
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEVELOPMENT AND AIRING OF PUBLIC SERVICE
ANNOUNCEMENTS ON COMMERCIAL PASSENGER AIR FLIGHTS TO THE
STATE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF CARING FOR THE STATE'S UNIQUE
AND FRAGILE ECOSYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian monk seal is one of the rarest marine
2 mammals in the world, and among the world's most endangered
3 species, with the population currently declining at four per
4 cent annually and estimated at fewer than one thousand two
5 hundred individuals; and

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7 WHEREAS, food limitations, entanglements in marine debris,
8 and human interactions including being caught as bycatch in
9 fishing gear, mother-pup disturbance on beaches, and exposure to
10 disease all threaten the remaining population; and

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12 WHEREAS, in 2008, the Hawaiian monk seal was designated as
13 the State's mammal to increase awareness of it as an endangered
14 species with the hope that this awareness would result in
15 increased protection and its repopulation; and

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17 WHEREAS, although the main Hawaiian island seals are a
18 small population, they are a much healthier population and are
19 slightly increasing in numbers rather than declining like the
20 larger northern Hawaiian island population; and

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22 WHEREAS, two recent incidents of intentionally killed monk
23 seals on Kauai and one on Molokai have brought attention to the
24 human threat to the seals; and

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26 WHEREAS, in September, a Kauai man plead guilty to shooting
27 a seal in violation of the federal Endangered Species Act and
28 received a ninety-day jail term, one year supervised release,
29 and a \$25 fine; and

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1 WHEREAS, seal advocates and volunteers worry that such a
2 sentence sends the wrong message to Hawaii residents and
3 visitors regarding the value of the Hawaiian monk seal; and
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5 WHEREAS, a comprehensive outreach program for Hawaii
6 residents and visitors regarding the importance of the Hawaiian
7 monk seal and other endangered Hawaiian flora and fauna needs to
8 be firmly established; and
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10 WHEREAS, Hawaii residents and visitors need ready-access to
11 information on the State's unique and fragile ecosystems,
12 recommendations on how to care for the State's ecosystems, and
13 information on how to behave if one comes into contact with an
14 Hawaiian monk seal; now, therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
17 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
18 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii Tourism
19 Authority is requested to work in cooperation with the
20 Department of Transportation to develop and air public service
21 announcements on commercial passenger air flights to the State;
22 and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Tourism Authority is
25 requested to include:
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- 27 (1) Information on the State's unique and fragile
28 ecosystems;
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- 30 (2) Recommendations for visitors and residents on how to
31 care for the State's ecosystems;
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- 33 (3) Information focusing on the Hawaiian monk seal and how
34 to behave if encountered; and
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- 36 (4) Information on applicable federal and state laws with
37 regard to endangered species; and
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H.C.R. NO. 202

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
3 Hawaii Tourism Authority and the Director of Transportation.

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OFFERED BY: *Joseph M. Louie*

MAR 08 2010

