

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committees on
OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
and
WATER AND LAND**

**Wednesday, April 3, 2013
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 128, HOUSE DRAFT 1
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND
THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AN ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE STATE'S ENDANGERED MARINE ANIMALS**

House Concurrent Resolution 128, House Draft 1 requests the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA") to produce annual reports of the State's endangered marine life, to provide those reports to the Department of Land and Natural Resources ("DLNR") and for DLNR to post those reports on its website. **DLNR supports the intent of this resolution. However, much of the information requested is already available to the public.**

Within NOAA, the National Marine Fisheries Service ("NMFS"), Protected Resources Division ("PRD"), reviews marine mammal stock assessment reports ("SARs") annually for all stocks of marine mammals in United States waters. When substantive new information is available on stock parameters (such as abundance, estimated annual mortality, fecundity, etc.), the assessments are updated. SARs are produced for all marine mammals under the Marine Mammal Protection Act ("MMPA"). Many of these marine mammals are not listed under the Endangered Species Act.

When marine mammals are listed, their status becomes "strategic" in the SAR. Potentially, this number could be removed from the population without having negative impacts on population health may become lower. The annual SARs contain the best information NOAA has about population sizes, trends, causes of mortality, and other life history parameters of marine mammals. One of the purposes of the SARs is to inform the public about the stock information and regulations that apply to these animals.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ESTER KIA'AINA
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
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

The SARs are limited to mainly biological information. Therefore, information about regulations and other efforts to conserve and minimize human interactions are not generally contained in the SARs (although they may be referenced in SARs). The public may obtain a broader range of information (including a breakdown by animals in the Pacific region) at the PRD website at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/sars/region.htm.

While DLNR could provide a link to the website, the additional obligation to post, maintain, and update these reports on DLNR's website imposes long term costs and duplicates information already available.

We strongly urge the House to revise the Concurrent Resolution to state that DLNR provide a link on the DLNR website to the SAR reports

omhtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 01, 2013 12:50 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: mz@conservehi.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR128 on Apr 3, 2013 11:00AM

HCR128

Submitted on: 4/1/2013

Testimony for OMH/WAL on Apr 3, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marjorie Ziegler	Conservation Council for Hawai'i	Oppose	No

Comments: The resolutions are unnecessary. This information is already compiled and available to the public. Please support programs to recover our endangered marine mammals instead of creating redundancy and more work for these agencies. Mahalo.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 01, 2013 2:35 PM
To: omhtestimony
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Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR128 on Apr 3, 2013 11:00AM*

HCR128

Submitted on: 4/1/2013

Testimony for OMH/WAL on Apr 3, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lyn Howel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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