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Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**MARCH 22, 2017  
9:30 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 208/ HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.136  
URGING HAWAII FACILITIES THA HOLD CAPTIVE CETACEANS FOR  
ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES TO DISCONTINUE BREEDING AND TO PHASE OUT  
CAPTIVITY**

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Resolution No. 136 that urges Hawaii facilities that hold captive cetaceans for entertainment purposes to discontinue breeding and to phase out captivity. The Department of Agriculture offers comments on this measure.

The Department of Agriculture Plant Quarantine Branch (PQB) regulates the importation and possession of cetaceans within Hawaii. There are several private entities within the state that have permits for the possession of cetaceans. These facilities are in good standing with the Department. These facilities are subject to periodic post entry inspections to ensure compliance with existing permit conditions. Prior to permit issuance, all permittees must be in good standing and have appropriate federal permits such as the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal Welfare License, and if applicable, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Mammal Permits. Applicants without these documents will not be issued PQB permits for cetaceans in their possession.



PQB does not have the statutory authority to regulate animal welfare. PQB works closely with USDA to ensure that all facilities are meeting federal standards for animal welfare and should a facility become non-compliant, would be subject to federal penalties within the Animal Welfare Act.

The Department further feels that “entertainment” purposes and “captivity facility” be further defined. “Entertainment” is a very subjective term, as is “captivity facility.” These terms are inconsistent with federal terminology and can add to the confusion with what facility would be appropriate to legally possess cetaceans. Would a municipal zoo or aquarium, or a university be included in the ban? Also, many of these commercial facilities have the expertise and facilities house and rehabilitate injured cetaceans. A ban would prevent this and put injured cetaceans at increased risk for mortality. It would also greatly increase the likelihood of mortality for animals that are not eligible for release back into the wild due to injury, but would need to be.

Should the Committee decide to pass this measure, we ask that “entertainment purposes” and “captivity facilities” be better defined to provide clarity as to what agencies are exempt from the ban.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony.



March 22, 2017

To: AGR Committee, Hawaii State Legislature

Re: **SUPPORT for HCR 208 / HR 136 Related to Captive Cetaceans**

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice-chair DeCoite and Committee members,

For the Fishes is in strong support of these resolutions that would protect cetaceans and we thank the committee for considering this important matter.

It's time to phase out the captive cetacean entertainment industry in Hawaii. Keeping cetaceans in captive environments that don't meet basic needs for well-being is cruel. Entertainment that involves cruelty to animals is highly controversial and not aligned with Hawaii's values.

Contrary to the propaganda put out by captive cetacean operations, there is no evidence of educational value in these endeavors. In fact, studies have shown this lack of evidence extends to zoos and public aquariums, as well. See:

- [Do Zoos and Aquariums Promote Attitude Change in Visitors? A Critical Evaluation of the American Zoo and Aquarium Study](#); and,
- [Evaluating Children's Conservation Biology Learning at the Zoo](#), a 2014 survey of over 2,800 children after both guided and unguided visits to the London Zoo, which determined that 62% showed no indication of increased learning about animals or their conservation, and 14% demonstrated negative changes in understanding.

**We urge your support of these resolutions and thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony.**

Sincerely,  
Rene Umberger  
Executive Director



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 6:01 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** wcloud@hsutx.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Whitney Cloud	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Dolphins are intelligent and sensitive creatures, and it is cruel to keep them in captivity.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 5:05 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** tabdolphins@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
tye block	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am writing on the behalf of the dolphins. The islands of Hawaii need to set an example for the world by not allowing the captivity of dolphins. Captivity is cruel when dolphins are deserving the freedom to swim in their family pods in the open ocean. Please do not allow dolphin captivity. They deserve better.

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March 21, 2017

Dear Officials:

I am writing to indicate my **very strong disapproval** for the current legislation HCR208 that is slated for discussion in the next day regarding captive cetaceans. I **implore** you to **deny** this call. It is not based on any empirical evidence and is the product of emotionally-based, incorrect opinions from a small minority that does not consider the actual scientific evidence. I have worked with captive cetaceans for 20 years and never in my personal experiences nor in my scientific research have I ever been concerned that the welfare of cetaceans was negatively affected by living in captive facilities. We have learned much since the conception of cetaceans in captivity and all of our knowledge has continued to improve the lives of those cetaceans in captivity. They are well-cared for, successful breeders, show appropriate behaviors, socially engaged, and cognitively stimulated through all of the various forms of enrichment both provided by their trainers and created on their own. The growing trend to ban captive cetaceans is NOT based on SCIENCE but emotional rhetoric that has no evidence or uses evidence from the very beginning of learning how to care best for these animals. My colleagues and I would be happy to share the real science with you.

As with any animal in human care, including your pet dogs, cats, birds, etc, there is a learning curve that must be experienced to understand how best to care for these animals. We have learned, often the hard way, that dogs and cats should not eat chocolate. However, the death of a few dogs and cats by chocolate did not lead to a ban on removing them from captive environments. I respectfully request that you listen to the scientists and the caregivers who work with these animals daily and understand that they have the greatest and most accurate information than people who have never worked with or conducted research with these animals.

Captivity does not harm those cetaceans that have lived in captivity for the majority of their lives or that were born into that environment. These animals are highly adaptable to multiple environments and have very good welfare compared to other mammals, including pet dogs and cats.

**Reject** the legislation that you will be considering regarding captive cetaceans. To ban cetaceans from captivity will lead to poorer welfare of these animals as the money that is needed to maintain high quality facilities, food, veterinary care, and trainers will be gone. Will the state and federal governments provide the loss of income needed to care for these animals if this ban were put into place, or does the state and federal government want to be responsible for the death of hundreds animals (the current captive ones and the stranded animals that need long-term care) and the loss of jobs for hundreds of humans? Banning captive cetaceans will produce a negative cascading effect on economy, environment, education, and populations that will be very difficult to recover from in the future.

**REJECT HCR208.**

Respectfully,

Dr. Heather Hill

Associate Professor, Psychology

Hhill1@stmarytx.edu

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 3:37 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** wolfspiritm@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marie Louise Morandi Long Zwicker	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Cetaceans must NOT continue to be held in captivity and must NOT be used for breeding purposes for the following reasons: Cetaceans, which include dolphins, whales, and porpoises, are highly intelligent and social animals. • The County of Maui has prohibited the exhibition of captive cetaceans since 2002. • Public opposition to the keeping and display of captive cetaceans has increased in the United States and worldwide. • The dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals and to humans. • Educational content delivered by a captivity facility is often inaccurate and misleading, as animals are performing theatrical "tricks" rather than displaying natural behaviors. • It is unethical to isolate a highly intelligent and social animal from its natural environment.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 2:19 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** manaiyacal@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ashley Guidry	Individual	Support	No

Comments: A longtime ex marine mammal trainer who after many years had to walk away from a dirty business that is not beneficial to the animals or humans, I can vouch that this is a move in the right direction. Dolphins belong in the oceans. Freeing the captives is not easy but stoping breeding programs is the way to go to let the others live their lives out peacefully while working towards phasing out the sea circus.

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**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** Cetaman@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ken LeVasseur	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, Almost half the dolphins in captivity in the United States die every seven years. This is a sad reflection on our culture. Hundreds of dolphins have died in captivity here in Hawai'i since it started in the 1960s. Please pass this Resolution!

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 11:18 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** lauren.prutow@mail.mcgill.ca  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lauren Prutow McKenna	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Dear Hawaii State Legislators, I was really surprised and saddened to see this house resolution (H.R. NO. 136) proposed. I love the state of Hawaii for so many reasons. It is full of amazing forward thinking people who are passionate about ocean conservation and awareness. This house resolution bill does not support those ideals. Accredited marine life parks like Dolphin Quest are critical for ocean conservation. They inspire people to care about and protect dolphins and other marine life in the wild. They teach people how to help conserve; educating people about serious environmental issues. Thousands of Hawaiian school children choose to come to Dolphin Quest annually to meet the dolphins face to face. They love the dolphins and that connection inspires them to become ocean stewards themselves. Not only do they learn about threats to the ocean, but they learn things that they can do to help. Meeting the dolphins for these keiki and making a connection with them is so important. Once someone loves something, they want to protect it. Zoos and Aquariums enable that connection to happen daily. Dolphin Quest alone has contributed over \$3.5 million dollars in financial and in-the-field support of marine mammal scientific study. This research increases our collective knowledge of these animals and how to protect them in the wild. How many other facilities or people are contributing that much to marine animal awareness and protection? If facilities like Dolphin Quest do not exist, who is going to champion that kind of love, protection, and awareness? It is one thing to say you are an ocean steward, but it is another to have an entire company or field dedicated to global awareness and conservation. What are the small pocket of activists doing to actually help species protection and conservation? We need to help our keiki connect to the ocean around them and to teach them how to love and protect the land and the ocean that surrounds them. Zoos and aquariums are critical to allowing this to happen. On the animal wellness side, animals in accredited, US Government regulated facilities like Dolphin Quest are thriving. They are healthy and happy and live enriching and stimulating lives. There is absolutely no peer-reviewed scientific evidence to support the claims in this resolution that suggest otherwise. Dolphin Quest is a leader in the Zoo and Aquarium field. Every interaction with the dolphins is genuine and there is a mutual trust and relationship between the trainers and dolphin that is so pure and clear to all

who visit. To phase out dolphins under professional human care and discontinue breeding is just a terrible idea. It would take away the ability for people to connect with marine life in a safe environment. And it would take away the opportunity for those individuals to learn about our oceans and how to conserve them. Baba Dioum said it best "In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; we will understand only what we are taught." Please do not support this house resolution (H.R. NO. 136). Thank you for your consideration. With Aloha, Lauren Prutow McKenna

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**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 11:15 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** Cetaman@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ken LeVasseur	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, In the United States, almost half the dolphins in captivity die every seven years. This is a sad shadow upon our Country and our State. Hundreds of dolphins have died since they have been kept captive here in Hawai'i. Please pass this Resolution!

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 9:22 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** 333cory@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha legislators, Please support this measure. No person would want to live the way captive dolphins are forced to live. mahalo, Cory Harden

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**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 9:05 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** alexispeters@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alexis Thomas	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this measure. Records via NOAA and NMFS show that there have been dozens of stillbirths and miscarriages at Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park due to the artificial, unnatural environment in which they are bred. The ones that do survive the breeding are sent to other facilities which is highly stressful for both the mother and her offspring. Cetaceans are highly intelligent and social beings with close family bonds who are aware of the loss of their offspring and separation from their mothers. Captivity is not aloha. Please support this measure. Respectfully, Alexis M. Thomas

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 8:32 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** kittyandmoose@yahoo.co.uk  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michelle Hayward	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support HR136 & HCR208 Phasing out captivity is the morally right thing to do. We know deep down that these animals are deeply unhappy and stressed. A concrete cell; no matter how big; can never fulfill the needs of highly intelligent and social whales and dolphins; no matter how young they were when stolen from the wild, or even when born into captivity. This is evident in the high mortality rate of many young cetaceans. Many people are disgusted with the use of animals for entertainment. This is evident in the continued crash of Seaworld since the overwhelming success of Blackfish and The Cove. Rejecting captivity is key to the evolution of a more intelligent and compassionate society. The implementation of HR136 & HCR208 can therefore only be a good thing.

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Testimony against HR136 & HCR208  
Submitted March 20, 2017 by  
Michelle Benedict – 2362 Kuahea St, 96816 – 808-225-1357

I am a resident of Oahu and I am opposed to this measure. Fundamentally, it would be unethical to support this measure as it is mainly comprised of conjecture and false information. None of the points listed are supported by peer reviewed citation. As will be evident to the logical and scientifically minded members of the Board of Agriculture, House and Senate, most statements are simply opinions of the author and merit no response. I urge you to seek out the FACTS before passing judgement on this issue. Some examples are:

**INTELLIGENCE:** The assertion that cetaceans are highly intelligent is only useful in context, which has not been provided. Per a set of criteria established by humans, cetaceans certainly rank among intelligent animal species among which is also the pig. As summarized by Marino & Colvin (2015 International Journal of Comparative Psychology, 28) findings show that pigs are equal to dolphins when given the same criteria on object discrimination; engage in complex play behavior as do dolphins; discriminate and recognize conspecifics as do dolphins; and even demonstrate emotion and personality. Marine mammals in the care of facilities accredited by the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums receive far superior care to that of pigs, kept by the millions, in factory farms across the country. Pigs spend days traveling across the ocean in inhumane conditions to be slaughtered in Hawaii. In contrast, 2 out of 4 facilities housing marine mammals in Hawaii are American Humane Certified facilities.

**RESTRICTED EXHIBITION:** 93% of the countries on the planet and 94% of the United States of America have not banned or restricted exhibition of marine mammals in human care. In addition, the Federal Government condones the exhibition of marine mammals in USDA certified facilities.

**LIVING & SOCIAL CONDITIONS:** All marine mammal facilities operating in Hawaii that house dolphins are accredited by the AMMPA which means that behavior and living conditions, including healthy social structures, are integral to daily operation. Animals at these facilities do not exhibit stereotypical behaviors. None of the dolphins at these facilities are injured or deformed due to their long life in human care.

**SURVIVORSHIP:** Current scientific data show that dolphins in AMMPA accredited facilities live LONGER than their wild counterparts.

**CONFLICTING/MISLEADING MESSAGES:** Marine mammal facilities in Hawaii do not condone the feeding of wild dolphins or other harassment such as swimming with wild dolphins. Instead these facilities educate guests as to why these practices are harmful to wild dolphins and support scientific studies that indicate the same. Part of providing the superior care given at these facilities includes positive reinforcement training of various behaviors for the purposes of cooperative preventative health care, mental enrichment and physical exercise.

In summary, I hope the Board of Agriculture, House of Representatives and Senate conclude this proposal is woefully inadequate at making a case for phasing out cetaceans in human care in Hawaii and, further, that cetaceans in human care are critical to a bigger picture need in a society that has become disconnected to nature.

Among the participants in a close-up encounter with a dolphin are children from our own island who

have never even visited a beach much less experienced touching and interacting with such a magnificent creature. It is our duty to create opportunities for safe interactions with nature, including marine mammals, to continue to inspire the next generation of global stewards.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 7:45 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** jessdunn24@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jessica Dunn	Individual	Support	No

Comments: DISCONTINUE BREEDING AND TO PHASE OUT CAPTIVITY! Animals don't belong in tank - these species are intelligent and belong in the open water!

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**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 7:40 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** email4saundra@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
saundra holloway	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Public opposition to the keeping and display of captive cetaceans has increased in the United States and worldwide. The dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals and to humans. Educational content delivered by a captivity facility is often inaccurate and misleading, as animals are performing theatrical "tricks" rather than displaying natural behaviors.

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**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 7:31 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** rthaughian@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Richard Haughian	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am opposed to HCR 208 HR 136. I have been to Dolphin Quest and seen the bond the employees and trainers have with the dolphins. They remind me of a loving family and the affection goes both ways. This bill is written on pure emotion by extremists that would love nothing more than to break the bonds between humans and sea mammals. There is not one shred of scientific evidence presented to support their claims. In fact the evidence points in the opposite direction of their claims.

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My name is Shannon YBarra and I oppose the H.R. NO. 136. I have grown up alongside someone that always wanted to work with marine animals so I have had my fair share of interactions with animals in captivity and have been able to see how they are cared for and the love they receive from their trainers. My sister, as a little girl, went to Sea World and while watching the dolphin show decided that she wanted to work with these amazing animals one day. Many years later she got the chance to pursue her dreams of becoming a dolphin trainer at Dolphin Quest Oahu. This facility is an accredited, US government regulated facility and they have very strict rules in place to make sure that their dolphins and other animals are well taken care of. I have had the privilege of seeing first hand just how well these animals are treated. They have better diets and doctor visits than most people do. Also, seeing the love that every single one of the trainers have for these animals is amazing to watch, they have very real connections with all of the dolphins. These amazing animals are not just something that they work with they are a part of their families. I have also seen my fair share of interactions between the trainers, dolphins, and guests to Dolphin Quest. Seeing the guests faces when the dolphin pops up for the first time is priceless, the sheer joy that you see on their face is something that you will never forget. Learning about them in books is one thing but being able to meet a dolphin in person is one of the best learning experiences I have had. You don't realize the power and size of these creatures until you get to visit them up close and personal. With everything that has been happening with Sea World and the laws being passed other places I am worried for our future generations and letting them have the ability to see these amazing animals up close. Getting to go to zoos and aquariums as a child is some of the fondest memories that I have and I hope that as a future parent I will be able to take my family to see and learn about animals in person. Most of these organizations (zoos and aquariums) that I visited, like Dolphin Quest, also would donate millions of dollars to help fund research on animals in the wild. Passing this law and having to release these animals back into the wild would be devastating for the animals and also for the humans that work with them.

Email: shan1329@gmail.com

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 12:54 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** hawaiidogmom@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM\*

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stephanie McLaughlin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 6:50 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** danielle562@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM\*

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Danielle Schiff	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 6:12 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** kuhns pottery@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John Kuhn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose this!

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 6:11 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** e.kuhn32@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Erin Kuhn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I believe that discontinuing breeding of marine mammals under professional care, and the phasing out of these facilities in Hawaii does a huge disservice to not only the animals that are being cared for but also the future generations that will never have the chance to make a connection to nature. I have been personally impacted by these animals at a young age and marine mammal facilities are the reason that I have made such an effort to care for our ocean and our planet today. The animals that are in accredited and federally regulated facilities are healthy and thriving, and there is no peer reviewed - scientific evidence that would show otherwise. These claims that the animals are not well loved and well cared for come from animal extremists group who only wish to close zoos and aquariums. I believe that in order for people to care about our oceans and the animals in them, they need to see them, get up close to them, look them in the eyes and make a connection. None of these strong connections can be formed through the pages of a book, but it is all done through real life experiences. The facilities that care for these animals are the responsible way to view and interact with these animals. I strongly oppose this bill and all of its content.

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**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 6:01 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM\*

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

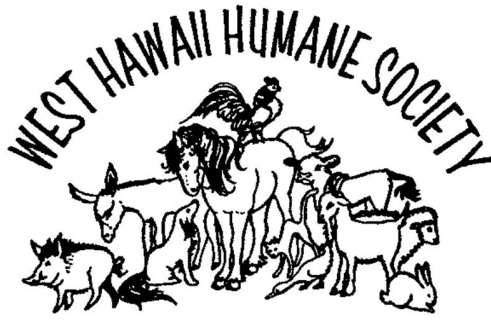
Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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TO: House Agriculture Committee  
March 22, 2017 930a  
FROM: Inga Gibson, West Hawaii Humane Society

RE: STRONG SUPPORT HCR208/HR136; Relating to Captive Cetacean Facilities

---

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair De Coite and Agriculture Committee members,

The West Hawaii Humane Society strongly support HCR 208/HR 136, recommending facilities that house cetaceans (whales/dolphins/porpoises) for entertainment purposes, discontinue breeding and phase out captivity.

Many are unaware that our own Maui County took the lead on this issue 15 years ago (2002) by prohibiting the entertainment and display of such animals. Hawaii now has the chance to set an example for other jurisdictions to follow by phasing out the captivity of cetaceans statewide.

Public sentiment toward the captive display of highly intelligent wild marine animals is rapidly changing. Sea World announced it will discontinue breeding, Trip Advisor announced it would no longer promote facilities that use wild animals for entertainment and a pending new development on West Oahu, Atlantis Resorts, committed not to displaying or housing captive cetaceans for entertainment purposes.

Tourists visit Hawaii from around the world to see our magnificent marine life in its natural habitat. There is no reason that highly intelligent, social marine mammals be kept in pools a fraction of their natural habitat when one can enjoy these animals in their native, wild environment. Further, it is impossible for these animals to engage in even the most basic of their natural behaviors when kept in such facilities.

We believe this Resolution is be a modest but necessary next step in demonstrating Hawaii's compassion and commitment to protecting marine wildlife. As long as the breeding continues, these animals will remain in captivity in perpetuity.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Best, Inga Gibson

West Hawaii Humane Society  
[westhawaiihumanesociety@gmail.com](mailto:westhawaiihumanesociety@gmail.com)  
808.922.9910

West Hawaii Humane Society \* P.O. Box 1208 \* Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96745

*Advocating for the Protection of All Animals since 1969*

[www.westhawaiihumanesociety.org](http://www.westhawaiihumanesociety.org)

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808.329.2051/808.922.9910

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 5:37 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** staceykuhn@live.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stacey E Kuhn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose this bill, in it's full content.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 3:00 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** prismwbt@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stacy Gursky	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Highly-sentient, complex creatures, such as cetaceans, have a divine right to a healthy, wild and natural life free from the interference of human greed and illusion. It is our karmic responsibility to help, protect and sanctify their wellbeing at any opportunity we are given. Ending animal captivity is a vital elementary step in our human evolution. Whether or not the individuals involved in this decision-making process choose the action of love or absence of it, the current universal laws will return back whatever is sent out. Captivity is an abomination, and by abolishing it, we would experience more reward, education and entertainment because ultimately we would be setting ourselves free. Choose wisely.

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March 20, 2017

RE HR 136 and HR 208

Dear Honorable Legislators of the State of Hawaii,

Thank you for your consideration of this very important subject on cetaceans in captivity and to work toward discontinuation of the practice.

Most people are not aware how harmful this situation is to the captive mammal, the highly intelligent dolphins, whales and other cetaceans. Thus, even though the dolphin shows may be “popular”, be it to do performances or to swim with people, once people realize how hurtful this is to the mammal, they will not want to watch or engage in the practice. I say this so that you will not be swayed by the organizations that say they are doing so for scientific research purposes, or for other benevolent purposes (such as humans and kids will get to swim with dolphin or watch show and see how smart dolphins are). Although these organizations may have good intentions, at the end of the day, we have the technology and capabilities now where humans do not need to swim with or hold these beautiful intelligent creatures in tiny enclosures just so that we can study or learn about them.

As the saying goes, Know Better, Do Better! I am so appreciative of your efforts to help us all Do Better by taking action and eliminating the practice. I only hope this is the beginning of a great worldwide movement!!

Again, I concede that the trainers mean well, and in fact have maybe even bonded with the dolphins and whales and truly even be fond of them. Nevertheless, it is cruel. Would any of us ever put a child in prison at a young age and tell them they will be fed, will have a comfortable bed and treated well by “trainers/captors” and that they may only leave their cell a couple of times a day to go into the center yard? Never!! Even if it means the child has to go out in the world on his/her own and use his/her own skills to survive, at least the child has freedom! And so that is what it is like for these fantastic, intelligent cetaceans.

Thank you again for doing the right thing, please support this bill.

Sincerely,

Judy Tam, and children Alex, Matthew and Cameron



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**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** mboldt14@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Madalyn Boldt	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please do not support this house resolution!! To phase out marine mammals in accredited facilities or to end breeding would be cruel and selfish! Each animal ambassador provides an educational experience, impressive connection with guests and such vital information for marine life! There has been no peer-reviewed scientific evidence to support this resolution. I have been to numerous accredited facilities all over the world, including Dolphin Quest, and have seen first hand the passion, dedication and top notch health care they provide to each of their animals. To end breeding we are taking away a socialization between cetaceans of which is found highly reinforcing and part of a natural environment for them. We would be selfish to take away from their own ability to thrive! Our youth and generations to come need to be able to visually see the animals of which our world needs to protect. We will preserve and protect only what we know and can learn about. Education and awareness needs to be brought to world! We should be supporting those who spend their lives caring for the animals that provide us such important information and who have dedicated their time to opening hearts and minds all over the world. We should support the science that animals under human care have aided in!! I want my children to be able to meet cetaceans up close, to see the beauty, the size and the importance of their life! Our efforts should be focused on how we can stop pollution, avoid poor fishing practices, and keep the life within the ocean. Species are growing close to extinction every day, please do not support H.R. NO. 136 !!

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**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 4:17 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** 7blacktie11@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM\*

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dan L Faucett	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 4:16 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** jkhaughian@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jade Haughian	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair Committee on Agriculture Wednesday, March 22, 2017 Re: Opposition to HR 136 and HCR 208 I am a concerned constituent currently residing in Ewa Beach and I am writing to express my opposition to HR 136 and HCR 208. Human beings have had a long and complicated relationship with animals throughout our mutual existence. We have animals in our homes and we also eat them- and I believe that along this continuum there is a reasonable place for having animals in professional display and care facilities where people can safely interact with them and be inspired by them. People come to Hawaii seeking unique experiences, to fulfill their dreams- and often this includes an interaction with an animal. Facilities like Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park have been providing these opportunities to visitors and locals alike for almost 30 years, these facilities are part of the uniqueness that is Hawaii and the exceptional experiences that people seek out. This bill would harm both of these long standing businesses and would adversely affect the hundreds of people employed by them and it would make a negative impact on our travel industry. I am assuming Representative Ing did not draft this bill himself as it is poorly written and full of inaccuracies. I am aware there is a vocal minority of animal detractors (members of extremist organizations such as P.E.T.A. or the lobbying organization Humane Society of the United States) who most likely drafted this bill. Members of these organizations would like people to support their agenda around the guise of helping animals but often their opinions are based on emotion and void of factual information. I am in full support of their choice to refrain from visiting a marine mammal facility, I am in full support of their choice to practice a vegan lifestyle, but I do not believe they should be able to make those choices for the rest of us so I oppose HCR 208 and HR 136. Mahalo for your consideration, Jade Haughian (808)356-9338 Jkhaughian@gmail.com

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Animals under human care have inspired me personally in huge ways. Being able to visit facilities, like Dolphin Quest, and experience the love and care these animals get has truly been life changing. For people viewing animals under human care as “entertainment” is just wrong, they are so much more than that. Facilities that house dolphins help teach all of us to be conservationists and care for our oceans. They also facilitate a safe environment to interact with dolphins that is both educational and mutually beneficial. This interaction is so much more impactful than just seeing them on TV or reading about them.

Since the passing of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, facilities like these are the only legal way to interact with these animals. It is illegal to swim with dolphins out in the ocean. Giving tourists a place to learn about these animals in a safe environment is priceless.

Here in Hawaii our oceans are very important to us. Meeting these animals can make lasting impressions on young people. I know several children that have been on field trips to Dolphin Quest and have learned about marine life and conservation. Meeting the dolphins had a lasting impact on their lives. Places like Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park inspire hundreds of people every day.

When reading the proposed House Resolution 136 I could not find scientific evidence to support the statements. There is no peer-reviewed scientific evidence to support these claims that the animals in accredited, US Government regulated facilities are anything but healthy and thriving. Many of the claims in this are standard message points from animal extremist organizations that aim to break the animal-human bond and close all zoos and aquariums.

To phase out dolphins under professional human care and discontinue breeding would be detrimental to future generations. This would rob them of the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about these animals up close. Please do not support this house resolution (H.R. NO. 136).

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 3:21 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** felinitous@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM\*

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Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary James	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 2:54 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** panther\_dave@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dave Kisor	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Most cetacean tanks are too small and they can't get the exercise they need.

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Animals under human care are more than just “entertainment” for humans. They are ambassadors for their counter parts in the wild. They are a way for humans to create connections to animals that they would never be able to do unless they met/saw them under human care. Many facilities that have animals under human care contribute a lot of the money to conservation and research that help the animals in the ocean. Dolphin Quest for instance, has contributed over \$3.5 million dollars to research and conservation that directly effects marine mammals, our knowledge of them, and how to help protect them. I have personally been to Dolphin Quest and can say that I have seen first-hand how well their animals are taken care of and how much knowledge guests leave with after visiting. Their programs are set up to help guest understand the anatomy and behavior of dolphins and how their guests can do things to help dolphins in the wild. By discontinuing breeding of marine mammals under human care, you are taking away the connection that future generations of humans could have made with these amazing animals. If there aren't zoos, aquariums, and interaction facilities around for people to be able to see these animals up close, then why would they even want to protect them? They would have no reason to. I ask that you please consider these thoughts before passing a bill that would end future generations to have respect and knowledge of the ocean. Please think about your grandkids, great grandkids, and great great grand kids and how if there were no more animals under human care, how they would ever get to see them, learn about them, protect them.



I oppose the house resolution H.R. NO 136. There is no peer-reviewed scientific evidence to support the claims in this resolution that the animals in accredited, US Government regulated facilities (like Dolphin Quest on the big island and Oahu) are anything but healthy and thriving. I have personally been to a Dolphin Quest location and have seen how well cared for and loved those animals are. To phase out dolphins under professional human care and discontinue breeding would rob future generations of the chance to see, experience, and learn about these animals up close and personally. While at the Dolphin Quest location, I have personally seen how guests come out of their interactive programs educated on marine mammals and impassioned to conserve wild marine species. These programs allow for an educational experience that is safe and mutually beneficial for the dolphins and the humans. These experiences are so much more impactful than reading about dolphins in a book, watching them on a TV/movie program, or seeing them on the internet. Perhaps the most crucial reason to oppose this house resolution is that accredited marine life parks are essential to the survival of the species because they inspire the public to care about and protect dolphins in the wild. These accredited and regulated facilities have also been known to contribute millions of dollars in financial and in-the-field support of marine mammal scientific studies, which increases our collective knowledge of these animals and how to protect them in the wild.

Please do all these wonderful, caring facilities and the animals they care for a favor and oppose this resolution.



**Conservation Council  
for Hawai'i**

*Hawai'i's voice for wildlife*

*Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu*



Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Agriculture  
By the Conservation Council for Hawai'i  
Hearing: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 9:30 am  
Room 312

Support for HCR 208 and HR 136 Urging Hawai'i facilities that hold captive cetaceans for entertainment purposes to discontinue breeding and to phase out captivity.

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committees,

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HCR 208 and HR 136 – urging Hawai'i facilities that hold captive cetaceans for entertainment purposes to discontinue breeding and to phase out captivity – for the following reasons:

- Cetaceans, which include dolphins, whales, and porpoises, are highly intelligent and social animals.
- The County of Maui has prohibited the exhibition of captive cetaceans since 2002.
- Public opposition to the keeping and display of captive cetaceans has increased in the United States and worldwide.
- The dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals and to humans.
- Educational content delivered by a captivity facility is often inaccurate and misleading, as animals are performing theatrical "tricks" rather than displaying natural behaviors.
- It is unethical to isolate a highly intelligent and social animal from its natural environment for entertainment purposes.

Protect our whales, porpoises, and dolphins and leave wildlife in their habitat whenever possible. Please adopt HCR 208 and HR 136. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

*Marjorie Ziegler*

Marjorie Ziegler



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P.O. Box 2923 | Honolulu, HI 96802 | Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 215 | Honolulu, HI 96814  
President: Wayne Tanaka | Vice President: Koalani Kaulukukui | Secretary: Rachel Sprague  
Treasurer: Les Welsh | Director: Anne Walton  
Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters



Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Agriculture  
By Jonnetta Peters  
March 22, 2017, 9:30AM  
Room 312

In Support of HCR 208 and HR 136 Urging Hawai'i facilities that hold captive cetaceans for entertainment purposes to discontinue breeding and to phase out captivity.

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee.

Thank you for hearing these resolutions. I write in SUPPORT of HR136 & HCR208 to phase-out the captivity of cetaceans for entertainment purposes for the following reasons:

- Cetaceans, which include dolphins, whales, and porpoises, are highly intelligent and social animals. It is unethical to isolate a highly intelligent and social animal from its natural environment. The dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals and to humans.
- The County of Maui has prohibited the exhibition of captive cetaceans since 2002.
- Public opposition to the keeping and display of captive cetaceans has increased in the United States and worldwide.
- Educational content delivered by a captivity facility is often inaccurate and misleading, as animals are performing theatrical "tricks" rather than displaying natural behaviors.

Please help us end captive dolphin and whale exhibitions by adopting HCR 208 and HR 136. I appreciate your time and consideration.

Thank you,

Jonnetta Peters

Contact info: [kaina.aloha@gmail.com](mailto:kaina.aloha@gmail.com)

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 2:01 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** benniesuzan@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

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Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bennie Scott	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please end dolphin captivity and breeding.

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**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 1:53 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** sheriffdeen@uwalumni.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sarah S	Individual	Support	No

Comments: • Cetaceans, which include dolphins, whales, and porpoises, are highly intelligent and social animals. • The County of Maui has prohibited the exhibition of captive cetaceans since 2002. • Public opposition to the keeping and display of captive cetaceans has increased in the United States and worldwide. • The dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals and to humans. • Educational content delivered by a captivity facility is often inaccurate and misleading, as animals are performing theatrical "tricks" rather than displaying natural behaviors. • It is unethical to isolate a highly intelligent and social animal from its natural environment.

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**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 1:33 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** jen\_arnold\_dc@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Arnold	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please end dolphin captivity in Hawaii. • Cetaceans, which include dolphins, whales, and porpoises, are highly intelligent and social animals. • The County of Maui has prohibited the exhibition of captive cetaceans since 2002. • Public opposition to the keeping and display of captive cetaceans has increased in the United States and worldwide. • The dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals and to humans. • Educational content delivered by a captivity facility is often inaccurate and misleading, as animals are performing theatrical "tricks" rather than displaying natural behaviors. • It is unethical to isolate a highly intelligent and social animal from its natural environment.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 1:26 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** bob-marion@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marion McHenry	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support these bills!

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 1:26 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** rebeccagroovypeace@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rebecca Canright	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a college student who cares deeply about wildlife health, I strongly support HCR 208, which would cease the breeding and transport of Hawaii's cetaceans in captivity for entertainment purposes. I believe that wild animals like dolphins deserve to live free lives in their natural habitat, and I am thrilled that the legislature has introduced this resolution, and I hope it will pass! The County of Maui has prohibited the exhibition of captive cetaceans since 2002, reflecting that public opposition to the keeping and display of captive cetaceans has increased in the United States and worldwide. The dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals and to humans. So please, once again, I respectfully urge you to support HCR 208. Thank you very much for your time and kind consideration! Sincerely, Rebecca Canright

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Aloha,

My name is Tulia Ferguson, and I oppose HCR-208. HCR-208 is not in the best interest of the dolphins that currently live in human care in Hawaii. Breeding is an important part of life for dolphins. Dolphins in human care live as long if not longer than the counter parts in the wild. Dolphin Quest was also just certified by the American Humane Association. Their care for dolphins is exceptional. Continuing to have facilities with dolphins will help educate the public about their importance in the environment. Continuing to have dolphins in human care will create awareness of human impact on their environment and create passion to protect the ocean and all the animals that depend on it, including humans. HCR-208 is not in the best interest of the conservation on dolphins.

Dolphins in human care allow adults and children a safe place to learn about dolphins and their environment. I personally fell in love with dolphins after seeing them in an oceanarium in California. I then visited a marine mammal rehabilitation center and witnessed how much humans are destroying the environment. I shared this information with my family and friends and we started recycling and being more aware of our impact on the environment. I am now raising my children to respect the environment and seek interactions with the natural environment. My children love dolphins and have learned so much about them through visits to Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park. Now more than ever I feel that places like Dolphin Quest on Oahu and Hawaii are important to continue the education of dolphins and the conservation of the environment. Discontinuing the breeding of dolphins and phasing out places like Dolphin Quest will only hurt the conservation of dolphins in the wild.

Thank you,

Tulia Ferguson

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 1:01 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** suyin@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM\*

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Suyin Phillips	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 12:46 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** tboh18@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ted Bohlen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass this concurrent resolution and end inhumane captivity for dolphins, whales and porpoises in Hawaii. Mahalo.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 12:36 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** taylorrac@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rachel Taylor	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Since we have evolved to recognize other creatures as having higher intelligence, it's time to stop slavery of ALL kinds including that of Dolphins. Please see that now more than ever we need to work to protect nature before we destroy this beautiful planet and all it's inhabitants. Thank you, Rachel Taylor

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 12:30 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** mollybancona@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Molly Ancona	Individual	Support	No

Comments: • Cetaceans, which include dolphins, whales, and porpoises, are highly intelligent and social animals. • The County of Maui has prohibited the exhibition of captive cetaceans since 2002. • Public opposition to the keeping and display of captive cetaceans has increased in the United States and worldwide. • The dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals and to humans. • Educational content delivered by a captivity facility is often inaccurate and misleading, as animals are performing theatrical "tricks" rather than displaying natural behaviors. • It is unethical to isolate a highly intelligent and social animal from its natural environment.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 12:28 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** jencummings000@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Cummings	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please do not support this house resolution (H.R. NO. 208). I have been to Dolphin Quest and have seen first-hand that these animals are loved and well cared for by their caregivers. To phase out dolphins under professional human care and discontinue breeding will rob future generations of the opportunity to see, experience and learn about these animals up close. Having the opportunity to meet these incredible animals up close and personal is much more impactful than reading a book or watching them on television or seeing them on the internet. The connection that the guests experience with these incredible animals inspire them to care about and protect dolphins in the wild as well.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 12:20 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** vincenzajb@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
vincenza j. baldino	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please stop the capture of dolphins for human entertainment.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 12:03 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** gina\_b\_2002@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gina Clark	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hello, Please be humane and end dolphin breeding and captivity in Hawaii. The County of Maui has prohibited the exhibition of captive cetaceans or dolphins since 2002. Sea World in Orlando FL has closed. There is much opposition to the keeping and display of captive cetaceans in the United States and worldwide. The dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals and to humans. It is wrong to punish these animals and make them do un-natural tricks for man's amusement. It also unethical to isolate and an intelligent animal from it's natural environment and surroundings. Please end dolphin captivity now! Sincerely, Gina Clark

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March 20, 2017

House of Representatives  
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature  
Committee on Agriculture

RE: Support of HCR 208 and HR 136

Dear Committee on Agriculture members:

I would like to formally submit my support for HCR 208 and HR 136 based on the following:

- Cetaceans, which include dolphins, whales, and porpoises, are highly intelligent and social animals.
- The County of Maui has prohibited the exhibition of captive cetaceans since 2002.
- Public opposition to the keeping and display of captive cetaceans has increased in the United States and worldwide.
- The dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals and to humans.
- Educational content delivered by a captivity facility is often inaccurate and misleading, as animals are performing theatrical "tricks" rather than displaying natural behaviors.
- It is unethical to isolate a highly intelligent and social animal from its natural environment.

I hope that the Hawaii State Legislature decides to urge Hawaii facilities that hold captive cetaceans for entertainment purposes to discontinue breeding and to phase out captivity.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlotte Lowe". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Charlotte Lowe  
Animal and Hawaii lover  
Sacramento, California

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 11:07 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** sylviacabralmaui@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
sylvia cabral	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Free the cetaceans, dolphins, whales, etc who forced to perform. Elephants have been stopped from performing. You need to catch up with the times. Cruelty to animals.

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**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 3:12 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** mgoralska@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
martyna goralska	Individual	Support	No

Comments: One day, captive dolphins will be viewed with the abhorrence which which we look back on slavery. Pled not let this continue.

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March 21, 2017

House of Representatives

Twenty –Ninth Legislature, 2017

State of Hawaii

RE: Oppose Hawaii House Resolution 136

**LATE**

The Animal Behavior Management Alliance (ABMA) is a member-based professional organization that fully opposes Hawaii House Resolution 136.

The Animal Behavior Management Alliance, (ABMA) is a not-for-profit corporation with a membership comprised of animal care professionals and other individuals interested in enhancing animal care through training and enrichment. The ABMA is intended to be nurturing and informative, and was created to serve trainers, handlers, and keepers of animals, irrespective of species, with information and assistance in the behavior management of their charges.

ABMA's mission is to continually strive to advance intentional and enlightened behavior management to improve the lives and welfare of all animals.

The ABMA fully supports cetacean facilities that are accredited by the Associations of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and or The Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks & Aquariums. Those that are opposed to accredited cetacean facilities are largely misguided by inaccurate, outdated, out of context, and or completely false information. The few scientists that oppose accredited cetacean facilities are most often motivated to advance their own agendas or the agendas of their activist employers. The misleading information commonly forwarded by these groups is not reflective of current practices used by animal care professionals and not supported by the vast majority of the general public. These so-called scientists often cherry pick data that will advance their agendas while ignoring data that may disprove their personal views. The truth is that it is impossible to know what an animal is thinking or what an animal feels. We can, however draw conclusions based on real, factual science. Most of these activist scientists know cetaceans by reading data and observing them from a boat. Professionals at accredited facilities continuously work to ensure that cetaceans under their care lead physically and mentally healthy, well-rounded lives that contribute educationally to the understanding and betterment of their counterparts in the open ocean. These zoological professionals know and

understand these animals in ways that others cannot. The proposed (Hawaii House Resolution 136) fails to mention or lend credence to any proven educational or scientific value in housing captive cetaceans. Concurrently, this proposed resolution would have you believe that all of the stressors that are endemic to a life in the open ocean are somehow non-existent. Professionals working daily to care for cetaceans in accredited facilities and build intimate relationships with these animals witness first-hand the high level of physical and mental care given to these animals. They also witness the impact these animals can have to increase understanding and empathy for wild animals and wild places. The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) recognizes the strong educational role of accredited zoos and aquariums and references a growing body of research that documents how informal learning experiences spark curiosity and engage interest in the sciences during the school years and throughout a lifetime. ABMA urges you to listen to the animal care specialists, trainers, veterinarians and scientists that care for these animals everyday. We also urge you to understand the positive impact that cetaceans in accredited facilities can provide to the education of our youth and the inspiration they provide to tomorrow's conservationists.

Cetaceans under human care/captivity thrive and many live longer than those in the wild. For example, a dolphin born at Marine Land's Dolphin Adventure in Florida in 1953 lived to be 61 (this is more than four times the average life expectancy of wild bottlenose dolphins). The vast majority of cetaceans in captivity have been born in captivity. This is proof that they are thriving under human care. Many other captive cetaceans have been deemed "non-releasable" by the United States Government. The government has recognized accredited facilities as being more than adequate housing for non-releasable animals. Taking care of rescued and non-releasable animals is left in the hands of the experts that know them the best. Part of a well-rounded animal care regime is allowing the animals to be able to have and care for young. The fact that breeding programs are so successful should allude to the fact that the animals are comfortable in these environments as well as point out that the need to collect wild animals has been unnecessary for decades. It is imperative that breeding programs and cetacean facilities remain in place so that non-releasable cetaceans have a permanent home, are cared for by knowledgeable staff, and are housed with conspecifics. The opportunity to breed and raise young is a crucial part maintaining the best animal welfare. In fact, breeding programs are law in many European zoos & aquariums.

The days of "circus style" entertainment have come and gone. Accredited facilities utilize the animal's natural behavioral repertoire to create entertaining, educational,

and inspirational shows. Often times the success of a facility's educational goals is measured by how much natural history and conservation information is given to guests. The real education is connecting with real life animals, learning their story, and leaving wanting to learn more about them and to protect them in the wild. This inspiration and motivation cannot be measured and only can come from interacting with or observing cetaceans at accredited zoological facilities. Observing them in the wild usually only allows you to see an exhale (blow) or a tail fluke. Zoological facilities can realistically accommodate more people than any whale watching tour can. In fact, The Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 strictly prohibits interacting with or harassing wild cetaceans. The MMPA defines harassment as "any act of pursuit, torment or annoyance which has the potential to either. a. injure a marine mammal in the wild or b. disturb a marine mammal by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, which includes, but is not limited to migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding or sheltering." Cetaceans under the care of man, living in accredited facilities that have proven standards of care allow the public an avenue to observe these animals in a way that inspires them to care more about their conspecifics in the open ocean without harassing wild cetaceans. The millions of people attending zoological facilities can make much more of a positive impact for wildlife and wild places than all of the whale watching tours put together. In addition, zoological facilities can realistically accommodate more people than any whale watching operation can. The more people that visit these animals in the wild, the more negative impacts on the habitat and animals themselves will be seen. The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) recognizes the strong educational role of accredited zoos and aquariums and understands that if it were not for these facilities

ABMA urges you to continue to support the current and future public display and breeding of cetaceans in Hawaii. ABMA also approves the use of our logo in online and print publications directly associated with our opposition of HR 136.

Sincerely,

The Animal Behavior Management Alliance

**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 3:23 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM\*

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/21/2017  
Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**LATE**

Representative Richard Creagan, Chair  
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture

Wednesday, March 22, 2017; 9:30 AM  
Hawaii State Capitol; Conference room 312

**RE: HCR 208/HR 136 - Urging Hawaii Facilities that Hold Captive Cetaceans for Entertainment Purposes to Discontinue Breeding and to Phase Out Captivity – IN OPPOSITION**

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and Members of the Committee:

Sea Life Park Hawaii is in opposition to HCR 208/HR 136, which urges Hawaii facilities that hold captive cetaceans for entertainment purposes to discontinue breeding and to phase out captivity.

Sea Life Park Hawaii's mission from its inception as part of the Oceanic Institute is to provide a place to educate and promote conversation and preservation of marine life. Education is extremely important to our organization, and we host roughly 12,000 to 15,000 school groups a year, while also doing in classroom outreach, weeklong programs with various institutions. Furthermore, the Park has an ongoing internship program for college students and graduates seeking credits in marine studies.

While the resolutions imply a growing public opposition to dolphin programs, Sea Life Park Hawaii has had a special fellowship within the local community for over 50 years, and we also inspire audiences from around the globe with our world-class educational programs and immersive experiences. Our swim programs are always popular—but most importantly, they provide guests a deeper appreciation for these magnificent marine mammals.

Sea Life Park Hawaii has an extremely responsible breeding program already in place. To phase out breeding programs altogether would prevent future generations from engaging in the kinds of educational experiences our park provides. Encounters in the wild do not always take the welfare of animals into account. NOAA is looking to restrict tour boats from taking visitors out to see spinner dolphins in the wild, as important daytime sleep patterns may be disrupted.

At Sea Life Park Hawaii our animals are engaged in stimulating activities throughout the day. In fact, the USDA/APHIS is proposing to increase dolphin interactive program time allotments. No one at our facility would ever subject an animal to any activity that would compromise their health and well-being. The Park stands by numerous studies that indicate that animals living in world-class parks such as ours live as long as those in the wild, contrary to claims in the resolutions.

We respectfully request that the Committee hold these resolutions.

Valerie King, General Manager  
Sea Life Park Hawaii

**WHERE THE HEART**  
*Meets the Sea*





**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 6:03 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** vanderso@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM



**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this resolution!

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 6:16 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** madeline.buresh@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**LATE**

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Madeline Buresh	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I work for the Pacific Whale Foundation, and I am in favor of banning marine mammal captivity on all Hawaiian islands and keeping cetaceans in the wild. It would allow them to live their lives in the full range of habitat that their populations inhabit and not be confined to a small space or taught behaviors that are not normally seen in wild populations. It would also mean that people would need to understand more about cetaceans and how they interact with their natural environment and rely on healthy oceans, which could pave the way for future conservation work.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 6:29 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** cathyg@animalrightshawaii.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/21/2017  
Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	Yes

Comments: Committee on Agriculture Rep. Richard Creagen, Chair Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair Hearing: March 22, 2017 9:30 AM CONFERENCE ROOM 312 in re: HCR 208/HR136 Position: Support Animal Rights Hawai'i strongly supports this resolution. We have monitored the cruelty of the marine mammal captivity industry for many years. You will have received documentation of deaths, still births, violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act by local marine mammal prisons . We ask that you support this resolution in order to continue the investigation of the incarceration of animals who have been revered by Native Hawaiians as aumakua and who deserve to be free. Mahalo, Cathy Goeggel President

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2017 12:05 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** michellestefanik@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/22/2017  
 Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle R Stefanik	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HCR208 because I believe it is morally and ethically wrong to keep any Cetacean captive simply for human entertainment. In nearly every case their enclosures are extremely inadequate to their size and normal habitat. Public opinion regarding this is growing in the US and worldwide. Hawaii should not be on the end of this movement but instead should adopt this measure now. Please pass this new measure to end captivity of Cetaceans throughout all of the Hawaiian islands, not just Maui.

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**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 9:48 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** sueclarkhonolulu@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/21/2017  
Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
sue clark	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HCR208. Dolphins and whales are meant to be free, not confined to swimming aimlessly in tanks that offer no stimulation and limited movement. They are feeling creatures and this takes a toll on them emotionally and physically and emotionally. I've stopped encouraging people to visit any of these kinds of facilities, and I myself will never visit one again. Let's speak for those who can't and phase out their captivity. It's not natural and it's so unkind. Thank you, Sue Clark

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2017 8:49 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** ollo1188@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM\*



**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/22/2017

Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kim Murphy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2017 9:29 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** angelicabingel@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/22/2017  
Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Angelica Baird	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Educational and breeding content delivered by a captivity facility is often inaccurate and misleading, as animals are performing theatrical "tricks" rather than displaying natural behaviors. OVERALL, It is unethical to isolate a highly intelligent and social animal from its natural environment.

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**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2017 10:09 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** contact@whales.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR208 on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM

**HCR208**

Submitted on: 3/22/2017  
Testimony for AGR on Mar 22, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Regina Asmutis-Silvia	Whale and Dolphin Conservation	Support	No

Comments: I write in support of HR136/HCR208 on behalf of Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC) and its constituents, many of whom are either residents of, or tourists who visit the state of Hawaii. In captivity, cetaceans suffer from health and welfare problems that make them unsuitable for confinement. Such displays are neither educational nor do they contribute to the conservation of cetaceans in the wild. Public opinion is turning against the keeping of cetaceans in captivity which, for example has resulted in SeaWorld ending its breeding of orcas and orca "entertainment" shows. Virgin Holidays has agreed it "will not sign up any new attractions that features captive whales and dolphins for theatrical shows, contact sessions (such as 'swim-with' programs) or other entertainment purposes" and, instead, will support sanctuaries and whale watching as an alternative to captivity. Countries as far afield as India, Chile and Hungary have enacted legislation against cetacean captivity and companies such as the National Aquarium of Baltimore and Merlin Entertainments are developing sanctuary projects for the cetaceans now in their care. There should be no growth in the number of captive cetacean facilities and captive individuals in Hawaii and efforts should be made by all parties to phase out this practice.

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