
HOUSE 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
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4 WHEREAS, the County of Maui has prohibited the exhibition
5 of captive cetaceans since 2002; and
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7 WHEREAS, public opposition to the keeping and display of
8 captive cetaceans has increased in the United States and
9 worldwide; and
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11 WHEREAS, at least fourteen other countries have banned or
12 restricted the exhibition and importation of cetaceans; and
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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
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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
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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
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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
30 (known as "logging") and swimming in repetitive circles, an



1 indication of depression due to the stress of inadequate living
2 conditions; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
39 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
40 of 2017, that the Hawaii facilities that hold captive cetaceans



1 solely for entertainment purposes are urged to discontinue
2 breeding and to phase out captivity; and
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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
7 solely for breeding or entertainment purposes; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State opposes the
10 construction or development of any new captive cetacean
11 facilities solely for breeding or entertainment purposes; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall not
14 affect facilities that use cetaceans solely for scientific and
15 educational purposes; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
19 Agriculture, to be distributed to permitted facilities holding
20 cetaceans captive.
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