

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 Committee on
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Thursday, March 21, 2013
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 128
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 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.

The SARs are limited to mainly biological information. Therefore, information about regulations and other efforts to conserve and minimize human interactions are not generally

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LAND
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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

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2013 11:13 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR128 on Mar 21, 2013 08:30AM*

HCR128

Submitted on: 3/19/2013

Testimony for EEP on Mar 21, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Russo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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angela huntemer	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: NOAA does release timely information regarding the status of Marine Mammals on a very regular basis. One only needs to look at the websites and fb pages run by them to get the information. I cannot comment on the State's efforts or lack thereof because I am not familiar with their operations. One thing is certain - We must do everything we can to preserve as much of the marine life as we can in Hawaii because it is inherently valuable in its own right and extremely valuable to our economy in the form of tourism and source of education, research and wonder for our resident human population. Angela Huntemer.

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