL IS ENDEMIC TO HAWAII AND SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO GO EXTINCT.

F: PEOPLE ARE NATURALLY FASCINATED BY SEALS.

G: THE HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL IS SPECIAL TO HAWAII AND DOESN'T EXIST ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD.

H: THEY ARE PART OF OUR MARINE ECOSYSTEM AND AINA.

SINCERELY
BRYAN HOSAKA.

JCHS
02/19/08

Dear Senator Fukanaga,

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our State Mammal. These bills are important because the Hawaiian monk seal is an endangered species. There are only 1,200 of these seals left in the world. If you bring attention to these seals, more people would become aware of their status. The Hawaiian monk seal is important to Hawaii, they don't exist anywhere else in the world. Also, because there are less seals in existence, less pups are being born causing the population to decrease even more. Along with that, it would help call attention to the things that threaten them like marine debris, infectious diseases and human disturbance. People are naturally fascinated by seals and they are a part of our marine ecosystem. More monk seals are spending time in populated areas and people need to know how to behave around them. That's why they should be our new state mammal and a holiday.

Sincerely,
Hanna Eddings

2/19/08

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our State Mammal. These bills are important because since the fisherman takes away the fishes, crabs, shrimps from the ocean, and that the nets they throw down tend to strangle them to death. Second is that the tiger sharks are the natural predator. Third is the WWII the bombing of Midway. With these reasons they only left 1200 them all together. Both bills helps everyone to help the Hawaiian monk seals that are left to become higher power. Hawaii is there hometown which makes them special. because they don't live anywhere else. They should never disappear some people blame everything on global warming but they should think why global warming ever started. Just a question did you ever watch the movie Andre, it was about a young seal that stayed so long in one place because he was so used to the people that even though it was winter time he stayed he never left. That means alot because the Hawaiian monk seal dose the same exact thing but are so rare that they never appear anywhere but home. So please make them alive and feel appreciated because they really mean

Campbell
2/19/08

Dear Senator Fukunaga

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to
create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day"

and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our State
Mammal. These bills are important because:

First of all we should not have school
on Hawaiian monk seal Day. Only because I
just like every other high school student
don't like school. Monk Seal should be our

State mammal because monk seals are only
found in Hawaii and they are Hawaiian.

Just like the Hawaiians owned the land
and the "Hawaiian" monk seal should have
~~some~~ some part of it before all the
Haoles take over.

Sincerely Cliff Namor

CAMPBELL HEATH - 2/19/09

DEAR SENATOR FUKUNAGA

PLEASE HEAR THE BILLS SB 2404 AND SB 2405 TO CREATE A "HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL DAY" AND TO MAKE SEAL OUR STATE MAMMAL. THESE BILLS ARE IMPORTANT BECAUSE: THE SEALS POPULATION IS DECLINING/DECREASING. THESE MAMMALS ARE ENDEMIC. THESE MAMMALS ARE BEING HUNTED BY FISHERMENS AND ALSO BY TIGER SHARKS WHEN SEALS ARE CAUGHT BY THEIR PREDATORS THE SEALS POPULATION JUST DROPS BECAUSE THERE'S HARDLY SEALS. IF I WAS A SEAL I WOULD BE SCARED. AT THE SAME TIME IT WAS SAID THAT PEOPLE ARE MOST FASCINATED BY "SEALS". I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHY AND I ALSO HARDLY KNOW ABOUT SEALS BUT STILL I WANT THE BEST FOR THEM.

SINCERELY,
HAWAII LEALAI.

2/19/08

Dear Senato Fukunaga,

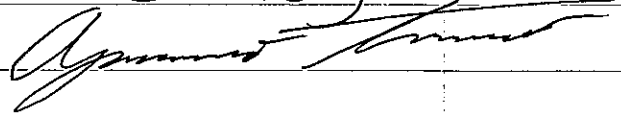
Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our state Mammal. These bills are important because many of them are endangered, and there are only 1200 of them. This type of specie does not exist anywhere else in the world except Hawaii. The Hawaiian Monk seal is an endemic to Hawaii, and it should not be allowed to go extinct.

The birth rate of a monk seal being born is 3:1 and their population is decling. They are a part of our marine ecosystem and with out them it would not be the same.

I hope you hear me and the other people fighting for the lifes of the Hawaiian Monk Seal.

Apuaso Turano

Sincerely



Campbell High School

February 19, 2008

Dear Senator Fukanaga,

Please hear the bills SB2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our State Mammal. These bills are important because the Monk seal doesn't exist anywhere else in the world and are an important part of our marine ecosystem and ~~rain~~. The population of Monk seals ~~are~~ are declining as well as the amount of seals being born. In fact, in the world, there are only 1200 of them left. Hopefully, these bills will help make people more aware of the endangered status of the Hawaiian monk seal and the crisis situation it is in. More monk seals are spending time in populated areas and people need to know how to behave around them.

Sincerely,
Chelsea B
Chelsea Butler

Campbell
02/19/08

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Please have the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Pay" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal on State Manual. These bills are important because there are few seals being born and the breed is dying off. People that love the seal like them. They part of the aina and they are a very important part of the ecosystem. This seal is very special to Hawaii and this is the only place this seal is located. This seal is also endemic and can't go extinct. The things that threaten them are very harmful on fishermen and tiger sharks. Mon monk seals are spawning on the beach, and people need to know how to behave around them. Also, there are only 1200 left in this world. This bill is good and would help and show the people who care about seals that something can be done.

Sincerely,

A girl from Campbell

Feb. 19, 2008

Dear senator Carol Fukunaga,

I would like to take this time to inform you about the Hawaiian Monk seal, which by the way are in crisis. Their total population is in decline, leaving only 1200 of them alive today! This animal is native to Hawaii, living nowhere else but in Hawaii. The Hawaiian Monk seal are born and inhabits the main Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Lack of food, shark attacks, human disturbances, fishery interactions, infectious disease, and entanglement in marine debris are threats to the Hawaiian monk seals. I firmly believe that we all must play a role in extending a hand to the Hawaiian monk seals to survive extinction.

In order to protect these animals, public awareness and support should be gained. The Hoary bat should be replaced by the Hawaiian Monk seal as our state mammal. We should make a Hawaiian Monk seal Day to bring awareness and hopefully that things will be changed, hopefully we save the Monk seals before extinction.

Thank you for taking the time to read this!

Sincerely,
Mandie Blue

JAMES CAMPBELL HIGH SCHOOL

February 19, 2008

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

I pledge heart the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our state mammal. These bills are important because they are very important and special to Hawaii because the Hawaiian monk seals are not found anywhere else but the Hawaiian islands. The Hawaiian monk seal is endangered and if these bills are recognized it would draw major attention towards them and what's threatening the Hawaiian monk seals. Also there are only 1200 of them left. We, the Hawaiian islands have tourists and they are attracted and fascinated by the seals. But overall it shouldn't be allowed to disappear or extinct. The seals play a very important part of our 'aina and ecosystem. But please take the bills and letters seriously and inconsideration.

Sincerely,

Sharae I. Sanchez

James Campbell
91-980 North Road.
2/19/08

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian Monk seal our State Mammal. These bills are important because when they are our state mammal, people can be aware of them, and people can learn about the problem they are in. That problem is very important, because there are only 1200 left in the world. Plus, that world is in the boundaries of Hawaii. The Hawaiian Monk Seals only exist in Hawaii. Since it's endemic to Hawaii, it shouldn't be extinct.

One other problem they have is the male to female ratio. Since there are less females than males, there won't be much Monk seals born. There are also problems with people being curious. People who are curious don't think and get close scaring the mothers leaving the child Monk Seal to starve and die.

They are very important to our marine ecosystem, but are in danger in both water and land. Tiger sharks are threats in water, and people are dangers to them on land. So we need to Make the Hawaiian Monk Seal our state Mammal to raise awareness to people.

Sincerely,

Denymar Kanada

James Campbell
High School

02.18.08

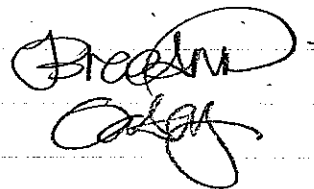
Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Please hear the bills SB 2404 and SB 2405 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian Monk Seal our state mammal. These bills are important because there are only 1200 of them left in the world!!! These bills would help make people more aware of the endangered status of the Hawaiian Monk Seal and the crisis situation it is in.

I love animals, and I don't like the fact that the Hawaiian Monk Seals are endangered. That is a small amount of seals left in the world. But they are also getting abandoned by people, pollution, sharks, and fishermen. And if you don't accept this letter, imagine what will happen to the seals. They will be extinct, because no one tried to help the extinction of the seals, no one tried to help make them survive.

Some people are actually fascinated by the seals. But they need to stay 100 ft. away from it when it nurses the baby pups, because if you don't it will abandon the pups because it will get scared. Well, that's all I have to say about it and I hope there will be a Hawaiian Monk Seal Day and hope there will be a bill for it.

Gingerem,



February 19, 2008

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our state mammal. These bills are important because there are only 1200 of them left in the world. Also because they only exist in Hawaii and is an endemic. As time passes, fewer seals are being born with a declining population.

Monk seals are important to Hawaii and decreasing gradually. Many factors act as a threat to these monk seals. Things like human disturbance, habitat loss, and lack of food. But these things can change if we inform others and get the message out.

In conclusion, I ask that help us with this situation. It would be good if we get the help. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Cherelle Lopez

Campbell High School
February 19, 2008

Dear Senator Fukushima,

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian Monk Seal our State Mammal. These bills are important because there are only a little left in the whole world. These mammals are endangered and they are special to Hawaii. If people know how much Hawaiian Monk Seals were left in this world, then they would be more aware on how the endangered status would be. The Hawaiian Monk Seal does not exist anywhere else except the Hawaiian Islands. The mammals are endemic to Hawaii and should never be allowed to go extinct. People should be more respectful towards the Hawaiian Monk Seals and let them be. There are less seals being born and their depletion is decreasing. We need to learn how to save the Monk Seals.

Sincerely,
ASHLEY AOKU

James Campbell High School

2/19/08

~~Joseph Castro~~

~~[Large scribbled-out area]~~

Dear Senator Fukunaga

Please hear the bills SB 2464 & SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian Monk Seal our State Mammal. These bills are important because there is only 1,200 ~~or~~ H.M seals left in the world. It is a rare race ~~that~~ that's only in ~~the~~ Hawaii. We ~~love~~ love the seals. And less babies made because less seals. They're beautiful. Their Ohana to us. Monk seals are chillin' ~~in~~ by humans, and were ~~not~~ messing with them.

Sincerely

Joseph Castro

2/19/08

Dear Senator Fukanaga,

Please hear the bills SB2464 and SB2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our State Mammal. These bills are important because:

- The Hawaiian Monk seal is native to Hawaii and they are not found anywhere else in the world. They are beautiful and special creatures to Hawaii and they shouldn't be allowed to die.

- These seals have a major declining population because of human disturbance (ex: fishermen nets that trap the seals and choke or drown them), and other threats such as marine debris, and infectious diseases. Why should a non-endangered species (the Hoary Bat) be our state mammal when the seals need our protection more?

- Since only 1200 seals exist in the Hawaiian islands, and the world for that matter, we should do all we can to protect them. The bills would make people more aware of the seals endangered status. These animals are a part of our marine ecosystem and 'aina, we shouldn't let them disappear.

- Since people are so fascinated by seals, when they are seen people want to go up to them and "get close to nature." We need to realize that these are wild animals and they shouldn't be disturbed for the sake of them and us. So, ~~we~~ people need to

James Campbell
High School
Feb. 19, 2008

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian Monk Seal our State Mammal. These bills are important because the Hawaiian Monk Seal is almost going to extinction and people need to be aware of that. They don't exist anywhere else in this world other than Hawaii and they are very special to us. There are only 1200 left in the world and there are less seals being born each year. If we let people be aware of this situation, we can help stop the problems affecting them like marine debris, infectious diseases, and human disturbances. The Hawaiian Monk seal is endemic to Hawaii and they are part of our marine ecosystem. The seal should be allowed to go extinct. If there's a day for them and if they become the state mammal, it would definitely help them stay alive.

Sincerely,
Allyson Reyes.

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our state mammal. These bills are important because it is very sad that there is only 1200 of them left and this would make people aware of what's happening with the Monk seals. Hawaiian monk seals are special to the Hawaiian island and people and people who grown to love this place and they don't exist anywhere else so lets keep them alive. We should save them if we have the power to. We shouldn't let them go extinct. Help the population to grow and get larger. People, native and tourist are fascinated by these beautiful seals. Hawaiian Monk Seals are part of the culture here and should be kept alive if we have the power to, so why say no when there is people who love them and can help them so these bills would be great.

Sincerely,

Erica Hurd

Campbell High

2/19/08

Dear Senator Fuhanaga

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2464 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian Monk seal our State Mammal. These bills are important because that the people know the monk seal are endangered species and you can only find in Hawaii and Islands. We want them to protect by helping us and we need all the people in Hawaii that the Hawaiian monk seal is special to Hawaii and (shouldn't) doesn't exist anywhere else in the world, that's why how important the monk seal are, so we need to united all the people in Hawaii so they can help the Hawaiian monk seal to protect them.

Sincerely:

Mike Jordan Roque

Campbell High

2/19/08

Dear senator Fukunaga

Please hear the bills SB2465 and SB2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our state Mammal. These bills are important because of several reasons.

There are only 1200 of them left and these two bills would help make people aware of their endangered status and the crisis situation it is in. The Hawaiian monk seal should be our state Mammal because the Hawaiian monk seal only exist in Hawaii.

Hawaiian monk seal day might help people understand why they are endangered, and if people understand it some way help to keep the Hawaiian monk seal from going extinct. Thank you for your time and and our Marine science class sure hope you hear these two bills

Sincerely

Kyle Landrum

James Campbell H.S.
91-980 NORTH RD.
02-19-08

Dear Senator Fukunaga.

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our State Mammal. These bills are important because it's important to the Hawaiian Island, it's an endangered species, and we (the people of Hawaii) are the cause.

It's important for Hawaii to protect the monk seals because you won't find them anywhere else in the world. Hawaii is a special place for these species. We want to protect them from harm. There are only 1,200 of them left! We have to do everything in our power to allow them to reproduce by limiting events that harm them such as fishing nets. These mammals is endemic to Hawaii and shouldn't be allowed to go extinct.

With this in mind, to have the endangered species as our state mammal would make a difference because Hawaiian residents would be more aware, especially for marine debris, infectious diseases, and human disturbance, it would call to their attention and realize the part of Hawaii we they are taking away.

Sincerely,
Marilyn Kahlan Jarvis

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Feb. 19.08.

Please hear the bills SB 2404 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian Monk seal our state mammal. These bills are important because there's only 1200 of ~~the~~ Monk seals left in the world. These bills would make people notice the status of the Hawaiian Monk and see how bad this situation is. This seal is very special to Hawaii and doesn't exist anywhere else in the world. Also, this seal is native to Hawaii and shouldn't be allowed to go extinct. There are fewer seals being born, and people are naturally ~~from~~ fascinated by seals. They are a part of our marine ecosystem and 'āina.

More monk seals are spending time in populated areas and people need to know how to behave around them. When people come to close to them they will attack. Only because the animals are scared of people. This is why we think Hawaiian Monk Seal should be the state mammal.

Sincerely,

Jerena Carlos.

Alyssa
Ball
Pd. 3

Dear Senator Fuʻunaga,

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian Monk Seal our state mammal. These bills are important because they are apart of our ecosystem in Hawaii. It would be weird going to any beach and not having the chance to see a Hawaiian Monk Seal up close and personal. Not many people have the chance to experience something like that, maybe at the zoo.

Mahalo,

Alyssa Ball

Campbell High School
February 19, 2008

Dear senator Fukunaga,

Please here the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our State Mammal. These bills are important because there are 1200 left in the world. If everyone knew that then everyone would care. Also, if everyone knew then they would know how to behave by them since some seals go on shore to rest. They would know not to disturb them. You can only find them around the Hawaiian islands and no where else. I think they are very special in Hawaii so they should become our state mammal. They are part of our land. They don't deserve to be extinct. We should have an "Hawaiian Monk seal Day" to aware everyone how special they really are to our islands.

Sincerely,

Janine Madriaga
Janine Madriaga

Jones Campbell High School

2/12/08

Dear Senator FuKunaga,

Please hear the bill SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our State Mammal. These bills are important because they will help the monk seal get off the endanger species list. This seal is a native animal to Hawaii and only Hawaii. By accepting these bill it will give the public a better understanding of these unique animal. With there declining numbers now is the time to take action.

sincerely,

Kiko Regan

James Campbell
High School

February 19, 2008

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian Monk Seal our state mammal. These bills are important because the Hawaiian Monk Seal is going to be extinct within the next thirty years. There are only 1200 of the seals left in the world. These bills would let people know what type of situation it is in, and the endangered status.

The Hawaiian Monk Seal is special because it is no where else in the world, only in the Hawaiian Islands. The seals are hardly being born and their population is declining slowly. This Bill will help protect the Hawaiian Monk Seal from things that threaten them, such as marine debris, infectious diseases and human disturbance.

Sincerely,

Sheylena Maze

2/19/00

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

Please hear the bills SB 2404 and SB 2405 to create a "Hawaiian Monk seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our State Mammal. These bills are important because:

This particular seal is extremely special to Hawaii because "Hawaii is the only place in the world that the seal exists. There are only 1200 of them left in the world. There are very few seals being born and there population is declining. Debris from the ocean and infection diseases can also cause decline in the Hawaiian monk seal existence.

Please Pass this Bill Senator Fukunaga!

Thank you,
Mikiwi Monguchi

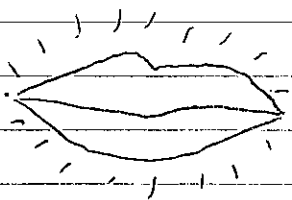
JCHS

02-19-08

Dear Senator Carol Fukunaga,
Hello. My name is Jim and I want
adress a very important subject. Did you
know that there are 1200 monk seals
left in the world and if you hug them
they will bite you in the face! The
monkseal is special to Hawaii and
shouldn't be allowed to go extinct.

People are naturally facinated by seals because
of the way they waddle on sand and
bark ~~like~~ like dogs, but don't be fooled
because if you try to snuggle, you'll get
bitton in the face.

Sincerely in the deepest love 'n compassion,
Jim M. Lynn



James Campbell
91-980 North Road
Ewa Beach, Hawaii
96706
02/19/08

Dear Senator Fukunaga.

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our State Mammal.

These bills are important because there are only 1200 of them left in the world "Hawaii". The bills will help make people more aware of the poor helpless endangered status of the Hawaiian Monk Seal and the crazy situation that these poor animals are in. I'm sure you know how important the Monk Seal is to the Hawaiian Island. They don't exist any where else in the world but Hawaii.

There are fewer seals being born and their population is slowly declining. It would help call attention to the things that threaten them like marine debris, infections, diseases and human disturbance. I'm not one of the naturally ~~there~~ fascinated by seals, but I'm sure there are some in Hawaii.

James Campbell High

Dear Senator Fukunaga,

2-19-68

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian monk seal our State Mammal. These bills are important for a couple of reasons. One reason is that there are only 1200 Hawaiian monk seals left in the world, including aquariums and zoos! These bills would help make the Hawaiian monk seals' endangered status and encourage people to help protect them.

Another reason is that the Hawaiian monk seal is only found in the state of Hawaii and nowhere else in the world. They are endemic to this state and should never be allowed to go extinct. These bills would help the population to stop declining from fewer baby seals being born.

This would help call attention to the things that are harming the seals, like debris, diseases, and human interferences. People are naturally fascinated by seals and we need to keep the fascination alive.

These seals help maintain our ecosystem and are part of our 'aina. The last reason is that we need to tell people how to behave around these seals, since they are moving to populated areas.

Sincerely,

David Weinstein David B. Weinstein

James Campbell High School

February 19, 2008

Dear Senator Iwanaga

Please hear the bills SB 2464 and SB 2465 to create a "Hawaiian Monk Seal Day" and to make the Hawaiian Monk Seal our state mammal. The bills are important because the Hawaiian Monk Seal is endangered and they are rapidly decreasing. I think that the Hawaiian Monk Seal should be the state mammal because there are only 1200 of them left in the world and I think that these bills will help to make people more aware of the endangered mammal. I also think this because the Hoary Bat is not endangered. I think that there should be a Hawaiian Monk Seal day because I don't think that the Hawaiian Monk Seal should go extinct. I also think that by having a National Hawaiian Monk Seal day that people will understand how to behave around them and also it will help with the things that threaten them like the pollution in Nanters and infectious diseases and also the human disturbance. I think that both of these bills should be put into effect because they are a part of our marine system and a lot of people are fascinated by seals. I just don't want the Hawaiian Monk seals to go extinct because they are a part of Hawaii and it would be a really sad loss to us if they were gone. So I hope that you understand what I am saying and really think about what I am asking.

Thank you and Mahalo
Karelee Chun