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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SPINNER DOLPHINS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the expansion of  
2 recreational activities in the ocean has resulted in continuous  
3 harassment of Hawaii's spinner dolphins. Spinner dolphins have  
4 a rigid daily schedule: hunting in the ocean at night and  
5 resting in shallow bays close to the shore during the day.  
6 Human activities frequently disrupt their rest periods and  
7 endanger the population. It is important to respect spinner  
8 dolphins' need for space in order to safeguard the species for  
9 future generations to appreciate.

10           The legislature recognizes the valuable contributions these  
11 animals make to the marine ecosystem and the tourism industry  
12 and finds that limiting human interaction with spinner dolphins  
13 will help protect their current population.

14           The purpose of this Act is to protect Hawaii's small  
15 population of spinner dolphins so that visitors and locals can  
16 continue to enjoy the aerial acrobatics of these marine mammals  
17 by establishing fines and penalties for anyone who knowingly



1 takes or attempts to take a spinner dolphin. Taking includes  
2 touching, riding, harassing, harming, pursuing, hunting,  
3 shooting, wounding, killing, trapping, capturing, collecting, or  
4 attempting any such conduct.

5 SECTION 2. Chapter 187A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
6 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
7 and to read as follows:

8 "§187A- Taking a spinner dolphin prohibited. (a) A  
9 person commits the offense of taking a spinner dolphin if the  
10 person intentionally or knowingly takes a spinner dolphin  
11 (Stenella longirostris).

12 (b) Any person convicted of taking a spinner dolphin shall  
13 be guilty of a class C felony; provided that in addition to any  
14 other sentence, the court may impose a fine up to \$50,000.

15 (c) For the purpose of this section:

16 "Take" means to touch, ride, harass, harm, pursue, hunt,  
17 shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or to attempt to  
18 engage in any such conduct."

19 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
20 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
21 begun before its effective date.




1 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

2 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: 

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**Report Title:**

Spinner Dolphins; Taking

**Description:**

Prohibits the taking of a spinner dolphin.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

