

JAN 22 2010

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CONSERVATION OUTREACH.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The Hawaiian monk seal, or the ilioholoikauaua,  
2 is one of the rarest marine mammals in the world, and among the  
3 world's most endangered species. The monk seal population is  
4 currently declining at four per cent annually and is estimated  
5 at fewer than one thousand two hundred individuals. Food  
6 limitations, entanglements in marine debris, and human  
7 interactions including being caught as bycatch in fishing gear,  
8 mother-pup disturbance on beaches, and exposure to disease all  
9 threaten the remaining population.

10           In 2008, the Hawaiian monk seal was designated as the  
11 State's mammal to increase awareness of it as an endangered  
12 species with the hope that this awareness would result in  
13 increased protection and its repopulation. Although the main  
14 Hawaiian island seals are a small population, they are a much  
15 healthier population and are slightly increasing in numbers  
16 rather than declining like the larger northern Hawaiian island  
17 population.



1 Two recent incidents of intentionally killed monk seals on  
2 Kauai and one on Molokai have brought attention to the human  
3 threat to the seals. In September, a Kauai man plead guilty to  
4 shooting a seal in violation of the federal Endangered Species  
5 Act. The man received a ninety-day jail term, one year  
6 supervised release, and a \$25 fine. Seal advocates and  
7 volunteers worry that such a light sentence sends the wrong  
8 message to Hawaii residents and visitors regarding the value of  
9 the Hawaiian monk seal.

10 The purpose of this Act is to improve outreach to Hawaii  
11 residents and visitors regarding the importance of the Hawaiian  
12 monk seal and other endangered Hawaiian flora and fauna.

13 SECTION 2. Chapter 195D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
14 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
15 and to read as follows:

16 "§195D- Conservation outreach; airport kiosks. (a) The  
17 department shall work in cooperation with the department of  
18 transportation to establish and maintain kiosks dedicated to  
19 conservation information in each State-owned airport.

20 (b) The state mammal, as designated in section 5-12.5,  
21 shall be the dominant symbol on each kiosk. Each kiosk shall  
22 include:



- 1        (1) Information on the State's unique and fragile
- 2        ecosystems;
- 3        (2) Recommendations for visitors and residents on how to
- 4        care for the State's ecosystems;
- 5        (3) Information focusing on the Hawaiian monk seal and how
- 6        to behave if encountered;
- 7        (4) Both print and video information sources; and
- 8        (5) Information on applicable federal and state laws with
- 9        regard to endangered species."

10        SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

11        SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2010.

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**Report Title:**

Conservation Outreach; Hawaiian Monk Seal; Airports

**Description:**

Requires the department of land and natural resources in cooperation with the department of transportation to establish and maintain kiosks at each airport with information on the State's fragile ecosystem and how to protect it.

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