

Testimony for SB2441 on 3/8/2010 10:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 1:48 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: selkie@hawaii.rr.com

Testimony for WLO 3/8/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2441

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Cathy Goeggel

Organization: Animal Rights Hawai'i

Address: PO Box 10845 Honolulu, HI

Phone: 808.721.4211

E-mail: selkie@hawaii.rr.com

Submitted on: 3/7/2010

Comments:

Animal Rights Hawai'i urges this committee to pass this bill and provide more protection for our Monk Seals.

With aloha,

Cathy Goeggel

Animal Rights Hawai'i



For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife
HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

850 Richards Street, Suite 505, Honolulu, HI 96813-4709

Phone/Fax: (808) 528-1432; hiaudsoc@pixi.com

www.hawaii-audubon.com

Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources
Representative Ken Ito, Chair
Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Hearing: Monday, March 8, 2010; 10:00.M. Conference Rm. 325

Re: SB2441, SD2, Relating to Endangered Species

Testimony in Support

Chair Ito and Vice Chair Har, and members of the Committee. On behalf Hawaii Audubon Society I offer this testimony in support of SB2442, SD2, which would if enacted establish enhanced penalties for the intentional or knowingly taking an endangered species to include a class C felony.

The Hawaii Audubon Society was founded in 1939, and for the last 71 years has advocated strongly for measures that protect our endemic birds, wildlife, and aquatic species.

With respect to the Hawaiian monk seal it is critically endangered and headed toward extinction. Hawaiian monk seals are the most endangered endemic marine mammal in the United States and one of the most endangered marine mammals in the world. Over the last 50 years, the Hawaiian monk seal population has declined by more than 60% and is now at its lowest level in recorded history.

It is now estimated that fewer than 1,100 Hawaiian monk seals remain in the wild. Reasons for the decline of the monk seal include; overfishing, limited food availability, entanglement in marine debris, habitat loss, shark predation, competition for food, aggressive male behavior, deaths of pups, an aging population, harmful algal blooms, and global climate change, and unfortunately man.

We hope that passage of SB2441, SD2, will serve as a strong deterrent to those very few individuals who would intend harm to this rare pinniped. It also sends a message to our residents and the rest of the nation that the State of Hawaii is committed to ensuring the survival of the Hawaiian monk seal.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

Sincerely,

George Massengale, JD
Legislative Analyst

Testimony for SB2441 on 3/8/2010 10:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 6:03 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: bwaikiki@hawaii.rr.com

Testimony for WLO 3/8/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2441

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Becky Gray

Organization: HMSRTO

Address: 2421 Tusitala St., #2703 Honolulu

Phone: 7417676

E-mail: bwaikiki@hawaii.rr.com

Submitted on: 3/7/2010

Comments:

Because of the recent shootings and killings of our most beloved mammals, we do feel it is imperative to saving the species that the SB2441 Bill is passed. Although protected under federal law, the misdemeanor status here in Hawaii to harm or kill a HMS seems to be viewed as a slap on the wrist for these killers of innocent animals. Please please, do not let another year go by without stronger laws in force to circumvent the idea that is not a "big deal" to harm or kill one of these animals.



March 6, 2010

Honorable Chair Ken Ito
Vice Chair HAR & water, Land & Ocean
Resource Committee Members

RE: Support for SB2441

Aloha Honorable Ito,

As a Board Member and a Volunteer for the Hawaiian Monk Seal Response Team of Oahu I am writing to you on behalf of the Hawaiian Monk Seal. We are a 501c3 established response team. We are trained and respond in conjunction with NOAA, DAR, and DLNR.

Our volunteers spend many hours of the day protecting and responding to haul outs and injuries to the Hawaiian Monk Seals here on the Main Hawaiian Islands.

Because of the recent shootings and killings of our most beloved mammals, we do feel it is imperative to saving the species that the SB2441 Bill is passed. Although protected under federal law, the misdemeanor status here in Hawaii to harm or kill a HMS seems to be viewed as a slap on the wrist for these killers of innocent animals. Please please, do not let another year go by without stronger laws in force to circumvent the idea that is not a "big deal" to harm or kill one of these animals.

Losing just one animal adds to the decline and eventual extinction of this most important part of our history here in these beautiful Islands. The HMS is important to reef health and perhaps our future for fishing, life, and keeping the beauty of our islands safe. They offer so much to the environment and perhaps, like the Humpback Whales, can offer an added incentive to tourism and show the world how much Hawaii values and protects it's special environment and endangered species.

The seals are in such a precipitous decline that delays in their protection is crucial to saving the species. As volunteers and protectors of the seals here in the Main Hawaiian Islands we need your support and help in passing this bill. The Main Hawaiian Islands are the only hope for these special Hawaiians and we ask that you support and pass this most important bill.

Mahalo nui loa,
Dana Jones
Waiane, HI 96792 808-668-9074



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

TO: Honorable Chair Ito, Vice-Chair Har

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND OCEAN RESOURCES

DATE: Monday, March 8, 10:00am

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2441; Relating to Endangered Species

Submitted by: Inga Gibson, Hawaii State Director, The Humane Society of the United States, P.O. Box 89131, Honolulu, HI 96830, igibson@hsus.org, 808-922-9910

On behalf of our more than 49,315 members and supporters in Hawaii, The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) supports SB 2441; to increase penalties for the intentional or knowing taking of an endangered monk seal.

Given Hawaii's rich and unique resources, it is imperative that we have strong laws to protect endangered animals and to serve as adequate deterrents for abusing and exploiting these treasured species.

Two recent high profile monk seal killings have demonstrated that Hawaii lacks such protective laws. Monk seals are critically endangered, the most threatened of all seal species, and it is estimated that fewer than 1200 of these animals are left in Hawaii. In one Kauai case, a man wantonly killed a pregnant monk seal with a .22-caliber rifle. Despite this egregious crime, he ultimately received only a \$25 fine and a 90 day jail sentence. Another monk seal was found shot at Kauai's Kaunakani Beach, but the criminal responsible has yet to be found. With such low possibilities for pairing a significant fine with jail time, the state fails to deter the individuals who might kill a protected animal, not fearing harsh and appropriate consequences. This bill provides a much-needed update to the penalties for taking endangered monk seals in Hawaii and it sends a strong message that this is a serious crime that will not be tolerated.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure and urge your support of SB2441.

HO'OKAHI NO KA 'ĀINA A ME NA KĀNAKA

KAHEA

THE HAWAIIAN-ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE

Office
1149 Bethel St., Ste. 415
Honolulu, HI 96813
877.585.2432 toll-free ph/fx

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 37368
Honolulu, HI 96837

www.KAHEA.org
kahea-alliance@hawaii.rr.com

S.B. 2441 SD2 Protect Hawaiian Monk Seals
WLT Room 325, 10:00 am
March 5, 2010

Aloha Representative Ito and members of the Water, Land, and Ocean Committee,

Mahalo for this opportunity to express our **support for S.B. 2441, SD 2**. We urge the passage of this bill in support of much needed efforts to protect the highly endangered Hawaiian monk seal.

KAHEA is a network of nearly 10,000 people throughout the Hawaiian Islands and the world working to protect Hawai'i's unique natural and cultural resources. Since 2000, we have advocated for the protection of Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources.

Hawaiian monk seals are the most endangered marine mammal under U.S. jurisdiction. Less than 10,000 individuals are found in the wild today. The federal government has begun to make drastic attempts to prevent the total extinction of the species, including the culling of predatory sharks in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

Equally drastic measures must also regulate human behavior in the main Hawaiian Islands. This bill is one of many steps being taken to improve the survival rate for the Hawaiian monk seal. It should be adopted in order to ensure Hawaii's seal has the best possible chance of survival.

This amendment is specifically tailored to target the purposeful killing of Hawaiian monk seals. It will affect NOT the fishing community, even if a fisherman inadvertently entangles a seal.

Mahalo,

Marti Townsend

Marti Townsend
Program Director



Save Our Seal Campaign Organizations

Marine Conservation Biology Institute * The Snorkel Bob Foundation * Firedoll Foundation * Conservation Council for Hawaii *
KAHEA The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance * Maui Tomorrow * Center for Biological Diversity * Surfrider Foundation
Sierra Club * Hawaii Audubon Society * Earthtrust Hawaii * Lost Fish Coalition * Malama O Puna * Save Our Seas * Life of the Land
Greenpeace Foundation Hawaii * Hanalei Watershed Hui * Hui Ho'omalua I ka Aina

**House Committee on Water Land and Ocean Resources
Monday March 8, 2010 Conference Room 325**

Dear Chair Ito, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the WLO Committee:

My name is Keiko Bonk and I am here to ask you to approve SB2441. I am the coordinator of a consortium of conservation and cultural groups and individuals called the Save Our Seal Campaign. The Save Our Seal Campaign supports SB2441 that will up the penalty for harming or killing our Hawaiian monk seal. Passing SB2441 will send an urgently needed message to all Hawaii residents and visitors that it is a serious crime to intentionally kill our Hawaiian seal.

As you continue to work through this legislative session to determine what is essential to Hawaii, I urge you to think of Hawaii's wildlife as not only essential, but also irreplaceable treasures. Hawaii's unique location, our unique geography, unique flora and fauna drive our spirit and all our economic engines. We must insure the best management practices of Hawaii's natural resources to secure a long-term quality life for Hawaii's people.

As elected leaders, you are stewards of our natural assets. We entrust you to care for all our wildlife and their habitat. Please become an advocate for the recovery of the Hawaiian monk seal and ask all Hawaii residents and visitors to be an integral part of saving our seal. Everyone who frequents the shorelines and ocean of Hawaii are responsible for this 13 million year old mammal, found nowhere else on earth.

Building a responsible culture is a first step towards caring for Hawaii's species. Bill 2441 will help to develop a culture that will better manage our natural resources and ecosystems. SB2441 is a good start to acknowledge the serious and complex environmental challenges we face ahead.

It is important to learn to pursue our long-term interests based on facts. For us in Hawaii, one of those unpleasant facts is that Hawaii has the dubious distinction of being the endangered species capital of the world. Hawaii's terrestrial and marine environment is still breath-takingly beautiful, but it is not healthy. In fact it is very, very sick. Pretending otherwise, and delaying dramatic and systematic intervention, will only insure that our environmental illness progresses from critical to terminal.

We know the world can probably survive without Hawaii's many unique species, but I am here to remind you that what threatens Hawaii's endemic species, threatens the very health and survival of the human species. For this reason we have chosen to focus on a campaign to assist in the

recovery of the critically endangered Hawaiian Monk Seal, a species that shares many of our best characteristics and none of our worst. Perhaps if we can save the seal, it will inspire us to believe we can save ourselves.

The Hawaiian Monk Seal represents Hawaii's struggle to survive the challenges of a rapidly degrading global environment, a process of degradation that is of our own making. The Hawaiian Monk Seal is like Hawaii itself, unique and threatened. It is the only endemic marine mammal in Hawaii and one of the most critically endangered marine mammals in the world. It, like much of what makes Hawaii, Hawaii, is on the verge of extinction. Many of these threats are beyond our ability to control locally. The primary threats to the Hawaiian Monk Seal are climate change, overfishing, pollution, disease, human encroachment and marine debris. And yet, we in Hawaii are determined to show that the accelerating trend toward extinction of the Hawaiian Monk Seal can not just be slowed down, it can be reversed.

Besides its intrinsic value, and its important role in the marine ecosystem of the Hawaiian archipelago, the Hawaiian Monk Seal has spiritual value as a reflection of Hawaii's soul. The Monk Seal's current endangered status is a reflection of who we have been, but its potential rescue is a reflection of who we can become; who we wish to become. We in Hawaii, at least most of us, are ready to go beyond blaming outsiders for our plight, and admit that we are part of the problem. We are also ready to change and sacrifice for a better future. But at the same time we are also cognizant of the fact that we cannot save our seal, anymore than we can save ourselves, without a lot of help from others. Locally, we have overfished, polluted our waters, and failed to implement policies that protect our shared environment from the more selfish side of our own human nature. We sat back and allowed hundreds of unique endemic species to go extinct on our watch. There is no excuse for what we have done, but I believe there is a genuine desire among most of us to reverse this trend and demonstrate our better nature.

To be blunt, it is time to stop talking about "sustainability" and whatever the latest buzzword is, and get down to living with the facts. We are doing a lousy job taking care of the environment that we need to survive, because we spend too much time catering to the short-term, reactive and selfish side of our own human nature. Fortunately, for the Monk Seal, us, and the rest of the planet, human nature is not one-dimensional. As a species, we have evolved the capacity to engage in complex, long-term reasoning based on facts and driven by compassion.

It is our hope that this kind of real fact-based reasoning, sustained by compassion for the Hawaiian Monk Seal, can act as a model not just for better marine policy, but also as a model for how to save ourselves from ourselves. Please uphold our endangered species protection laws and make it a high priority to protect our official state mammal, our *ilio-holo-i-kauaaua*, dog running in rough waters.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of SB2441.

Keiko Bonk, Save Our Seal Campaign
808 732 6411 or 808 938 6888 keiko.bonk@mcbi.org

Testimony for SB2441 on 3/8/2010 10:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 6:51 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: madb1@hawaiiantel.net

Testimony for WLO 3/8/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2441

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Madelyn R. Barrea

Organization: West Hawaii Humane Society

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: madb1@hawaiiantel.net

Submitted on: 3/6/2010

Comments:

TO: HONORABLE CHAIR KEN ITO, VICE-CHAIR HAR AND WATER, LAND AND OCEAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

RE: SUPPORT FOR SB 2441; increased penalties for the killing of endangered monk seals

Monday, March 8, 10:00am

· Two recent, callous killings of monk seals on Kauai demonstrate the need for stronger penalties to deter such cruel crimes

· The monk seal is critically endangered; the most endangered of all seal species with a population estimated at less than 1200 animals

· Although protected under federal law, it is only a mere misdemeanor to kill a monk seal under state law- this penalty must be upgraded

Thank you for your support.

Madelyn R. Barrea
Executive Director
West Hawaii Humane Society

Testimony for SB2441 on 3/8/2010 10:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 9:36 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: islevegan@gmail.com

Testimony for WLO 3/8/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2441

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Eric Barker

Organization: Individual

Address: Sand Island Honolulu, HI

Phone:

E-mail: islevegan@gmail.com

Submitted on: 3/7/2010

Comments:

Please provide this important protection for the few remaining individuals from these endangered species.

Testimony for SB2441 on 3/8/2010 10:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 12:18 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: gabriedm@yahoo.com

Testimony for WLO 3/8/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2441

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: Yes

Submitted by: Diane Gabriel

Organization: Individual

Address: 45-995 Waialele Rd, Unit# 45 Kaneohe, HI

Phone: 808-235-6296

E-mail: gabriedm@yahoo.com

Submitted on: 3/7/2010

Comments:

March 6, 2010

Honorable Chair Ken Ito

Vice Chair HAR & water, Land & Ocean

Resource Committee Members

RE: Support for SB2441

Aloha Honorable Ito,

As a volunteer and supporter for the Hawaiian Monk Seal Response Team of Oahu I am writing to you on behalf of the Hawaiian Monk Seal. We are a 501c3 established response team. We are trained and respond in conjunction with NOAA, DAR, and DLNR.

Our volunteers spend many hours of the day protecting and responding to haul outs and injuries to the Hawaiian Monk Seals here on the Main Hawaiian Islands.

Because of the recent shootings and killings of our most beloved mammals, we do feel it is imperative to saving the species that the SB2441 Bill is passed. Although protected under federal law, the misdemeanor status here in Hawaii to harm or kill a HMS seems to be viewed as a slap on the wrist for these killers of innocent animals. Please please, do not let another year go by without stronger laws in force to circumvent the idea that is not a "big deal" to harm or kill one of these animals.

Losing just one animal adds to the decline and eventual extinction of this most important part of our history here in these beautiful Islands. The Hawaiian Monk Seal is important to reef health and perhaps our future for fishing, life, and keeping the beauty of our islands safe. They offer so much to the environment and perhaps, like the Humpback Whales, can offer an added incentive to tourism and show the world how much Hawaii values and protects their special environment and endangered species.

The seals are in such a precipitous decline that delays in their protection are crucial to saving the species. As volunteers and protectors of the seals here in the Main Hawaiian Islands we need your support and help in passing this bill. The Main Hawaiian Islands are the only hope for these special Hawaiians and we ask that you support and pass this most important bill.

Mahalo nui loa,
Diane Gabriel

Personal Note:

The Hawaiian Monk Seal has been in the Hawaiian Islands since before the main islands were formed. There are less than 1100 seals alive today and they are decreasing by 4% per year. It is important that we do anything we can to protect these wonderful prehistoric creatures from extinction. They are the only tropical seals in the world and the only seals found in the Hawaiian Islands. Please don't let the Hawaiian Monk Seal go the route of the extinct Caribbean Monk Seal.

Testimony for SB2441 on 3/8/2010 10:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 4:41 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: news4ag@gmail.com

Testimony for WLO 3/8/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2441

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Anika Glass

Organization: Individual

Address: 68-1863 Ua Noe ST Waikoloa, HI 96738

Phone: 808 937 2309

E-mail: news4ag@gmail.com

Submitted on: 3/6/2010

Comments:

TO: HONORABLE CHAIR KEN ITO, VICE-CHAIR HAR AND WATER, LAND AND OCEAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Hawaii must increase penalties for killing these endangered animals that bless our shores and waters.

Malama Pono.

Karen M. Holt

Post Office Box 354 # Kaunakakai, Hawai'i 96748

March 7, 2010

To: COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair

Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Re: SB 2441 Relating to Endangered Species

Aloha Chair Ito and Committee Members:

I write in support of increasing the penalties for intentionally killing a native Hawaiian monk seal. Although this species is one of only two native Hawaiian mammals, efforts to educate our local community about its importance have failed to prevent numerous slayings of this highly endangered species.

There are only about 1,100 Hawaiian monk seals left on the planet, and scientists estimate that the total number is declining at a rate of 4% per year. Every purposeful killing of a seal brings the entire species closer to extinction.

Seals began migrating back from the Northwest Hawaiian Islands to the main Hawaiian Islands within the past two decades. They are moving because they are starving in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands and their pups are being killed by sharks (only 20% of the pups survive each year). In the main Hawaiian Islands, their most lethal predator is man.

Until our communities can be educated to understand that the seals are native animals who deserve our protection, we need strong penalties against anyone who intentionally harms them. Imposition of such penalties may be the only way that we can save this species from extinction on our watch.

Mahalo for considering my testimony, and I strongly urge you to pass this legislation.

Karen M. Holt

Karen M. Holt

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 05, 2010 8:34 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: ejnuuanu@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2441 on 3/8/2010 10:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow Up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for WLO 3/8/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2441

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: elaine Johnson
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: ejnuuanu@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/5/2010

Comments:

Dear Chairpersons and Representatives:

This important bill gives long overdue added protection to our native, endangered Hawaiian Monk Seals, which are often thoughtlessly slain though few in number, and peaceful by nature. There is no logical reason why murdering these rare beautiful mammals should not have been made a felony long ago/

Testimony for SB2441 on 3/8/2010 10:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 10:59 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: rosemarykarlsson@gmail.com

Testimony for WLO 3/8/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2441

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Rosemary Karlsson

Organization: Individual

Address: PO Box 492266 Keaau, HI 96749

Phone: 808-966-6589

E-mail: rosemarykarlsson@gmail.com

Submitted on: 3/7/2010

Comments:

Please support increasing penalties for killing or injuring monk seals to a felony.

SUPPORT FOR SB 2441; Increased penalties for the killing of endangered monk seals

annmarie@hawaii.rr.com [annmarie@hawaii.rr.com]

Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 10:56 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: Rep. Ken Ito; Rep. Sharon Har

SUPPORT FOR SB 2441; Increased penalties for the killing of endangered monk seals
Monday, March 8, 10:00am

Aloha Chair Ito and the Water, Land and Ocean Resource Committee Members,

Hawaiian Monk Seal

`Ilio-holo-i-ka-uaua

"The dog that runs in the rough seas"

Hawaiian monk seals are endemic to Hawai'i. They evolved here and are unique to our waters. There is only one other endemic mammal found in our islands, the Ope'ape'a, the hoary bat.

When 'ilioholo swim through the waters of Hawai'i their movements are graceful and fluid, and to witness them as they cut through the ocean waves is awe-inspiring.

When 'ilioholo make their way to shore they provide us with the opportunity to view a creature whose origin goes back millions of years.

Quoting Earth Trust,

"Monk seals are also sometimes referred to as "living fossils" because as the oldest living members of the pinniped order they have remained virtually unchanged for 15 million years."

Hawai'i is blessed to have 'ilioholo in our waters. For those of us who live in East O'ahu, we have been blessed to see 'ilioholo swim and play off of Kawaihoa Point, then watch them as they swim around to Hanauma Bay and on to Sandy Beach where they often rest on the sandy shores of Wawamalu.

Although Federally protected, the recent violence against 'ilioholo show a disrespect for these creatures and a blatant disregard of the current law - for the penalties incurred for such violence is minimal. The penalties for cruelty and violence against these magnificent mammals must be increased to assure they are properly protected.

The upgraded penalties will deter those thinking of committing such cruel crimes because the consequences will be severe for their actions.

`Ilio-holo-i-ka-uaua - "The dog that runs in the rough seas"

The seas may be rough, but it is something our Hawaiian monk seals can handle, but to stop the sea of cruelty and violence brought upon them by man is something they need your help with. Please pass SB 2441.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,
Ann Marie Kirk

Livable Hawai'i Kai Hui, Cultural and Natural Resource Committee

Livable Hawaii Kai Hui is a non profit (501c3) community organization dedicated to upholding the integrity of the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan as well as protecting and celebrating our cultural and natural resources.

Serving all of East Honolulu since 2004.

Testimony for SB2441 on 3/8/2010 10:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 9:38 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: mmmmahalo2000@aol.com

Testimony for WLO 3/8/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2441

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Mike Moran

Organization: Individual

Address: Maui, HI

Phone:

E-mail: mmmmahalo2000@aol.com

Submitted on: 3/7/2010

Comments:

Please pass this bill with increased penalties, & set effective time to be in place. We need a strong law now, as these critically endangered creatures are in grave danger. Mahalo.

Testimony for SB2441 on 3/8/2010 10:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 10:17 PM**To:** WLOtestimony**Cc:** himax57@gmail.com

Testimony for WLO 3/8/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2441

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Leanne Morin

Organization: Individual

Address: 158 Pinana St. Kailua, HI

Phone: 808-450-4004

E-mail: himax57@gmail.com

Submitted on: 3/7/2010

Comments:

3/7/10

Aloha Honorable Ken Ito,

PLEASE PASS THIS BILL: Senate Bill 2441/SDI TO SAVE OUR STATE MAMMAL! The Hawaiian Monk Seal has been in the Hawaiian Islands since before the main islands were formed. There are less than 1100 seals alive today and they are decreasing by 4% per year. It is important that we do anything we can to protect these wonderful prehistoric creatures from extinction. They are the only tropical seals in the world and the only seals found in the Hawaiian Islands. Please don't let the Hawaiian Monk Seal go the route of the extinct Caribbean Monk Seal.

Again, I am writing to ask for your support and subsequent passing of Senate Bill 2441/SDI. As a believer in saving the Hawaiian Monk Seal it is most important that we get this bill passed without delay.

The volunteers and scientists are aware of the downward spiral of the monk seals and are doing everything possible to protect and preserve the few animals we have left.

There isn't a lot of time to save these creatures. Not delaying or deferring the passing of laws that would protect the Hawaiian Monk Seal, would be crucial to saving the entire species. Harsher prosecution in the harming and killing of these animals is needed to stop the killing of the harmless creatures we have left that are trying to survive and live on our islands.

The birth of pups on the Main Hawaiian Islands in 2009 was offset by the 4 killings of animals in 2009. A pregnant seal shot within a week of giving birth - with the perpetrator only receiving a \$25.00 fine and a few days in jail is reprehensible. The law did not protect these 4 animals and a Class C felony charge would give the lawbreaker pause to think about the consequences of such unnecessary actions against innocent and endangered creatures. That one female seal could have helped the population with about 16 to 20 pups in her lifetime. We lost more than a mom and baby that day. We lost another chance to turn the decline around. Volunteers and taxpayers that care about the environment and Hawaii's fragile ecosystem and the creatures that are part of that system, thank you for your consideration in passing this most important bill. The endangered species of our Islands do not have time for delay.

Mahalo,

Leanne Morin

THE HOUSE
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2010

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND OCEAN RESOURCES
Representative Ken Ito, Chair
Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Monday, March 8, 2010
10:00 a.m., Conference Room 325, State Capitol

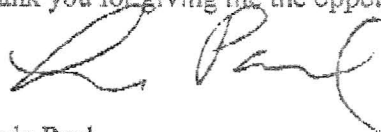
SENATE BILL NO. 2441
RELATED TO ENDANGERED SPECIES

Representative Ito, Representative Har, and members of the committee, my name is Linda Paul and I am the Executive Director for Aquatics for the Hawaii Audubon Society, the Director of the Ocean Law & Policy Institute of the Pacific Forum CSIS, and the International Director of the Endangered Species Program for Earthtrust. I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 2441, which will help protect our critically endangered state marine mammal the Hawaiian monk seal. We support changing the existing penalty for killing these animals from a misdemeanor to a Class C Felony.

Despite protection by the state and federal endangered species acts and the Marine Mammal Protection Act, critically endangered Hawaiian monk seals continue to die because of intentional and/or negligent actions by people. Clearly there is not enough of a disincentive to stop people from taking actions that result in more deaths of these increasingly rare mammals. The Hawaiian monk seal will become extinct in our lifetime if we don't take action now. Let's hope the threat of this penalty will cause a person to think twice about shooting a monk seal.

Since Hawaiian monk seals also continue to die because of entanglement in lay gillnets, we urge this committee to amend this legislation and add a section that will make it illegal to fish with lay gillnets anywhere in the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.



Linda Paul
ph. (808) 262-6859

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 05, 2010 5:03 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: rittew@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2441 on 3/8/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 3/8/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2441

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Walter Ritte
Organization: Individual
Address: Kaunakakai
Phone: 808-567-9415
E-mail: rittew@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/5/2010

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill. The Hawaiian Monk Seal is under attack by fishermen who feel the Seal is taking food from their families. They feel the seal has been brought here by the government like the Taape, Roi, and Toau. Stiffer penalties are needed to protect this extremely endangered mammal. Three seals have been killed thus far. We can not wait for stronger penalties. Walter Ritte

March 7, 2010

Honorable Chair, Ken Ito

Resource Committee Members

RE: Support for SB2441

The Hawaiian monk seal, our State Mammal, predates man in Hawaii by many thousands of years. This endemic species is now in critical decline. The killing of our ilio holo I ka uua because of the erroneous belief that they are in competition for food is inexcusable, as they eat predominantly what we consider trash fish. We cannot afford to lose any of our remaining seals through ignorance of their habits. We need stronger laws than merely a misdemeanor to help prevent their being harmed or killed. As a member of the Hawaiian Monk Seal Response Team of Oahu, I ask you to please support the passing of this important bill.

Mahalo,

Karen Rohter

Dear Chairman,

I am writing you in support of SB2441. The Hawaiian Monk Seal is such a unique and wonderful animal that is unique to our land.

We have lived in Hawaii for three years. Before we moved here I had never heard of a monk seal. On Christmas Day in 2008 my husband and I went to Sandy beach and discovered a seal on the beach. From that day on I have attended classes and joined the Hawaiian Monk Seal Response Team to find out all I can about these wonderful creatures.

It is a shame that the punishment for "taking" these animals is so light. Mr. Charles Vidinha plea agreement does not do justice or deter others from doing the same thing. It is my belief that there is a growing need for educating the public about these seals. Until we can get the word out to more people the government can make a difference by setting up stiffer penalties to deter the "taking" of these animals.

We are all responsible to help keep this species from extenction. I support the passage of this bill.

Thank you for your time,

Stacey Stella

Testimony for SB2441 on 3/8/2010 10:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 1:28 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: g2@hokua.org

Testimony for WLO 3/8/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2441

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: Yes

Submitted by: Ginny Tiu

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: g2@hokua.org

Submitted on: 3/8/2010

Comments:

To the Honorable Chair Ken Ito, Vice-Chair Har, and Water, Land & Ocean Resource Committee Members
Re: support for SB2441

I am in full support of increased penalties for the killing of monk seals. The agonizing and brutally painful deaths that they are forced to endure, is absolutely inhumane. We are suppose to be the more superior creatures of God, but is this how we are to use our intelligence? To inflict such suffering on the helpless who feel the same intensity of pain that we do? Please use your position of power to do the right thing!

Sincerely,
Ginny Tiu

Testimony for SB2441 on 3/8/2010 10:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 10:27 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: kailuaangel@gmail.com

Testimony for WLO 3/8/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2441

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: ginger westerman

Organization: Individual

Address: pob 44 kailua

Phone: 808 386-6544

E-mail: kailuaangel@gmail.com

Submitted on: 3/7/2010

Comments:

Defend these innocent mammals. Pass the bill to increase punishment on anyone who harms them.