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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LATE

SUZANNE D. CASE
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LAND
STATE PARKS

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Tuesday, March 20, 2018
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 45/HOUSE RESOLUTION 33
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
PROHIBIT INDIVIDUALS FROM APPROACHING WITHIN FIFTY FEET OF A
HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL EXCEPT WHEN PROVIDING AID TO THE HAWAIIAN
MONK SEAL**

House Concurrent Resolution 45/House Resolution 33 urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to prohibit individuals from approaching within fifty feet of a Hawaiian monk seal except when providing aid to the Hawaiian monk seal. **The Department appreciates the intent of these measures and offers the following comments.**

The Department recognizes the importance of Hawaiian monk seal protection and to that effect already works closely under a Joint Enforcement Agreement with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to enforce federal laws that prohibit the harassment of monk seals and federal marine wildlife viewing guidelines that recommend remaining at least 50 yards away.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.

HCR-45

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 8:51:29 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

HCR-45

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 8:12:34 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shyla Moon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Obviously this would prevent fishing around monk seals. I strongly disagree with what this bill wants to do.

I'd also like to know who introduced this.

HCR-45

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 10:56:20 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
naomi egami	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HCR-45

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 12:18:15 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Gray	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

There are so few Monk seals left. . WE MUST GIVE THEM BETTER ODDS!!

HCR-45

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 3:05:23 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jaunette Itsuno	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HCR-45

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 4:23:06 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
M. Markl	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello Chair(s) And Committee Members:

Please support HCR 45/HR 33 now and towards passage for the distance to protect these creatures. Thank you.

HCR-45

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 9:05:25 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
valentina mcfarland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaiian Monk seals are not domesticated animals. They should be left to be wild with respect. If a human got too close to a HMS and was attacked by the seal the seal would be found at fault. This would be wrong because the human was in the seals space. I have seen too many incidents that people have no regards for these beautiful and endangered seals. Most of these people were asked nicely to step back but felt they did not have to listen. There should be stronger laws and penalties for these people who do not respect the law and the Hawaiian Monk Seals.

HCR-45

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 8:36:39 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary James	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HCR-45

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 9:53:53 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Human contact can alter monk seal behavior, particularly in terms of breeding.

HCR-45

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 3:34:16 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erica Scott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HCR-45

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 4:30:21 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alannah B Farrell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am testifying in support of HCR 45 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO PROHIBIT INDIVIDUALS FROM APPROACHING WITHIN FIFTY FEET OF A HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL EXCEPT WHEN PROVIDING AID TO THE HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL. I am in support of this bill due to the number of incidents I have become aware of where a monk seal was bothered, disturbed, or even maliciously injured or killed, by humans. This is a beautiful, wild, endangered mammal that deserves to be respected and preserved. I lived in the Islands for 35 years and witnessed the monk seal population dwindling. Now that it is coming back, thanks to the determined efforts of NOAA and HMAR and concerned individuals, we must do all we can to keep this special Hawaiian species safe and healthy. The public, whether local residents or visitors, is not always cooperative or understanding about what is right and safe for the monk seals. I believe this bill will make a difference and serve as a deterrent to dangerous and distressing human interference with the endangered Hawaiian monk seals. Please pass this bill to help keep our monk seals safe!

Aloha and Mahalo for your support.

Alannah B. Farrell

LATE

HCR-45

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 5:06:19 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cinde Fisher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

I support HCR45 and I want you all to know that, as part of an online group supporting our Hawaiian Monk Seals, we see many photos of people and/or dogs approaching close to our seals, even when warned not to do so. Those photos are taken by members of our group and those violations greatly upset us. In addition to having HCR45 passed, there should be *meaningful* CONSEQUENCES for those who violate.

Mahalo,

Cinde Fisher, PO Box 61509, Honolulu, HI 96839, 808-381-5545