
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING HAWAII RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES TO COMPLY WITH THE
CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF
WILD FAUNA AND FLORA AND NOT TO BUY OR SELL IVORY OF
UNKNOWN ORIGIN THAT MAY HAVE BEEN ILLEGALLY SMUGGLED INTO
THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, African elephants and rhinoceroses are nearing
2 extinction due to the high price of ivory; and
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4 WHEREAS, the Convention on International Trade in
5 Endangered Species, attended by 178 nations in March 2013, noted
6 that elephant slaughter has reached crisis proportions unheard
7 of in two decades; and
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9 WHEREAS, the black market trade of ivory is skyrocketing
10 through internet sales, including within the United States,
11 according to the International Fund for Animal Welfare; and
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13 WHEREAS, tens of thousands of African elephants are being
14 slaughtered in Africa each year by poachers intent on selling
15 their ivory, and ivory trafficking is at the highest recorded
16 rate ever; and
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18 WHEREAS, in Zakouma National Park, in southern Chad, an
19 African game park, an estimated 4,350 elephants were reported in
20 a 2002 census but, due to mass hunting, only an estimated 457
21 elephants are left in Zakouma today; and
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23 WHEREAS, it is recorded that family clusters of elephants
24 are being slaughtered by automatic weapons in Africa; and
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26 WHEREAS, the rhinoceros population has been similarly
27 decimated throughout Africa as criminal gangs kill rhinoceroses
28 for ivory; and
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30 WHEREAS, scientists believe the population of elephants and
31 rhinoceroses cannot withstand this slaughter; and
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33 WHEREAS, the Convention on International Trade in
34 Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, adopted by the



1 United States, banned the sale of African elephant ivory in
2 1989; and
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4 WHEREAS, despite federal laws that prohibit the sale of
5 certain classes of ivory, generally, African ivory is legally
6 sold in Hawaii as jewelry and antiques if it was imported before
7 1989 or is at least one hundred years old at the time of import;
8 and
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10 WHEREAS, according to one study by Care for the Wild
11 International, despite the international and national bans, one-
12 third of ivory products sold in the United States have illegal
13 origins; and
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15 WHEREAS, compliance with the Convention on International
16 Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora as it
17 relates to the ban on the sale of ivory products in the State
18 will contribute to protecting African elephants and rhinoceroses
19 from extinction; now, therefore,
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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013,
23 that Hawaii residents and businesses are urged to comply with
24 the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of
25 Wild Fauna and Flora and are urged not to buy or sell ivory of
26 unknown origin that may have been illegally smuggled into the
27 State; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the various chambers of
30 commerce of Hawaii are urged to provide their members with
31 copies of this resolution and information about the Convention
32 on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and
33 Flora; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director of Business,
37 Economic Development, and Tourism; Director of Commerce and
38 Consumer Affairs; The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, who in turn
39 is requested to provide members of the various chamber of
40 commerce of Hawaii with copies of this resolution; and Better
41 Business Bureau of Hawaii, Inc.
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