

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 05 2018

RE: S.C.R. No. 123
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2018
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.C.R.
No. 123, S.D. 1, entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION TO PROHIBIT INDIVIDUALS FROM
APPROACHING WITHIN FIFTY FEET OF A HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL EXCEPT
WHEN PROVIDING AID TO THE HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to urge the
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to prohibit
individuals from approaching within fifty feet of a Hawaiian monk
seal except when providing aid to the Hawaiian monk seal.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from Keiko Conservation, O'ahu County Committee on Legislative
Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and four
individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure
from the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

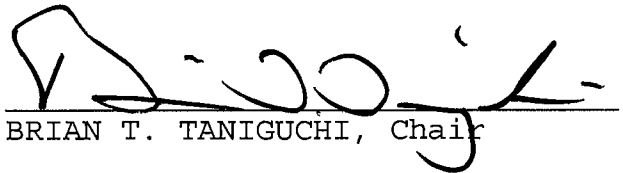
Your Committee finds that the Hawaiian monk seal is one of
the world's most critically endangered species of marine mammal.
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has reported
that a number of habituated seals have become a serious safety
risk to humans, or have suffered injuries as a result of human
infringement and interaction. Your Committee further finds that
Hawaiian monk seals are protected by the Endangered Species Act,



which makes it illegal under federal law to harass the seals. To provide protection for Hawaiian monk seals from human interaction, this measure urges the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to prohibit individuals from approaching within fifty feet of a Hawaiian monk seal unless the individual is a licensed professional who is qualified to provide aid to the seal.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 123, S.D. 1, and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary,



BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, Chair



