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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**

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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.

HR-33

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 8:52:57 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:

LATE

HR-33

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 3:54:02 PM
Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julia Edwards	Flipper Hug Group	Support	No

Comments:

I believe it is crucial to the survival of the Hawaiian Monk Seals that this measure is passed and enforced by the State of Hawai'i. As the founder and administrator of the Facebook group Flipper Hug Group, where we have close to 300 members actively participating and concerned with not only the state of Hawaiian Monk Seals but all of the Ocean Ohana, we have seen time and again many people harass and disturb Monk Seals. Considering Hawaiian Monk Seals are endemic only to Hawai'i, this makes them America's Seal. Please consider this when deciding on the measure tomorrow.

HR-33

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 8:11:31 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.

HR-33

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 3:06:26 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:

HR-33

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 2:15:39 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
S. Lyn McNutt	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. We are training a very large apex predator to believe that they "own" the beach and the waters and the fish, even those which you have caught. For tourists it could be the fish they keep insisting on feeding in places like Poipu Beach on Kauai (why there are so many seals there). This is setting up a situation where a seal will believe that the catch you have, or the fish you are feeding are rightfully theirs for the taking. We are training them to believe this. We are TRAINING these animals and the end result will be conflict. They have bigger teeth than we do. We need to learn to coexist, not become food and beach adversaries. Oppose this bill.

HR-33

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 4:24:34 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 Committee Chair(s) And Committee Members:

Please support this bill towards passage now for the distance to protect them.

HR-33

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 2:26:09 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HR-33

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 3:07:45 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Belknap	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please : PROHIBIT INDIVIDUALS FROM APPROACHING WITHIN FIFTY FEET OF A HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL EXCEPT WHEN PROVIDING AID TO THE HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL. I have seen first hand, too many times, people thinking harassment of wildlife is fun for a laugh and a selfie. If people will not respect the seals (and Honu !!) then the law must protect them. When individuals like me try to intervene, sometimes we get lucky and the offender stops. But too many times, the offenders become threatening and verbally abusive. Our seals have come back from a big decline, let's let them flourish. Mahalo for reading this and voting accordingly.