
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO WORK WITH
STAKEHOLDERS TO DEVELOP GUIDELINES FOR BEST PRACTICES FOR
THE OPERATION OF MARINE MAMMAL TOURS.

1 WHEREAS, marine mammal tours, such as dolphin and whale
2 watching tours, are popular tourist attractions and function as
3 an important part of Hawaii's tourism economy; and
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5 WHEREAS, there is a desire to offer an enjoyable, safe, and
6 educational experience for visitors and residents alike; and
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8 WHEREAS, the number of marine mammal tours has grown in
9 recent years leading to an increased need to ensure that human
10 activities do not affect the health of, disrupt normal behaviors
11 of, or otherwise cause stress to marine mammals; and
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13 WHEREAS, on August 24, 2016, the National Oceanic and
14 Atmospheric Administration published proposed regulations under
15 the Marine Mammal Protection Act that would afford greater
16 protections for the Hawaiian spinner dolphins, but would also
17 impact marine mammal tour operations; and
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19 WHEREAS, the proposed regulations were developed without
20 consultation with local businesses engaging in these activities;
21 and
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23 WHEREAS, per the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
24 Administration's own findings, their preferred alternative
25 regulations would negatively impact the local economy; and
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27 WHEREAS, those in the industry would prefer to collaborate
28 with the scientific community to establish voluntary guidelines
29 for best practices for the operation of marine mammal tours,



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1 rather than be subject to new federal regulations; now,
2 therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
6 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Land and
7 Natural Resources is urged to work with stakeholders to develop
8 guidelines for best practices for the operation of marine mammal
9 tours; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
13 Board of Land and Natural Resources and the Director of the
14 Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

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OFFERED BY: Micole E. Lowen

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[Signature]

Lyn De Crite

Richard George

MAR - 8 2017

