
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING HAWAII FACILITIES THAT HOLD CAPTIVE CETACEANS FOR
ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES TO DISCONTINUE BREEDING AND TO PHASE
OUT CAPTIVITY.

1 WHEREAS, cetaceans, which include dolphins, whales, and
2 porpoises, are highly intelligent and social animals; and
3

4 WHEREAS, the County of Maui has prohibited the exhibition
5 of captive cetaceans since 2002; and
6

7 WHEREAS, public opposition to the keeping and display of
8 captive cetaceans has increased in the United States and
9 worldwide; and
10

11 WHEREAS, at least 14 other countries have banned or
12 restricted the exhibition and importation of cetaceans; and
13

14 WHEREAS, California, New York, and South Carolina have each
15 passed legislation prohibiting the display of some or all
16 species of cetaceans; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the National Aquarium in Maryland has decided to
19 retire their remaining dolphins to a seaside sanctuary by 2020,
20 which they will establish and operate; and
21

22 WHEREAS, the dysfunctional social structure of captive
23 cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress,
24 resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals and to
25 humans; and
26

27 WHEREAS, cetacean facilities have multiple animals
28 exhibiting unaddressed yet documented stereotypical behaviors,
29 such as floating motionless at the surface for prolonged periods



1 (known as "logging") and swimming in repetitive circles, an
2 indication of depression due to the stress of inadequate living
3 conditions; and

4
5 WHEREAS, survivorship of cetaceans is reduced, sometimes
6 drastically, in a captive environment; and

7
8 WHEREAS, the United States Marine Mammal Inventory Report
9 in November 2013 indicates that the causes of death for Hawaii's
10 captive cetaceans include food poisoning, capture-related
11 incidents, malnutrition, debilitation, drowning, jumping out of
12 enclosures, trauma, and failure to thrive; and

13
14 WHEREAS, animals are injured or deformed due to the ongoing
15 unnatural and physical demands of a job in the entertainment
16 industry; and

17
18 WHEREAS, conflicting messages of stewardship are
19 communicated because the Marine Mammal Protection Act forbids
20 feeding or attempting to feed marine mammal species in the wild,
21 but captive facilities incorporate feeding the animals as a part
22 of the "encounter" experience; and

23
24 WHEREAS, educational content delivered by a captivity
25 facility is often inaccurate and misleading, as animals are
26 performing theatrical "tricks" rather than displaying natural
27 behaviors; and

28
29 WHEREAS, it is environmentally unjust to prevent species
30 from playing their critical role in an ecosystem; and

31
32 WHEREAS, it is unethical to isolate a highly intelligent
33 and social animal from its natural environment; and

34
35 WHEREAS, Hawaiian values are neglected by disregarding the
36 ecological, cultural, and spiritual significance of cetaceans;
37 now, therefore,

38
39 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
40 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
41 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii facilities that



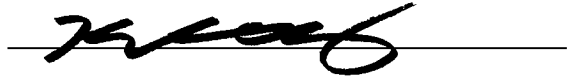
1 hold captive cetaceans for entertainment purposes are urged to
2 discontinue breeding and to phase out captivity; and
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
5 is urged to cease the issuance of permits for the interstate,
6 intrastate, and inter-facility transfer of captive cetaceans for
7 breeding or entertainment purposes; and
8

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State opposes the
10 construction or development of any new captive cetacean
11 facilities for breeding or entertainment purposes; and
12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
14 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
15 Board of Agriculture, to be distributed to permitted facilities
16 holding cetaceans captive.
17
18
19

OFFERED BY: _____



MAR 10 2017

