

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Wednesday, April 10, 2013
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

In consideration of
**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 149, SENATE DRAFT 1/
SENATE RESOLUTION 108, SENATE DRAFT 1
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**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 149, Senate Draft 1/Senate Resolution 108, Senate Draft 1 urge Hawaii residents and businesses to comply with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and not to buy or sell ivory of unknown origin that may have been illegally smuggled into the state. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) supports these resolutions.**

DLNR supports compliance with CITES as it relates to the ban on the sale of ivory products in the State and the contribution this ban will have on protecting African elephants and rhinoceroses from extinction. The United States instituted the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 50 § 23 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to regulate international trade in wildlife and plants, including parts, products and derivatives, to ensure trade is legal and does not threaten the survival of the species. In addition to elephants and rhinoceroses, ivory comes from whale teeth, walruses, hippopotami, warthogs, mastodons, and mammoths. Many of these animals are listed under the United States Endangered Species Act (ESA), including the African elephant, the Asian elephant, the northern white rhinoceros, the Sumatran rhinoceros, the black rhinoceros, the Javan rhinoceros, and the great Indian rhinoceros. Whales and walruses are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and some species are also listed or are proposed for listing under the ESA. In June 1989, the United States banned the import of all worked and raw ivory.

While these protections exist, it is legal to sell jewelry and antiques, if it was imported before the 1989 ban or if the ivory is at least one hundred years old at the time of import. Urging residents and businesses in Hawaii to not buy or sell ivory of unknown origin will contribute to protecting all species in the ivory trade.