

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

**FEBRUARY 1, 2018
2:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 016**

**SENATE BILL NO. 3055
RELATING TO CETACEANS**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 3055 relating to cetaceans. This bill will, among other things, prohibits the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) from issuing permits for the interstate, intrastate, and inter-facility transfer of captive cetaceans solely for breeding of entertainment purposes. The Department has concerns with this measure as written.

Section 1 of this bill identifies animal welfare of cetaceans as a justification for the measure. HDOA does not regulate animal welfare. The United States Department of Agriculture – Animal Care enforces the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), which sets federal standards for the care and treatment of captive cetaceans. As such, all cetaceans under permit by HDOA are possessed by organizations that have Animal Welfare Licenses, as required by the United States Department of Agriculture – Animal Care, showing compliance to the AWA. Should a permittee lose their Animal Welfare License, it may result in the revocation of their permit to possess the cetacean.

Section 2 of the bill prohibits the issuance of permits for interstate, intrastate and inter-facility transfer of captive cetaceans solely for breeding or entertainment purposes, but excludes scientific and educational purposes. This requirement is ambiguous as



there are no facilities in the State that solely do any of the four purposes stated in this bill. Also, the determination of what is solely a breeding or entertainment versus education and research needs additional clarification. Also, should this bill pass, the existing captive cetaceans could not be exported from the State, especially from the neighbor islands. As stated, the HDOA only regulates importation, possession and intra-state movement of non-domestic animals, including cetaceans. As written this bill would prohibit interstate movement, including export, which is not within the HDOA's authority. Also, the prohibition of permits for intra-state movement would essentially doom any cetaceans that are currently in captivity, especially those on the outer island as they only way to be properly exported would be via Honolulu. Should a facility that currently houses the animals shut down or the permittee find a better home for the cetacean, it would be illegal to move it and essentially be a death sentence for the animal. This bill would also preclude any capable facility from importing, possessing and/or rehabilitating injured cetaceans from areas just outside of Hawaii, such as Midway, and would require transport to the US mainland, prolonging in-transit times and increasing likelihood of mortality.

This bill would create conflicting requirements in the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) as well as insert unnecessary statutory restrictions. HRS 150A-6.2 already defines the regulatory framework for the importation and possession of non-domestic animals, including cetaceans through Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) chapter 4-71 and associated lists. Of the existing lists in the HAR, only three species of cetaceans are currently allowed into Hawaii, they are the Pacific Pilot Whale, *Globicephala macrorhynchus scammoni*, the False Killer Whale, *Pseudorca crassidens*, and the Bottlenose Dolphin, *Tursiops truncata*. These cetaceans are on the List of Restricted Animals Part B and pursuant to HAR 4-71-6.5(a), and are allowed for commercial use, pursuant to permit conditions established by the Board of Agriculture (Board). Pursuant to HRS 150A-6.2(c), animals that are unlisted are prohibited until the Board's review and list placement. Therefore, all cetaceans, excluding the three species listed above are currently already prohibited from interstate, intrastate, or inter-facility movement. Additionally, the HAR already has the regulatory framework to appropriately accommodate the proposed exceptions listed in this bill. By placing the three species

that are currently listed on the List of Restricted Animals, Part B, to the List of Restricted Animals, Part A, the only allowable purposes would be research by universities or government agencies, or exhibition in municipal zoos or aquariums.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waiālae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
808.356.2200 • HawaiianHumane.org

Date: Jan. 31, 2018

To: Chair Sen. Mike Gabbard
Vice Chair Sen. Gil Riviere
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Public Policy Advocate
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in support of SB 3055: Relating to Cetaceans
Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018, 2:30 p.m., Capitol conference room 016

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support of SB 3055, which prohibits the state Department of Agriculture from issuing permits for the transfer of captive cetaceans solely for breeding or entertainment purposes.

Wild or undomesticated animals have well-established psychological, behavioral and environmental needs. For these reasons, the Society believes that wild animals should not be used purely for entertainment. Further, we believe action should be taken to prevent the breeding of a species whose placement in a humane environment is not guaranteed.

SB 3055 exempts facilities that use cetaceans solely for scientific and educational purposes. The Hawaiian Humane Society believes aquariums and similar facilities should exist for conservation, preservation and propagation of endangered species and for public education, not solely as entertainment.

Please support this bill prohibiting the transfer of captive cetaceans solely for entertainment or breeding purposes.

Mahalo for your consideration and let me know if I can be of assistance.



Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Thursday, February 1, 2018; 2:30 PM
Hawaii State Capitol; Conference room 016

RE: SB 3055 - RELATING TO CETACEANS - IN OPPOSITION

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere and Members of the Committee:

Sea Life Park is in strong opposition to SB 3055, which prohibits the department of agriculture from issuing permits for the interstate, intrastate and inter-facility transfer of captive cetaceans solely for breeding or entertainment purposes; exempts facilities that use cetaceans solely for scientific and educational purposes.

For over 50 years, Sea Life Park has been committed to the research, protection and preservation of marine species, and to educating visitors on the importance of ocean conservation and sustainability. Through the Park, thousands of people each year – including local school children and students nationwide – learn to respect and cherish our ocean animals through their encounters at the park.

Contrary to what is stated in the bill, animals at Sea Life Park experience increased survivorship through improved medical care, husbandry and early veterinary intervention. Wild animals are highly parasitized which can create a myriad of medical problems. Sea Life Park provides adequate nutrition and a safe environment (free of entanglement in nets, boat collisions, competition for food sources) which leads to an increase in longevity.

One of our requirements under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and USDA is to create an optimal living environment for our animals. Animals housed in dysfunctional groups would have outward signs such as bite injuries and internal signs such as elevated blood parameters, consistent with stress. Further, animals in dysfunctional social structures do not reproduce, perform shows, or conduct interactive programs. Sea Life Park's animals receive the highest quality care including round-the-clock on-site veterinary treatments, individualized dietary needs, and enrichment from the animal training staff.

Sea Life Park is both a family attraction and a refuge and habitat. A portion of all purchases made at the Park go directly to marine animal conservation efforts including the Park's Seabird Rehabilitation Facility, honu breed and release programs and marine mammal research.

Restricting the Department of Agriculture's ability to issue permits to transfer cetaceans to a long-standing institution such as Sea Life Park will deprive future generations from participating in the educational experiences the Park provides and the academic community from exploring the challenges confronting our marine ecosystems.

For these reasons, we ask that the committee hold this measure.

Valerie King, General Manager
Sea Life Park Hawaii

WHERE THE HEART
Meets the Sea





30 January 2018

To: The Hawaii State Legislature

Re: Dolphin Quest Support

Dear Hawaii State Legislators,

Please **do not support** HB 3055! As I have read it, this bill includes incorrect information that is not supported scientifically.

I am writing with concern over the proposed bill (HB 3055) that will severely limit or prohibit any transfer of cetaceans between facilities within Hawaii or between states. Animals at Dolphin Quest on Hawaii and Oahu receive exceptional care, led by world-renowned veterinarians who collaborate with scientists from around the world to share knowledge. Dolphin Quest provides an enriching, educational environment for the dolphins, safe from the ever-increasing hazards (e.g., pollution, plastics, ghost nets) of the ocean. The “wild” does not offer an idyllic paradise free of danger.

I have 27+ years experience studying behavior, acoustics, and communication of several delphinid species both in the wild and in captivity. I collect my data from the underwater perspective with support during the entirety of my career from eco-tourists. I have spent nearly three decades studying wild Atlantic spotted dolphins (Bahamas) and Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins (Japan), and more than 16 years in systematic comparative studies of three groups of captive bottlenose dolphins (Roatan Institute for Marine Sciences, Honduras; Dolphin Encounters at Blue Lagoon Island, Bahamas; Zoo Duisburg, Germany). I have also had the privilege to observe the dolphins at Dolphin Quest for an extended period of time. Although some claim that research in zoological parks is not relevant to wild populations, I find significantly more similarities in behaviors and vocal cues between individuals in all groups than I do differences. This assertion includes my observations of the dolphins at Dolphin Quest in Hawaii (both islands).

As a brief introduction, the Dolphin Communication Project (DCP) is the **only** organization to conduct direct comparative behavioral studies on both captive and wild dolphins – collecting our data via a focal follow, all occurrence sampling protocol in **exactly** the same manner at all of our field sites and then analyzing the data from all field sites also in **exactly** the same manner. We find no statistically significant differences between how dolphins exchange information – their signals as behaviors, postures, gestures or vocal cues, etc. – whether the dolphins are wild or captive (natural lagoon or man-made pool). We have several papers published – see list below.

Specifically, my colleagues and I have examined whether individual dolphins from three wild and two captive groups exchange pectoral fin contact in the same or different ways. Our results suggest that the messages dolphins share with each other via their pectoral fins (e.g., greetings via flipper to flipper touch, appeasement via flipper to body rubs, etc.) are conserved across dolphin species and study sites. The signals used and messages sent

are roughly the same whether dolphins are wild or captive (natural lagoon or man-made pool), tropical or temperate in habitat.

Indeed, we are much closer to understanding dolphin cognitive comprehension (i.e., intelligence) precisely because of research with captive dolphins; Dr. Louis Herman and his colleagues at the Kewalo Basin Marine Mammal Laboratory in Hawaii spent several decades enlightening the scientific and public communities to the fact that dolphins can comprehend the components of language (syntax, semantics), that they have body awareness, can understand abstract labels, gestural pointing and human gaze directions. Similarly, the professional teams at Dolphin Quest are at the forefront of best practices in animal care, ocean research, and direct action programs. Dolphin Quest is considered one of the top facilities in the world contributing to global knowledge on dolphin and ocean conservation and science. Dolphin Quest contributed more than \$3.5 million dollars in financial and in-the-field support of marine mammal studies that increases our collective knowledge of these animals providing an improved understanding of dolphin health, behavior, cognition and welfare, as well as how to protect them in the wild.

Conservation is a key issue in protecting our planet – both terrestrial and aquatic habitats and species. Presenting charismatic megafauna (e.g., dolphins) allows a facility to capture the attention of millions of people who will never visit the oceans. Facilities like Dolphin Quest allow people to connect to the animals and systems that drive our ocean planet. It is precisely because of these programs that many folks will become passionate about the oceans and protecting them. To prohibit their ability to move dolphins between facilities for reasons related to avoidance of inbreeding and social structure management will effectively rob future generations of the chance to observe, be inspired and educated by dolphins at Hawaii's zoological institutions.

Our understanding of dolphin physiology, behavior, and biology has increased dramatically, even exponentially, since the first marine park opened more than 70 years ago. This increased knowledge led to technological innovations that allowed facilities to greatly improve their husbandry practices as well as their enrichment, research, and educational programs. In fact, I believe that our understanding of dolphins would be a mere shadow of our current knowledge and collective expertise if we'd not been able to observe, study, care for, and maintain dolphins in captivity. We would know next to nothing of their physiology nor have any real insight into their mind or cognitive abilities. All of these arguments are relevant for other delphinids. Without a keen understanding of a species at both the group and individual levels, how could we even make informed decisions about conservation or management issues that would also benefit wild populations?

Conversely, there is no peer-reviewed scientific evidence to support the claims in this resolution (HB 3055) that the animals in accredited, U.S. Government regulated facilities like Dolphin Quest are anything but healthy and thriving. Many of these claims are standard message points from animal extremist organizations that seek to break the animal-human bond and close all zoos and aquariums.

Our oceans are in peril. The number of people in cities greatly exceeds those in rural regions. These urbanites rarely get to interact with wild animals on land, much less visit the coastline or oceans. In fact, many residents of cities will only ever experience dolphins as a result of school trips or because of ready access to an aquarium. It would be the rare few who might ever see a wild dolphin or whale. Indeed, we have residents of cities join our eco-tours but we can accommodate 8-10 people per week program – and only are able to run a few programs each year to assist with our data collection field work! Yet, to protect these animals, the majority of the voices will come from cities and these people need a way to connect with these animals. They need an up-close and personal way to connect with our natural world and our oceans. Facilities like Dolphin Quest offer the personal connection to foster

Dolphin Communication Project
P.O. Box 7485, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34985
www.dolphincommunicationproject.org

the next general of environmental stewards. Learning gained from working closely with cetaceans is used to help rescue, rehabilitate and release marine mammals.

There are multiple layers involved in understanding another species; research results fuel and encourage a greater connection for humans as environmental stewards. All of the captive animals I have studied, including the dolphins at Dolphin Quest, are healthy, happy and enriched. The fact that captive and wild dolphin behaviors that I have studied are often statistically indistinguishable from each other supports my view. The benefits we gain from having these animals in human care, in captivity, are not just for research but also for conservation and education efforts.

Please, please **do not support** this proposed bill (HB 3055).

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me with questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Kathleen M. Dudzinski, Ph.D.
Director, Dolphin Communication Project

Available PDF Files:

List of Scientific Publications – captive versus wild dolphin comparisons

- Dudzinski, KM, Ribic, CA (2017). Pectoral fin contact as a mechanism for social bonding among dolphins. *Animal Behavior & Cognition* 4(1): 31-49.
- Harvey, BS, Dudzinski, KM, Kuczaj, SA (2017). The Nature of Social Relationships in Bottlenose Dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*): Associations and the Role of Affiliative, Agonistic, and Socio-sexual Behaviors. *Behavioural Processes* 135: 145-156.
- Levengood, AL, Dudzinski, KM. (2015). Is blood thicker than water? The role of kin and non-kin in non-mother-calf associations of captive bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*). *Behavioural Processes* 124: 52-59.
- Dudzinski, KM, Danaher-Garcia, N, Gregg, JD. 2013. Pectoral fin contact between dolphin dyads at Zoo Duisburg, with comparison to other dolphin study populations. Submitted to *Aquatic Mammals*. 39(4): 335-343
- Dudzinski, KM, Gregg, JD, Melillo-Sweeting, K, Levengood, A, Seay, B., Kuczaj II, SA. 2012. Tactile contact exchanges between dolphins: self-rubbing versus inter-individual contact in three species from three geographies. *International Journal of Comparative Psychology – Special Symposium Issue* 25: 21-43
- Greene, W, Melillo-Sweeting, K, Dudzinski, KM. 2011. Comparing object play in captive and wild dolphins. *International Journal of Comparative Psychology* 24(3), 292-306
- Dudzinski, KM. 2010. Overlap between information gained from complimentary and comparative studies of captive and wild dolphin communication. *International Journal of Comparative Psychology* 23(4): 566-586.
- Dudzinski, KM, Gregg, JD, Paulos, RD, Kuczaj, SA. 2010. A comparison of pectoral fin contact behaviour for three distinct dolphin populations. *Behavioural Processes* 84: 559-567.
- Dudzinski, KM, Gregg, JD, Ribic, CA, Kuczaj, SA. 2009. Flipper's flipper – a comparison of how, where and why spotted and bottlenose dolphins use their pectoral fins to touch peers. *Behavioural Processes* 80: 182-190.

PDFs available on request, and some are available for free download from the publications page on the DCP web site at: <http://dolphincommunicationproject.org/publications/scientific-publications.html>

Senators, I am a voter and educator who opposes this Bill.

My name is Christina Leos and I have a BS in Marine Biology from the University of Hawaii. I have worked many years for the Waikiki Aquarium in the Education Department and Sea Life Park as the leader of the Education Department.

One example of the many educational programs Sea Life Park offers is a camp program. This program that I have been instrumental in developing is through our partnership with the company Kama'aina Kids. The program takes kids ages Kindergarten through 6th grade and includes a mixture of classroom time and field time. This program teaches on the subjects and curricula including Cetaceans, Pinnipeds, Coral, etc. I have witnessed the impacts these programs have when during the culminating event, the dolphin interaction, they are able to see what they've learned throughout the week right in front of them. We teach them about dolphin communication through the blow hole, but then they watch those mechanisms happen. We teach them about echolocation but then we witness and make the connections on how that works. We teach them about foraging and how they hunt for food but then they watch how they eat fish. We teach them about blubber and what it's used for but then, in a controlled setting, they feel it for themselves. We teach them about the five senses these animals (mammals) possess but show them where each is utilized. I've witnessed first-hand, countless experiences where true magic and inspiration unfolds. I have had countless parents, tell me personally, about how their kid from our camp program has not stopped talking about their day from when they are picked up at 3PM in the car, through dinner, and then before bed. I have been told too many times by parents, that have had their kids yell in the car "pull over the car; we have to clean the beach!" We transform these young minds into mini marine biologists. We turn them into ocean savers. We believe that when you see and watch and interact safely with anything from a large dolphin to a small sea urchin, that you make an undeniable connection-this thing is alive and must be protected. I must make the choice to clean up my trash, use reusable products and so on and so forth. Daily, we are honored to make wishes come true in part through our partnerships with Make-A-Wish Foundation Hawaii, Sunshine Kids, the Sea Life Park Kapiolani Medical Center Dolphin Encounter-a monthly program for children being treated for a variety of illnesses which include encounters that expand on the hospital's animal therapy program through specialized visits with marine animals, etc.

The wording of the bill attempts to make a distinction between a facility supporting marine research and education, and one where the public can experience family events and entertainment. In fact, it is often difficult to have one without the other. Dr. Paul Nachtigall, one of the most influential leaders, if not the leading scientist in marine mammal behavior and acoustics, one of the most frequently seen names of peer-reviewed cetacean acoustic papers states talks about the challenges of this. The wording of the bill points to the inherent value in education and research which is what Sea Life Park is foundational built upon. This bill is posing a risk to the very animals they are trying to protect. When was the last time you visited the park, and even participated in a program? Have you witnessed what our foundation is built upon? I urge you to ask those that have.

The public is allowed to view and learn up close these precious animals instead of trying to abuse them in their natural environment. Please DO NOT pass this bill. It will only lead to more destruction of our natural wildlife environment.

In only 24 hours, we've gathered over 1K signatures of those opposing this bill specifically. You can only imagine if the public had a week, a month or more to weigh in.

Members of the committee, I strongly urge you to defer SB3055.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Leos
Marine Life Educator
1/31/18
(808) 518-0799

From: [Christina Leos](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#); [Sen. Russell Ruderman](#); [Sen. Clarence Nishihara](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Gil Riviere](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#)
Subject: I OPPOSE SB3305
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 1:03:45 PM
Attachments: [1MAWH.pdf](#)

I OPPOSE SB3305 please see attached.

Swimming With Dolphins



Swimming With Dolphins

I was extremely excited for this. When we got there I had my doubts. It was a little scary at first. Soon I lost all fear because the animals were just astonishing. They did tricks and listened to the trainers with the most urgency. They gave me two rides, and a kiss. The rides were definitely the best part. There was something magical about being pulled by another living animal. I am glad I kissed them even tho it tasted like rubber fish. By the end I built a bond and love for the dolphins. I loved this experience.

MAKE-A-WISH.
Hawaii

SeaLife Park
HAWAII™
WHERE THE HEART
Meets the Sea

From: [Christina Leos](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#); [Sen. Russell Ruderman](#); [Sen. Clarence Nishihara](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Gil Riviere](#); [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#)
Subject: I OPPOSE SB 3055
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 5:49:24 PM
Attachments: [Cetaceans of Hawaii.pdf](#)
[Camp Week 1 Whales & Dolphins.pdf](#)
[Jeopardy week1.ppt](#)

Senators, please see a PowerPoint attached that is one of many utilized by Sea Life Park's education department weekly regarding cetaceans. This PowerPoint is one part of the curriculum used to teach students as young as kindergarten. We are able to bring this down to their level, keep their attention and make it fun! They learn first-hand about these incredible animals all around us and what they can do to protect them. I urge you to go through it and see how in depth the education we provide is. During one of our programs, Camp Sea Life Park (actual schedule attached), they also participate in activities that are hands on (like our Crisco-blubber activity and marine mammal stranding activity) then are quizzed for knowledge retention through a game of Jeopardy (also attached). It's incredible to see how passionate they become. This is just one example.

Mahalo,

Christina Leos

Sea Life Park Hawaii

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🌿 E malama `aina ma mua o kau pa`i `ana i keia leka uila.

Care for the land before you print this electronic message.

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Kama`aina Kids Sea Life Park Summer Camp

On Site Program Leader: # 286-4015

Aftercare and Kids choice activities will include one or more of the following: music and dance, songs and cheers, arts and crafts or sports and organized outdoor games.

***We will be dividing the children up into groups based on their grade level for activities such as animal interactions. All children will experience equally.**

PACKING LIST: water bottle, change of clothes, swim suit, towel, slippers, reef walkers/water shoes/old tennis shoes (this will be helpful Tues, Thurs when we do beach activities).

Week 1: Whales & Dolphins

MONDAY 6/2	TUESDAY 6/3	WEDNESDAY 6/4	THURSDAY 6/5	FRIDAY 6/6
6:00 – 8:45 kid's choice, morning snack, meet and greet the day	6:00 – 8:45 kid's choice, morning snack, meet and greet the day	6:00 – 8:45 kid's choice, morning snack, meet and greet the day	6:00 – 8:45 kid's choice, morning snack, meet and greet the day	6:00 – 8:45 kid's choice, morning snack, meet and greet the day
9:10 & 9:50 Stingray Encounter Junior Scientist Class (10 each session) dolphins group-water sharks group-water	9:10 & 9:50 Stingray Encounter Junior Scientist Class (10 each session) turtles group-water sea stars group-water	9:10 & 9:50 Stingray Encounter (10 each session) dolphins group sharks group	9:00 & 9:40 Stingray Encounter (10 each session) turtles Group sea stars group	9:00-9:15 Camp Slideshow! 9:30-10:00 Dolphin Interaction @ Aloha Pool
10:40 – 11:30 Welcome! 11:30-12:00 Park tour	10:30 – 11:40 Marine Debris & Beach Cleanup	10:15 – 11:00 Marine Mammal Stranding Activity 11:15 Kolohe Kai Sea Lion Show	10:30-11:00 An Overview of the Tide Pools 11:00-12:00 Tide Pool Exploration	10:15 – 11:00 Fin Craft 11:15 Kolohe Kai Sea Lion Show
12:15 – 12:45 Lunch at Lagoon 12:30-1:00 Lagoon Show	11:45 – 12:30 Lunch at HOT 12:15-12:25 Penguin Trainer Talk	11:40 – 12:15 Lunch at HOT 12:00 – 12:25 Meet a Trainer/ Dolphin Trainer Talk	12:15 – 12:45 Lunch at Lagoon 12:30-1:00 Lagoon Show	11:45-12:15 Lunch at HOT
1:00-1:10 Dolphin Feeding-dolphin & sharks group 1:15-2:00 Intro to Cetaceans	1:00-1:10 Dolphin Feeding-sea stars & turtle group	12:45– 1:30 Wild Whales	1:15-1:45 Animal Training basics & game	12:30-1:30 Sea Life Park Jeopardy
2:00-2:30 Craft	1:15-1:35 Turtle Feed/Meet the Honu	1:30-2:00 Life size whale drawing	1:45 – 2:00 Hawaii Ocean Theater Show	1:30-2:00 Outside Games
2:50- 3:05 Kolohe Kai Sea Lion Show	1:45 – 2:00 Hawaii Ocean Theater Show	K Kids Programming 2:00-4:45	K Kids Programming 2:00-4:45	K Kids Programming 2:00-4:45
K Kids Programming 3:00-4:45	K Kids Programming 2:00-4:45	K Kids Programming 2:00-4:45	K Kids Programming 2:00-4:45	K Kids Programming 2:00-4:45
4:45 – 6:00 Aftercare activities	4:45 – 6:00 Aftercare activities	4:45 – 6:00 Aftercare activities	4:45 – 6:00 Aftercare activities	4:45 – 6:00 Aftercare activities



CETACEANS
OF
HAWAI'I

What are Cetaceans?

Mammals!

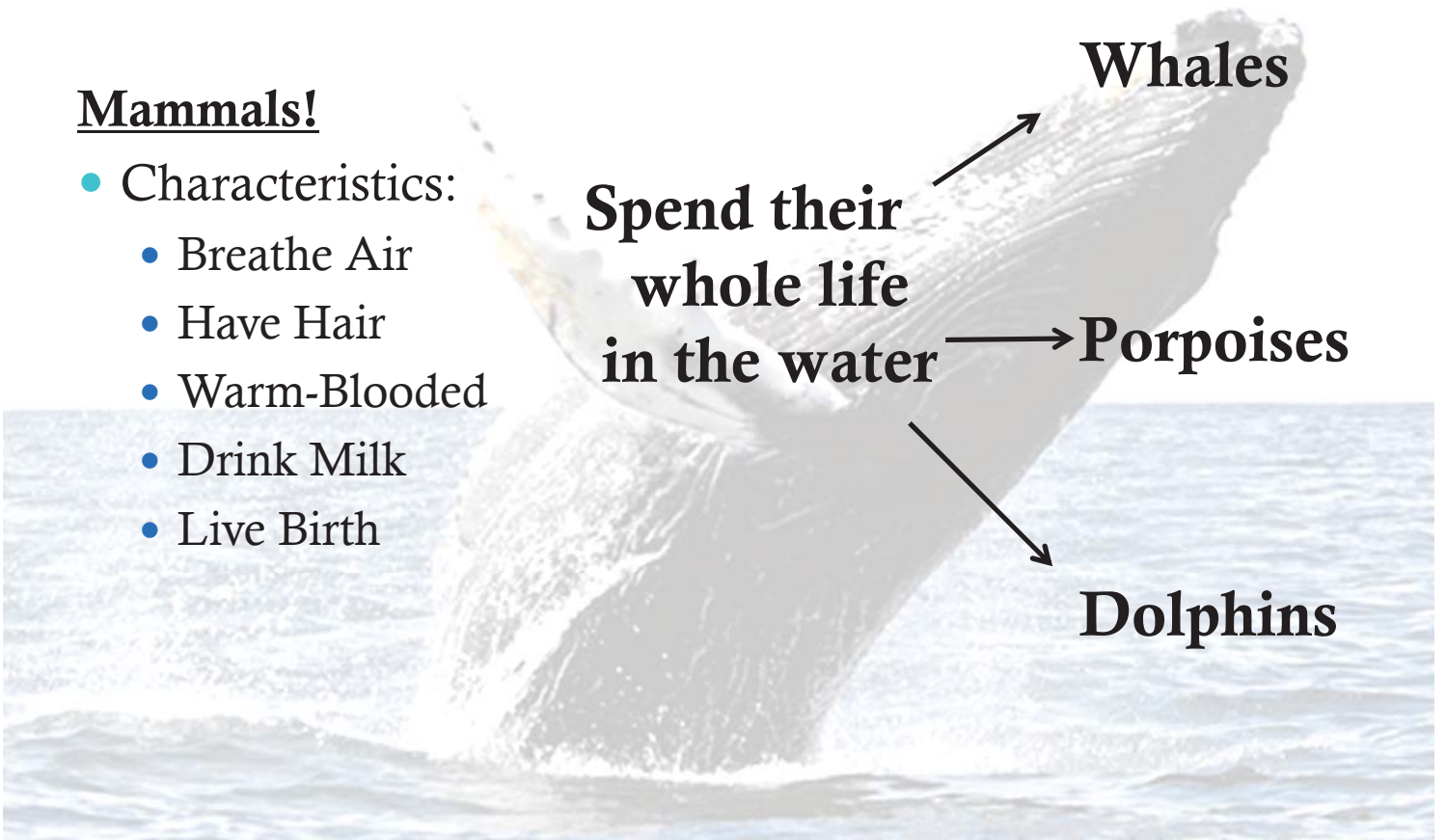
- Characteristics:
 - Breathe Air
 - Have Hair
 - Warm-Blooded
 - Drink Milk
 - Live Birth

**Spend their
whole life
in the water**

Whales

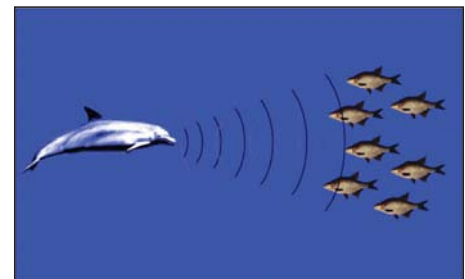
Porpoises

Dolphins

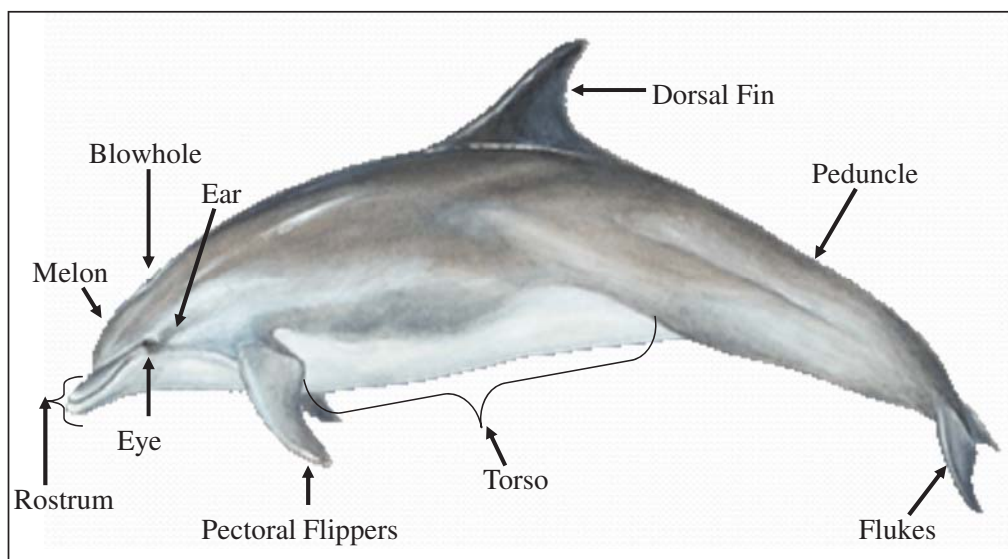
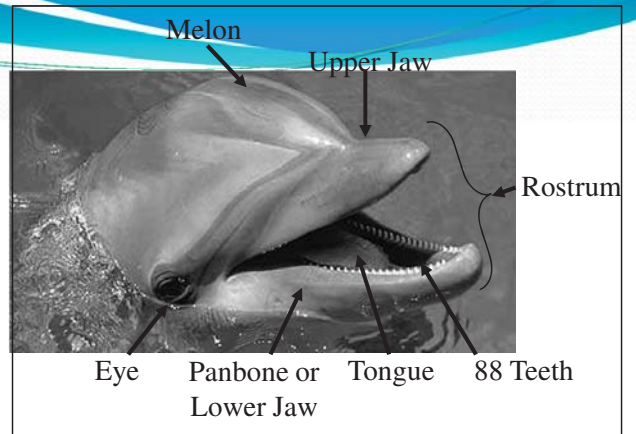


Adaptations for Survival

- Countershading
- Hydrodynamic body design
- Peduncle & fluke strength
- Temperature Regulation
- Sensory systems
- Echolocation



Cetacean Anatomy



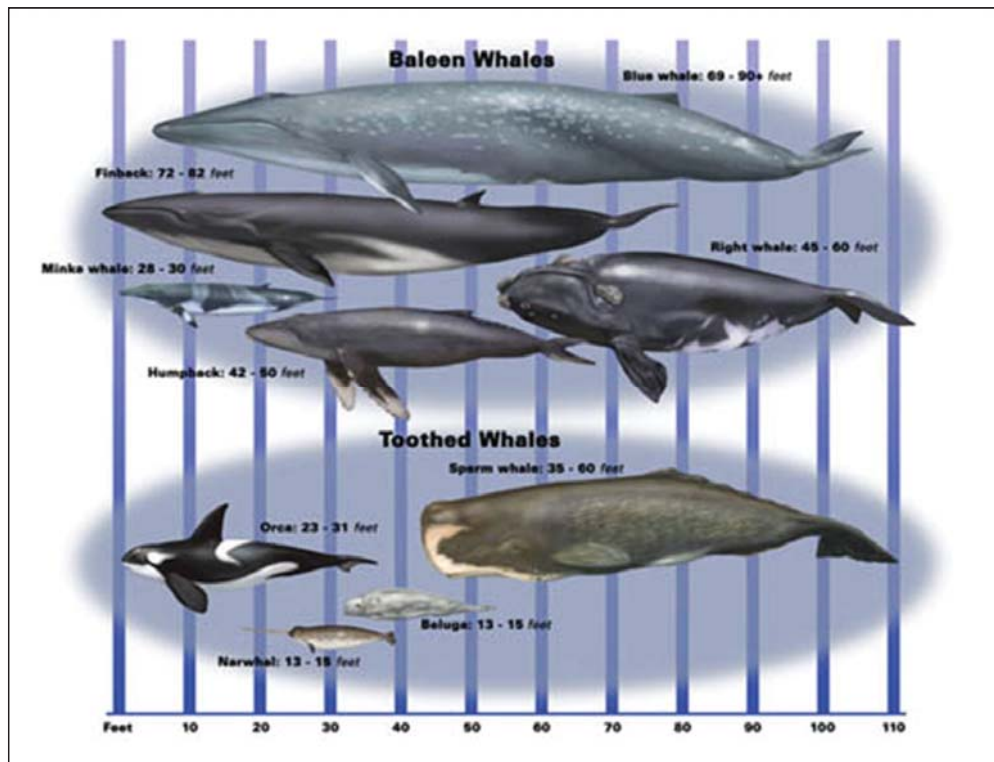
Two Different Kinds of Cetaceans

Toothed whales use cone or spade shaped teeth to catch prey which is then swallowed whole.



Baleen whales use thick hair like structures called baleen to filter animals from the water.

Size



Toothed whales, other than the sperm whale, tend to be much smaller than baleen whales.

Most Common Cetaceans in Hawaii



- Spinner Dolphin** - *Stenella longirostris*
- False Killer Whale** - *Pseudorca crassidens*
- Humpback Whale** - *Megaptera novaeangliae*



Taxonomy

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Mammalia

Order: Cetacea

Family: Delphinidae

Genus: *Stenella*

Species: *longirostris*



Species Description

- Relatively small (6-7 feet and 130-170lbs)
- Long, slender snouts or beaks
- Color variation depending on the region

Habitat

- The Hawaii population= coastal distribution.
- Daytime- rest in bays
- Night time- Fuse into larger groups and feed on fish and squid in deeper water

Taxonomy

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Mammalia

Order: Cetacea

Family: Delphinidae

Genus: *Pseudorca*

Species: *Crassidens*

Species Description

- Dark coloration except for some lighter patches
- 1,500 pounds
- 15 and 20 feet long



FALSE KILLER WHALE

Habitat

Prefer tropical to temperate waters that are deeper than 3,300 feet (1000 m)

HUMPBACK WHALE

Taxonomy

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Mammalia

Order: Cetacea

Family: Balaenopteridae

Genus: *Megaptera*

Species: *Novaeangliae*

Species Description

- Baleen whale
- Dark grey with some areas of white
- 50,000 and 100,000 pounds
- 45 and 60 feet

Habitat

- During migration, stay near the surface of the ocean
- While feeding and calving, prefer shallow waters
- During calving, found in the warmest waters available at that latitude (offshore reef systems, islands, or continental shores)= Hawaiian Island chain
- Feeding grounds are in cold, productive coastal waters (Alaska)



Did you know...

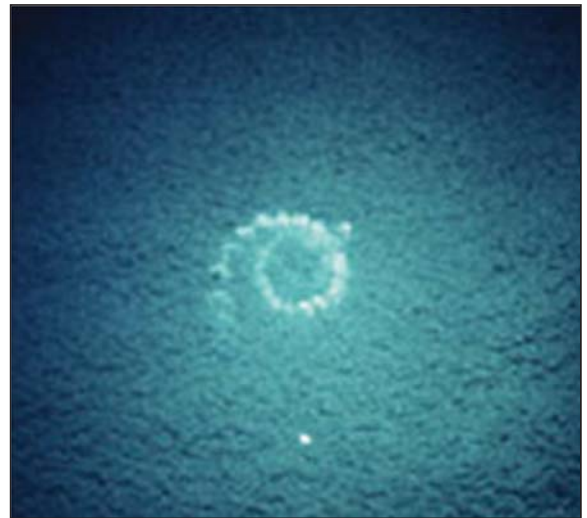
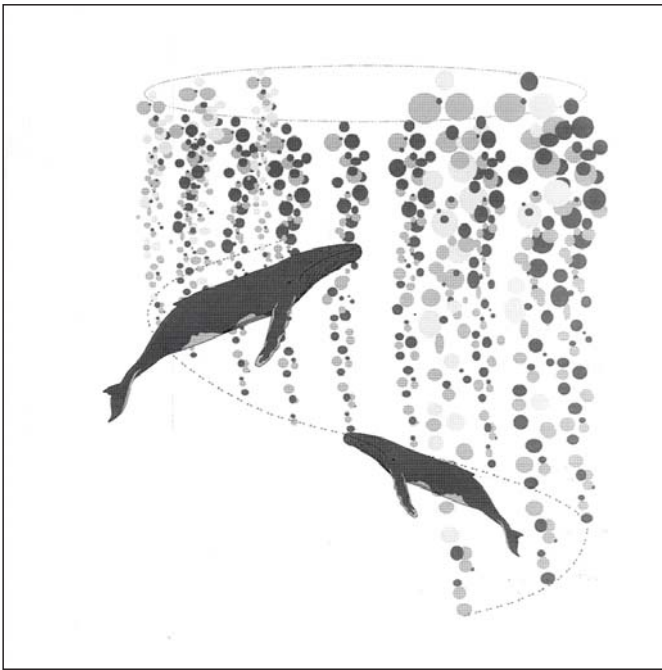
Tail Flukes are like fingerprints!



Each one is different.

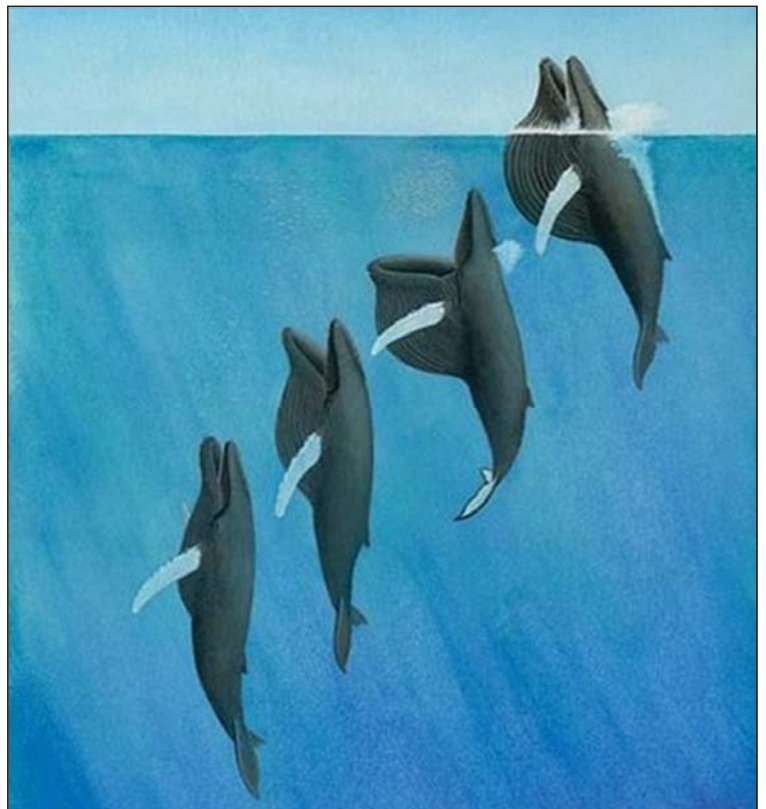
How Do Humpbacks Eat?

Bubble Netting



How Do Humpbacks Eat?

Gulping





Humpback whales sing a song!

Do you want to hear a whale song? 🎧





Other Cetaceans Found in Hawai'i...

Pacific Bottlenose Dolphin



Pantropical Spotted Dolphin



Short-Finned Pilot Whale



Rough Toothed Dolphin



Melon Headed Whale



Pygmy Killer Whale



Blainville's Beaked Whale



Cuvier's Beaked Whale



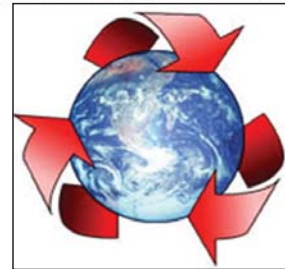
Threats to Hawai'i Cetaceans

- Starvation
- Predation
- Bycatch
- Human disturbance
- Marine debris



What Can You Do?

- Reduce, reuse and recycle trash
- Educate family & friends about toxic waste disposal
- Always clean up litter whenever you visit the beach.
- Participate in organized beach clean ups.
- Support legislation to protect wild dolphins
- NEVER swim with or feed wild dolphins!





Sea Life Park

Jeopardy



Sea Life Park Animal Jeopardy

Cetaceans	Bottlenose Dolphins	Wild Whales	Kekaimalu	Anatomy/ What is it?	Anything Goes
<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
10	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	10	<u>10</u>
50	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>	50	50
<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

Sea Life Park Animal Jeopardy

Cetaceans

5

Name 2 Cetaceans

Any whale dolphin or porpoise

Sea Life Park Animal Jeopardy

Cetaceans

10

What are the 2 groups of
Cetaceans?

The toothed whales and the baleen
whales

Sea Life Park Animal Jeopardy

Cetaceans

50

About how many teeth does a
dolphin have?

88

Sea Life Park Animal Jeopardy

Cetaceans

100

Name three differences between dolphins and porpoises.

Cone shaped teeth

Spade shaped teeth

Pointed rostrum

Short, blunt rostrum

Curved dorsal fin

Straight dorsal fin

Up to 12' long

Up to 7' long

Audible sounds

Inaudible sounds

Friendly

Shy

Live in large pods

Live in pods of 2-4

Can live more than 50 years

Usually only live to about 15 years old

Sea Life Park Animal Jeopardy

Bottlenose Dolphins

5

What are the two kinds of Bottlenose Dolphins?

Atlantic and Pacific

Describe both kinds

Atlantic: Lighter and smaller

Pacific: Darker and larger

Sea Life Park Animal Jeopardy

Bottlenose Dolphins

10

How long can a Bottlenose Dolphin hold its breath for?

8-10 minutes

Sea Life Park Animal Jeopardy

Bottlenose Dolphins

50

What fins help dolphin steer?

Pectoral

Sea Life Park Animal Jeopardy

Bottlenose Dolphins

100

How does a Bottlenose Dolphin hear underwater?

When the sound waves from echolocation bounce back they hit the lower jaw bone which is filled with fat. The waves are then sent to the middle ear which translates the vibrations to the brain.

Sea Life Park Animal Jeopardy

Wild Whales

5

Name one baleen whale

Humpback, Blue, Grey, Right, Bowhead

Sea Life Park Animal Jeopardy

Wild Whales

10

Name a toothed whale that is endangered

Beluga and Sperm whale

Sea Life Park Animal Jeopardy

Wild Whales

50

What is baleen made of?

Same thing as hair or fingernails.
Keratin or protein!

Sea Life Park Animal Jeopardy

Wild Whales

100

What is countershading and why do some animals have it?

Countershading is a form of camouflage that helps protect an animals from predators (or sneak up on prey) by being able to blend in with the environment

Sea Life Park Animal Jeopardy

Kekaimalu

5

What is Kekaimalu?

She is a Wholphin!

Sea Life Park Animal Jeopardy

Kekaimalu

10

What is a “wholphin”?

half False Killer Whale

AND

half Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphin

Sea Life Park Animal Jeopardy

Kekaimalu

50

How many teeth does she have?

Around 66

Sea Life Park Animal Jeopardy

Kekaimalu

100

How old is Kekaimalu?

29

Sea Life Park Animal Jeopardy

Anatomy

5

What is a cetacean's dorsal fin used for?

Stability in the water

Sea Life Park Animal Jeopardy

What is it?

10

What kind of cetacean is this?

Sea Life Park Animal Jeopardy

Anatomy

50

Where does a dolphin echolocate from?

The melon!

Sea Life Park Animal Jeopardy

What is it?

100

What kind of cetacean is this?

Sea Life Park Animal Jeopardy

Anything Goes

5

What is “marine debris” and why is it bad?

Marine Debris is trash in the ocean. It can cause lacerations (cuts), entangle animals making it hard or impossible to swim, animals could eat it, or they could get stuck in it and not be able to breathe.

Sea Life Park Animal Jeopardy

Anything Goes

10

What are two things you need to train a cetacean?

Food (reinforcement) , Bridge
(Whistle or clicker)

Sea Life Park Animal Jeopardy

Anything Goes

50

Name one reef fish we swam with in the
ray pool

Moorish Idol, Manini (Convict Tang),
Yellow Tang, Surgeon fish, Racoon
Butterflyfish, Threadfin Butterflyfish,
etc.

Sea Life Park Animal Jeopardy

Anything Goes

100

What lives in a tidepool?

Crabs, urchins, snails & more!



All pau =)



TO: Senate Agriculture & Environment Committee
2-1-18 230pm
FROM: Inga Gibson, Policy Representative, For the Fishes

RE: SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO SB3055; RELATING TO CETACEANS

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Riviere and AEN Committee members,

Many are unaware that our own Maui County took the lead on this issue 16 years ago in 2002, by prohibiting the entertainment and display of cetaceans via County ordinance (attached below). 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. In January the Vancouver Aquarium announced it would phase out captivity of its cetaceans following an earlier decision to discontinue breeding. 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. France also banned the breeding of cetaceans recognizing that continued breeding only serves to keep these animals in captivity for generations to come.

Further, 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. The size and nature of these facilities makes it impossible for these animals to engage in even the most basic of their natural behaviors.

Nothing in the current measure, or our proposed amendments, would prohibit the continued education, research or rehabilitation of cetaceans or other animals at such facilities. We have no objection to the educational programs that may be offered at any facility but believe that as wild animals, the direct contact (for profit) captive entertainment aspect must be discontinued.

Below are explanations for the amendments necessary for us to fully support this measure.

Breeding: The number of people wanting to see an end to the continued use of cetaceans for entertainment purposes continues to grow, therefore, a prohibition on breeding is necessary. Simply put, continued breeding (whether natural or via artificial insemination) ensures that these animals will for generations remain in captivity for entertainment and profit. Even if breeding were to stop today, the existing animals will likely remain in captivity for the rest of their lives (20+ years).

We have offered an exemption for breeding for release and enhancement for a/these animals in the wild, however, and despite profit motives often disguised as “conservation”, no cetacean has yet to be bred for release or enhancement of the species in the wild in Hawaii or elsewhere.

Transfers: Recent transfer of cetaceans, approved by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, have been for entertainment purposes. Transfers of any distance can cause great stress to the animals, leading to health and welfare concerns. Transfers can also impact complex social dynamics for these behaviorally unique mammals. Dolphins have been relocated to other facilities outside of Hawaii, such as Arizona, that maintain captive “swim with dolphin” programs. However, there are a few occasions where a transfer may be recommended for non-commercial/non-entertainment purposes (in the interest of the individual animal) or to allow for transfers to “bona fide” sanctuaries thus, we have suggested language to exempt transfers for these purposes.

Below is a letter from Jane Goodall, the renowned wildlife scientist, to the Vancouver Aquarium, opposing the capture, breeding and keeping of cetaceans in captivity.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony and the above-suggested amendments.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/vancouver-aquarium-s-beluga-breeding-indefensible-says-jane-goodall-1.2655675>

Dear Park Board Chairman and Commissioners,

The capture, breeding and keeping of cetaceans world-wide has come under increasing public scrutiny due to recent high-profile stories being released from industry insiders. The scientific community is also responding to the captivity of these highly social and intelligent species as we now know more than ever, about the complex environments such species require to thrive and achieve good welfare. Those of us who have had the fortunate opportunity to study wild animals in their natural settings where family, community structure and communication form a foundation for these animals' existence, know the implications of captivity on such species.

I understand the Vancouver Park Board and the Vancouver Aquarium became industry leaders in 1996, when an agreement was made to not allow the keeping of cetaceans caught from the wild after September 16th of that year (with the exception of endangered species or rehabilitation animals that could not be released). However, the current permission of Vancouver Aquarium cetacean breeding programs on-site, and at SeaWorld with belugas on loan, is no longer defensible by science. This is demonstrated by the high mortality rates evident in these breeding programs and by the ongoing use of these animals in interactive shows as entertainment.

The idea that certain cetaceans “do better” in captivity than others is also misleading, as belugas, dolphins and porpoises are highly social animals which can travel in large pods and migrate long distances. In captivity, these highly vocal and complex communicators are forced to live in a low-sensory environment, which is unable to fully meet the needs of their physical and emotional worlds.

As society at large and the scientific community now reflect on the keeping of highly cognitive species like primates, elephants, and cetaceans in entertainment and research, I ask the Vancouver Park Board and the Vancouver Aquarium to do the same. The phasing out of such cetacean programs is the natural progression of human-kind's evolving view of our non-human animal kin. I hope the Vancouver Park Board and the Vancouver Aquarium will be a leader in compassionate conservation on this issue, as you have done before,

Sincerely,

Jane Goodall

Maui Ordinance: <https://www.mauicounty.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13404> and <http://us.whales.org/news/2002/11/maui-bans-whale-and-dolphin-exhibits>

The bill passed by [the Maui County] Council states that the:

"Council finds that cetaceans (dolphins and whales) are highly intelligent - and highly sensitive - marine mammals. The Council further finds the presence of cetaceans in the Pacific Ocean surrounding Maui County provides many cultural, spiritual, and economic benefits to the County's residents. The Council also finds that the exhibition of captive cetaceans leads to distressed living conditions for these animals. Therefore, the purpose of this ordinance is to prohibit the exhibition of captive cetaceans (dolphins and whales)."

Under the approved bill, it is unlawful to exhibit captive cetaceans on Maui. Any person who violates this law shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

Maui joins 17 other cities and counties across the US that have banned the display of cetaceans, including the state of South Carolina [2002].



8403 Colesville Road, Suite 710
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301-562-0777 tel 301-562-0888 fax
www.aza.org

January 31, 2018

Dear Honorable Members of the Hawaii Legislature,

I am writing to urge you to oppose SB 3055, legislation that would prohibit the interstate, intrastate, and inter-facility transfer of captive cetaceans. This legislation would set a dangerous precedent by eliminating opportunities for the public to develop emotional connections to cetaceans, and it could end research that directly benefits these species both in the wild and in human care.

Founded in 1924, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of zoos and aquariums in the areas of conservation, education, science, and recreation. AZA is the independent accrediting organization for the premier zoos and aquariums in America and the world. Fewer than 10 percent of the 2,800 wildlife exhibitors licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture under the Animal Welfare Act meet the more comprehensive standards of AZA accreditation.

AZA-accredited institutions play a critical role in cetacean conservation through broad-based public education and outreach activities, cutting-edge research projects, and advocacy for marine protected areas and other strong policies to protect our oceans. In the scientific community, we know that we learn the most about a species when we study animals both in the wild and in human care. For animals in the wild, we are able to gain a big-picture understanding of what the animals are doing and with whom. For animals at AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums, we are able to gain more detailed information about how their physiology allows them to thrive, how they perceive their environment, how they assimilate information, and how they react to environmental stimuli.

AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums are devoting a constantly increasing amount of time, effort, and resources to conservation and the protection of threatened and endangered species including cetaceans. They devote equal energy toward the protection of their living collections, which represent a national heritage for future generations to connect with, understand, and value. All AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums dedicate themselves to caring for all animals, including cetaceans, in their care every day.

The opportunity to see and get close to wild animals at AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums is one of the few authentic experiences that can stem the tide of Americans' growing disconnect from nature. As centers for conservation involvement, AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums are essential to science and environmental education.

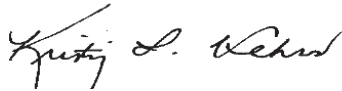
Their constant delivery of professional programs in informal science education collectively represents one of the chief mechanisms for making this connection.

AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums also routinely work closely with federal and state governments to rescue, rehab, and save thousands of animals such as cetaceans (whales and dolphins), manatees, birds, sea turtles, otters, seals, and sea lions before releasing them back into their natural habitats. Many rescue and rehabilitation activities lead to questions about animal behavior, physiology, diseases, and a host of other areas that generate many research projects which ultimately benefit our understanding of cetaceans and assist in developing practices that protect them in the wild.

The AZA believes that nothing is more important than assuring the highest standards of animal care. AZA accreditation is a publicly recognized badge signifying excellence in, and commitment to, veterinary care, ethics, physical facilities, staffing, conservation, education, safety and security, and in particular, animal management and welfare.

Thank you for your attention to this letter of opposition to SB3055. If I can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristin L. Vehrs". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kristin L. Vehrs
Executive Director

AMERICAN★HUMANE

FIRST TO SERVE®

ROBIN R. GANZERT, Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer

January 30, 2018

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 201
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Opposition to Hawaii S.B. 3055

Dear Senator Gabbard:

American Humane, this country's first national humane organization, has been the voice for animals in the United States and around the world for 141 years and we seek to protect, defend and elevate the welfare of all animal species wherever they may be. We strongly oppose Hawaii S.B. 3055, as it is ill-conceived and would jeopardize the future of the very animals it seeks to protect.

In 2016, American Humane launched the first-ever certification program solely devoted to verifying the humane treatment of animals in zoos, aquariums, and conservation centers around the world – Humane Conservation. The program is rooted in science and is backed by an independent third-party team of world-class experts, scientists, and ethicists that have awarded the prestigious Humane Certified™ seal of approval to a handful of exemplary facilities that practice the very best in animal care.

In fact, two of these facilities, owned by Dolphin Quest, are in your own backyard. As one of the first institutions to achieve Humane Certification, Dolphin Quest, with facilities on the Big Island and Maui, has demonstrated a clear and robust commitment to animal welfare. Facilities like Dolphin Quest, future generations of conservationists, and the cetaceans in question would be negatively impacted by this misguided legislation.

We believe that the proposed legislation paints with far too broad a brush, and inaccurately assumes that it is inhumane to keep cetaceans in human care. While there are undoubtedly some facilities that afford these remarkable creatures substandard care, there are others, like Dolphin Quest, that have led the way in advancing humane care and opened their doors to a third-party audit team, offering unprecedented transparency into their facilities and welfare protocols. It would be wrong to unfairly penalize an organization that has recently demonstrated a world-class commitment to animal care. Additionally, the resolution is filled with inaccuracies about cetaceans in human care that could have been lifted directly

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202-841-6080

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americanhumane.org



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ROBIN R. GANZERT, Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer

from propaganda by radical animal rights activists who seek to permanently remove animals from our lives.

Furthermore, this bill would radically reduce the ability for first-rate facilities, like Dolphin Quest, in Hawaii to adequately care for their cetaceans. A transport ban like the one prescribed in S.B. 3055 would not only prevent accredited facilities from properly caring for their resident animal population(s), it would also rob future generations of the awe-inspiring opportunity to view and interact with these majestic creatures.

Zoos, aquariums and interactive facilities educate millions of Americans every year to become stewards of the environment and our wild creatures. We need more education and exposure, not less, as an unprecedented number of species face what scientists are calling a “Sixth Mass Extinction.” Global warming, habitat loss, pollution, and plastics in our oceans are wreaking havoc on wild animal populations. Humane Certified™ facilities, like Dolphin Quest, continue to educate and recruit new conservationists and advocates to protect these remarkable creatures who face unprecedented pressure in the wild.

These assertions in S.B. 3055 are not grounded in science and would be detrimental to the actual interests and continuing survival of the magnificent animals in question.

For this reason, and those outlined above, American Humane strongly urges you to oppose this proposed legislation.

Kind regards,



Robin R. Ganzert, Ph.D.
President & CEO

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americanhumane.org





31 January, 2018

To Whom it may Concern

Please defeat Bill #SB3055. You cannot separate public display of dolphins and whales from science education and conservation research. This is a time when fishing kills about 600,000 marine mammals each year. Is this a time to prevent citizens from seeing these mammals so all people (even those who cannot go out to sea) can appreciate them and their environment? Is this a time to prevent other citizens from seeing them and appreciating them up close?

Misinformed activists claim that captive whales and dolphins are suffering. Professionals caring for captive cetaceans watch for those rare instances when they are suffering and can provide remedies. I have worked with captive cetaceans for 56 years. Care of captive cetaceans is light years ahead of where it was even 25 years ago. Twenty-five years ago nearly all captures from the wild stopped in North America. Births sustained the populations. When sick, suffering mammals come ashore, most citizens appreciate that professionals can come to help.

Cetaceans in the wild suffer from natural predators, parasites, and disease, and from many human causes. Hungry animals come ashore stuffed with plastic garbage. Such pollution affects many marine mammals. We know these things because professionals have worked with both captive and wild marine mammals to help conserve them. Scientists must have access to captive as well as wild animals if we want to conserve them. Let me give just one example. Many activists fantasize that captive cetaceans cannot echolocate. In fact, echolocation was discovered from captive animals. The great majority of knowledge on cognition, echolocation, hearing, and sound production required trained cooperating cetaceans in different environments.

We have much to learn from captive marine mammals that can help in ocean conservation. Activists milk emotions while bombarding us with a delusion that all captive cetaceans are suffering all the time. Responsible citizens should look beyond the false claims and support the valuable science and education that goes on at Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park. The restrictions proposed by Bill #SB3055 will be counterproductive for marine mammals and their conservation.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sam H. Ridgway".

Sam H. Ridgway DVM, PhD

President

Sam.ridgway@cantab.net



I am writing to oppose the proposed bill SB 3055 that will unnecessarily limit and prohibit the transfer of cetaceans in the state of Hawaii. This bill is not backed by science nor is it in the best interest of the species as a whole both for those under human care and those out in the wild. The transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Let those agencies do their job in ensuring these animals are given the top care. Accredited marine mammal facilities like Dolphin Quest need to be able to transport animals in order to maintain genetic diversity within populations to continue to fulfill their mission which is to educate the public, inspire conservation, and support scientific studies which would not be possible without facilities like this.

To ban the transportation and breeding of cetaceans would ultimately phase out marine mammal facilities and rob future generations the opportunity to experience and learn about these animals up close. The educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine mammal facility makes a difference in the protection of our oceans and protection of the species. It is far better from a conservationist standpoint to view animals in an environment that is safe for both humans and animals than to have dozens of boats harassing the wild spinner dolphins in Hawaii or other places around the world. If we want to conserve our oceans, we need to do so in a way that has been proven to be effective and not to the detriment to wild populations.

Accredited zoos and aquariums are the ones making a difference, not these extremists. We are the experts, we are the ones donating millions of dollars to scientific research, conservation efforts, and education programs. I have been working with cetaceans for 12 years and know first hand how they inspire future generations to protect our planet. The Marine Mammal Specialists at Dolphin Quest love the dolphins and are the ones that understand the animals behavior and mental needs better than anyone. If you want to support education, science, and conservation of cetaceans, oppose SB 3055.

Krysta Walker
Manager of Marine Animals / Dolphin Quest

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:09:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Campbell	Dolphin Quest	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing to oppose the proposed bill SB 3055 that will unnecessarily limit and prohibit the transfer of cetaceans in the state of Hawaii. The Bill is not based on science and is an attempt by animal extremists to remove dolphins from marine life parks and rob future generations of the opportunity to be inspired and educated by dolphins in Hawaii's zoological institutions.

Dolphin Quest has been a leader in the field of marine conservation for over 30 years of which I have been part of the Ohana for 25. Through my decades of dedication, I can personally attest to the top notch, state of the art care our animals receive and the value of sharing the relationship we have established with our animals through hands on interactions with our guests. These educational opportunities are one of a kind, connecting people directly to the need to preserve these magnificent animals.

The details listed within the bill are false accusations mustered up by people who have an agenda to prevent any animals from being under human care. I have dedicated my entire professional career to overseeing the wellness of our animal family through shared enriching relationships, advanced healthcare and safe transports. We uphold high standards for all elements of what we do including times when we transport animals. We work closely with Hawaii state and local authorities to ensure we are meeting expectations for all required permitting and are often consulted on best practices. We create detailed and well thought out transport plans for every move. This includes privately hired airplanes, inspectors on site, veterinarians on board and individually assigned marine mammal specialists diligently attending to each animal flying as precious cargo. Animals are moved successfully throughout the world for Olympic events, conservation management and the like. As well, dolphins have traveled comfortably for years in customized water carriers managed by teams of top professionals. Restricting these practices by such proposed bills as SB 3055 is only serving the animal extremists. Being able to move animals for purposes such as genetic diversity and population sustainability is crucial to ensure we continue to educate our next keiki generation of responsible ocean stewards for the conservation work to happen well into the future. It's in everyone's best interest as well as our ocean home.

Through my years leading the team I have been responsible for hiring top talent that understands the value of what we do, the mission of our company and the priority of our

animals. These are the real animal experts. Our family of specialists that make up our animal management team know first-hand the truths and insight behind good animal care. Those who have first-hand experience on our team or who have taken part in our educational interactive programming can provide testimony to the love and care our animals get on a daily basis. If you want to be an ocean steward and support smart work, join us in ensuring the future of our program and the lives of the animals in our hands are left to the experts. Oppose SB 3055 and take a stand against the extremists who distract us all by directing our attention and time away from what matters most, taking care of our animals.

Aloha,

Michelle Campbell

Vice President of Animals / Dolphin Quest

SENATE
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, 2018
STATE OF HAWAII
SENATE BILL NO. 3055

For more than 75 years, the Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo (CZS) has been a leader in wildlife conservation and public education, earning a global reputation for advanced animal husbandry and applied research that influence animal care and public engagement in conservation. We are stewards of more than 216 acres of protected public land, responsible for the daily care of more than 3,238 animals representing 404 species from every continent on earth. Since 1961, the Brookfield Zoo has been a leader in educating audiences about the conservation of bottlenose dolphins. Through educational programming we allow millions of visitors every year to connect to these amazing animals. In addition, CZS has operated the longest running study of a dolphin population in Sarasota, FL since 1970. The Sarasota Dolphin Research Program utilizes monthly systematic photographic identification surveys to examine social behavior habitat use and condition. Behavioral observations and health assessments also contribute to the vast knowledge that has been gained about bottlenose dolphins over the years. Many of the parameters used to ascertain the health and wellbeing of the Sarasota animals come from the work done by scientists and veterinarians here at the Brookfield Zoo.

In 2008, the Society founded the Center for the Science of Animal Care and Welfare. The Center promotes a unique, holistic science-based approach to integrating professionals from a variety of disciplines – behavioral husbandry, endocrinology, population biology, veterinary science, and nutrition – with the goal of assessing and optimizing welfare from an animal-centric perspective. Specifically, the Center seeks to apply science to animal care and understand the factors that lead to optimal (“good”) welfare for animals under professional management. By integrating state-of-the-art research into animal care practices, the Center creates a dynamic feedback loop that supports our animal welfare management and drives basic and applied scientific discovery. Information learned is then shared with the zoological industry throughout the world to increase the impact of the research. CZS is accredited through the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums. Brookfield Zoo’s efforts as a leader in animal welfare have recently been recognized as it became the first zoo in the world to receive the “Humane Certified™” seal from American Humane. Brookfield Zoo serves 2.2 million guests and 120,000 member families annually.

The Senate bill 3055 as proposed would do a disservice not only to the cetaceans in Hawaii but for cetaceans around the world as facilities work together for sustainable populations within professional care as well as the conservation of wild populations. The bill as proposed contains many incomplete facts as well as falsehoods that will be outlined below.

While cetaceans are highly social and intelligent species, what is not mentioned in the bill is that a lot of what we know about cetaceans comes from animals under professional care. Much of the knowledge about the sensory, cognitive and communication skills of bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) is a result of 34 years of work at the Kewalo Basin Marine Mammal Laboratory in Honolulu (Herman, 2010). In addition, the Navy Marine Mammal Program has been running for over 50 years contributing directly

or indirectly to our understanding of the behavior, physiology, and ecology of wild cetaceans (Houser et al., 2010). This is not to take away from the great knowledge learned from wild cetaceans (e.g., Wells, 2014), but one of the main reasons we know so much about the intelligence of cetaceans is due to the type of facilities the bill could potentially impact.

Within accredited zoos, aquariums and marine parks, cetaceans can be exhibited in normal social groupings to provide opportunities for species-appropriate social behavior (e.g., Wells, 2009). In fact, bottlenose dolphins within a breeding consortium in North America reproduced at higher levels than their wild counterparts (Wells, 2009). Studies have also shown that adrenal “stress” hormones were higher in wild bottlenose dolphins than those under professional care (St Aubin, 1996). However, the process of collecting those samples may have had an impact on the results.

In reference to stereotypic behavior, there are relatively few studies that have quantitatively assessed these behaviors. However, one study demonstrated that dolphins do spend more time at the surface looking for animal trainers in anticipation of an education program, likely demonstrating a positive situation (Jensen et al., 2013). Similarly, Miller et al., (2011) found that dolphin shows and interaction programs, both forms of education programming, were positive in nature. Animals following these programs exhibited a higher level of behavioral diversity suggesting that these programs had a positive impact on their welfare. Finally, education programs under professional trainer control were found to have less risky activity (e.g., dolphin aggression) when compared to uncontrolled programs suggesting these programs can be run with limited risk to the participants (Samuels & Spradlin, 1995).

Current evidence suggests that attending a dolphin show or interaction program leads to increased conservation-related knowledge, attitudes, and behavior (Miller et al., 2013). The public opposition to the keeping and display of cetaceans is a vocal minority compared to the over 180 million annual visitors in North America alone that support the efforts of zoos and aquariums, including their professional care of cetaceans. Decisions regarding the care and welfare of cetaceans within zoos, aquariums and marine parks should be based on scientific evidence, not the emotional testimony of a few individuals. This information should be regarded when making decisions that could drastically impact the care, welfare and conservation of cetaceans not only in Hawaii but around the world.

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SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 6:11:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
SATORU YAMAMOTO	Marine Mammal Education Center Japan	Oppose	No

Comments:

Sea Life Park and Dolphin Quest have made substantial influence on fostering public awareness on conservation of marine mammals and appreciation to marine mammals.

Also they provide very critical scientific and technical information to professionals to improve marine mammal care.

Those facilities have been taking important role and made substantial contribution to international marine mammal care society. Their existence and full functioning is necessary. Thus, I really oppose to SB3055.

Sincerely,

Satoru Yamamoto

Representative director

Incorporated Association Marine Mammal Education Center Japan

**Testimony of Kathleen Dezio, President & CEO
Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums**

Before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

**February 1, 2018
2:30 p.m.
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii**

S.B.3055 Relating to Cetaceans

Dear Chairman Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (AMMPA), I am writing to express our strong opposition to S.B.3055, legislation which seeks to prohibit the Department of Agriculture from issuing permits for the interstate, intrastate, and inter-facility transfer of cetaceans in human care for breeding or entertainment purposes.

AMMPA is the preeminent trade association and accrediting body for zoos, aquariums, and marine parks throughout the world that exhibit marine mammals. Our mission is to support the highest standards of care for marine mammals and to contribute to their conservation in the wild through public education, scientific research and the rescue and rehabilitation of animals in the wild. Our 65 accredited institutions throughout the world collectively possess the largest body of marine mammal experience and expertise in the world.

Hawaii is home to three AMMPA-accredited facilities, Dolphin Quest Hawaii, Dolphin Quest Oahu, and Sea Life Park. In a state that is blessed with incredible natural beauty, these three facilities stand out as exceptional assets that are dedicated to inspiring and educating Hawaiians and visitors about marine mammals and to protecting Hawaii's beautiful marine environment. They also generate valuable economic benefits for Hawaii. Enactment of S.B.3055 would be tragically short sighted. To discontinue cetacean transport and breeding would ultimately lead to the phasing out of marine life parks, depriving future generations of this valuable resource.

An international organization dedicated to conservation through public display, education, and research.



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Dolphin Quest has been a leader in establishing the best practices for husbandry, environmental enrichment and veterinary care and is widely recognized as a world leader in dolphin care, conservation and education. Dolphin Quest provides training opportunities for animal behaviorists, veterinarians, researchers, educators and animal care staff who travel to Hawaii from around the world to benefit from Dolphin Quest's expertise, which in turn raises the bar for marine conservation education and the care of dolphins worldwide. Dolphin Quest also provides training workshops for volunteers and veterinarians participating in Hawaii's training network to enable them to gain the skills necessary to handle wild cetaceans in distress. Without these workshops, generations of volunteers and veterinarians will have no opportunity to gain these critical skills. Enactment of S.B.3055 could jeopardize these critical programs.

Sea Life Park is well known and highly respected for its rescue and rehabilitation work and care for native Hawaiian marine animals. The facility has a permit from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration to display endangered Hawaiian monk seals and educate visitors about them and the risks they face in the wild. Sea Life Park also operates a sanctuary for 22 different species of sick or injured Hawaiian seabirds that will never be able to return to the wild. Open 24 hours a day, its Seabird Rehabilitation Center treats hundreds of seabirds each year that are suffering from injury, exhaustion, dehydration or illness and has cared for more than 25,000 birds since its inception. Sea Life Park also has the only captive green sea turtle breeding program in the U.S. and has released 15,000 hatchlings into the waters around the islands and works to raise public awareness with turtle exhibits in several locations in the islands. S.B.3055 would negatively impact Sea Life Park's cetacean programs and sets a troubling precedent that could impact other species. If the transport of cetaceans is banned in Hawaii, what is next?

Although S.B.3055's prohibition on transport includes an exemption for facilities that use cetaceans "solely for scientific and educational purposes," in fact there are no marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii or anywhere else in the U.S. Facilities such as Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park are the ones that provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education in Hawaii. S.B.3055 would have a detrimental impact on their operations.

To become an accredited member of AMMPA, a facility must demonstrate in accreditation and subsequent re-accreditation inspections that it meets or exceeds our rigorous Standards & Guidelines covering a dozen different areas from animal husbandry, animal training, and water and environmental quality to education, scientific research, breeding, transportation and more. These standards, based on the expertise of thousands of veterinarians, animal care specialists, operations personnel and scientists throughout the world, are meant to optimize the physical health of and environmental conditions for individual marine mammals in each facility's care and maximize their educational and scientific impact.

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Contrary to allegations in S.B.3055, science shows that dolphins and other marine mammals in accredited marine parks, zoos and aquariums thrive and live as long as or, in many cases, much longer than their counterparts in the wild. They receive high quality, nutritious food, regular and preventative veterinary care by licensed professionals, and exercise and play in ways that are mentally and physically beneficial. The training they receive enriches their lives and enables them to participate in their own health care.

AMMPA-accredited facilities must make available multiple levels of learning opportunities for the public on the marine mammals exhibited in their facilities, their ecosystems and wildlife conservation. Dolphin Quest Hawaii, Dolphin Quest Oahu and Sea Life Park all do so in creative, inspirational, and even entertaining ways. For example, Dolphin Quest's "swim with" and interactive programs facilitate a very special human-animal connection that leaves guests inspired, caring about the animals and wanting to conserve them in the wild.

AMMPA member facilities devote significant resources directly to rescue and rehabilitation efforts. They also spend tens of millions of dollars supporting marine mammal and ocean research. This research enhances animal care in AMMPA facilities and often directly benefits animals in the wild. For example, some vital physiological and behavioral data can only be gathered from animals in human care because, for many physiological parameters, the mere act of collecting information in the wild can interfere with and skew the natural processes scientists are trying to measure.

To ensure the well-being of the animals in our care, AMMPA members work to establish healthy social environments and maintain robust, genetically diverse populations. Transport and breeding is an important part of our efforts in that regard. AMMPA Standards & Guidelines require that members work together with other marine parks, aquariums and zoos around the world on cooperative breeding programs and animal exchanges. Thanks to the success of our collaborative breeding efforts, no AMMPA-accredited facility in the U.S. has collected dolphins from the wild in decades.

Further, any effort to prevent facilities in Hawaii from breeding cetaceans would not be in the best interest of the animals because it would deprive them of an important and natural part of their lives and deny them the enrichment of offspring.

S.B.3055 would prohibit the Department of Agriculture from issuing permits for the interstate, intrastate, and inter-facility transfer of cetaceans. However, as noted, the transport of animals is sometimes necessary for breeding loans and to ensure genetic diversity. When the transport of animals is needed, it is done in compliance with AMMPA standards which require that the animals are transported in a safe and comfortable manner that meets the unique requirements of the aquatic or semi-aquatic species. The transport of cetaceans is also closely regulated by

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the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. The transport safety record for AMMPA member facilities is exemplary. Governments, regulatory agencies, CITES and IATA have all looked to AMMPA as the primary source of scientific information about the safe and humane transportation of marine mammals.

Marine mammals in the wild today are threatened at unprecedented levels from pollution, ship strikes, entanglement in fishing debris, novel diseases, and prey scarcity. The scientific research done by marine parks, aquariums and zoos on marine mammals in their care is needed now more than ever. Unfortunately, if enacted, S.B.3055 would impede the conservation efforts of Hawaiian facilities such as Dolphin Quest Hawaii, Dolphin Quest Oahu and Sea Life Park.

On behalf of the veterinarians, animal care specialists, educators, operations personnel and scientists affiliated with AMMPA member facilities, thank you for this opportunity to submit our testimony. We respectfully urge you to oppose S.B.3055, and to support the important public education efforts, scientific research, and rescue and rehabilitation work done every day by Hawaiian marine parks, aquariums and zoos.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen Dezio".

Kathleen Dezio
President & CEO

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:47:46 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David J. Kimmel	Mississippi Aquarium	Oppose	No

Comments:

To the legislature,

- I urge you **not to** support SB 3055.
- The drafted language that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data.
- Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators.
- Educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine parks is safer for the dolphins and people. This is a much better alternative than dozens of boats harassing free ranging spinner dolphins when they’re attempting to rest.
- The marine mammal specialists at accredited marine parks are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals’ behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone. This is a perfect place for you to describe your personal experience of dedication to cetaceans in managed zoological settings.
- There are NO marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii (this is the exception in the Bill). Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community.
- Accredited marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the animals.
- Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. There is no reason to duplicate or ignore the already existing regulatory process!
- If one bans the transport or breeding of dolphins, based on zero scientific data suggesting one should, what is next? Horses? Dogs? Cattle? This is an emotional plea by misinformed animal extremists. Please, lets use common sense and base our decisions on the facts and not peoples emotions.

- To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks, thus robbing future generations the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about dolphins in this unrivaled setting.
- If you've been to Dolphin Quest or Sea Life Park, and have seen first-hand that these animals are well cared for by their trainers and veterinarians, please communicate it.

Please, do not pass SB3055.

Sincerely,

David J. Kimmel

President & CEO

Mississippi Aquarium

Testimony In Support Of SB 3055



On behalf of Keiko Conservation and our members and partners from around the world, I would like to voice our strong support for bill SB 3055 and recommend that an amendment be included to also ban any further breeding at facilities in Hawaii that display captive cetaceans for exhibition.

Public opposition continues to grow towards the captive marine mammal industry, particularly when it comes to cetaceans. As we learn more about what is required of these animals to survive in a dolphinarium, an increasing number of groups and individuals are beginning to realize the practice of keeping cetaceans captive is irrefutably unethical.

This practice is not only harmful towards these animals but arguably harmful to many of the mindsets in the demographic it advertises to: families and children. It is irresponsible to teach children not only that it is okay to strip animals of nearly all of their physical, social, and psychological needs, but to go even further by labeling it as “entertainment” or “education.” This can create an apathy towards wildlife that I strongly feel has already contributed towards the relationship the majority of my generation and the one before it have with the other animals we share our world with. An apathy that I see not just daily, but multiple times daily as an ocean conservationist.

In the wild, dolphins’ lives revolve around their social structure and bonds. They care for each other’s young, co-operate while hunting, aid and console those in distress, partake in their population’s own varying cultures, and pass down information throughout generations, just like we do. Unfortunately in captivity these animals are all thrown together, partaking in social dynamics that don’t exist in wild populations. Their social groupings are dependent on the decisions of dolphinarium staff. Their daily activities in accordance with a schedule of shows and Swim With Dolphin programs. This can cause alarming, aggressive, and stereotypic behaviors, “such as repetitive pacing, swaying, head-bobbing or circling and bar-biting ‘demonstrably caused by the frustration of natural behavior patterns, impaired brain function, or repeated attempts to deal with some problem” (Mason, 2005) that even Dolphin Quest’s co-founder Jay Sweeney has written about in published articles.

*"Failure to provide ample space for normal behavior variability and expression, for example, may lead to stereotypic behavior. This activity may be progressive and could lead to functional alterations of behavior that may have very definite health consequences. These include problems of aggression/submission, aberrant sexual activity, reproductive failure, nervousness, self-inflicted trauma, and pathological behavior (e.g., vomiting and foreign body consumption.) (Gaskin, 1982; Amundin, 1986; Dierauf, 1990; **Sweeney***, 1990). ***Dolphin Quest Co-Founder Jay Sweeney***

Many don’t realize that these animals don’t come willingly. Although wild captures aren’t permitted in the US anymore, they still are in other parts of the world. Wild dolphins go through a holding period before being put on display where they are forced to submit to human touch and learn to eat dead fish. They have to learn to accept a daily “hydration hose,” a long tube that goes down their throat and funnels in

fresh water to make up for the lack of hydration they would usually receive from fresh fish in the wild. These processes can take up to months and are in itself a process of desensitizing the animals to the bare environment and quality of life they will now be living in.

We know this because Dolphin Quest's co-founder veterinarian Jay Sweeney once ran the second largest dolphin capture business in the USA advertising "healthy, alert dolphins, bright, show quality... Will deliver to your size and sex specifications... 90-day replacement guarantee," before voluntarily surrendering his dealers license in 1989 and opening Dolphin Quest. To put this jarring difference in lifestyle into perspective I've included a quote below:

"Most aquatic animals mammals housed in captive enclosures have been acquired from free-living sources. Few, if any, have had exposure or contact with humans and they have not been enclosed within a restricted space until the sudden event of their capture. At this time it becomes necessary for them not only to cope with capture, but also immediately begin to consume dead fish. They must adjust to restrictions in their free-ranging mobility, being placed in land-based pools which may be absent of the visual and auditory sensory stimuli of their natural habitat. They are required to acknowledge the presence of, and eventually accept, contact with humans." (Sweeney, 1990)

Captive dolphin facilities argue that the ocean is a dangerous place and the animals are much safer and happier in their tanks, but given the option ourselves to stay out in the world, with threats of pollution, violence, terrorism, car accidents, disease, or to stay safe but imprisoned it's safe to say most would choose the former. This is even without the artificial insemination and forced tricks dolphins burden as well. It's also extremely unfortunate that the **139 dolphin and whale deaths that have taken place in Sea Life Park (91 of which were taken from Hawaiian waters)** were reported to National Marine Fisheries Service with **causes of death such as jumping out of tank, drowning, suffocation, death during capture, failure to thrive, trainer error, trauma, undetermined, capture related, killed by another dolphin, food poisoning, and foreign object ingestion.** This facility was also subject of an alleged animal abuse scandal in the 1990s, after former employees claimed the animal curator at the time had **punched and kicked pinnipeds, including one of Hawaii's endemic and endangered monk seals, and drained a pool on a dolphin before inflicting wounds by beating it with a pole.** It's safe to say that these animals would have never been subjected to these types of deaths and injuries in the wild.

Facilities also defend their acts by saying that breeding programs provide an alternative to facilities that would usually partake in wild captures or purchases from drive fisheries like the one in Taiji, Japan and that they are actually doing those dolphins a service. If their true motivation relied in aiding the cessation of these practices, they haven't done anything else to do so. Instead they still flaunt their accreditation by IMATA as evidence of their high standards of animal care, yet IMATA still condones the Taiji drive fishery and allows their trainers to participate in it.

Further claims that their animals and facilities contribute to behavioral research that can be applicable to their species in the wild. A lot of this research is quickly de-validated by the fact that studying these animals in an environment that alters their natural behavior could be compared to studying the behavior of humans who have been locked inside a building their entire lives as representatives of our species. This is why most research done in captive facilities is actually husbandry research and relates to finding better ways to keeping these animals alive in a captive environment.

We are not asking for the release of these animals nor the closure of these facilities. We are simply asking that the ones in Hawaii discontinue their breeding programs and transfers and not allow for anymore cetaceans to grow up in tanks they will never be able to leave.

Around the world, dolphinariums are declaring an end to captive cetaceans. We would like Hawaii to be a part of this.

Mahalo for your time!

Deaths Of Cetaceans From Current Facilities In Hawaii Are Highlighted In Yellow:

*There are additional animals not listed below. Sea Life Park was established prior to the Marine Mammal Protection Act and previously did not need to report their animals to National Marine Fisheries Service.

NO480001	X	M	PACIFIC SPOTTED DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	01/29/1971	01/29/1971	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	01/29/1971			
NO480002	X	F	PACIFIC SPOTTED DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	01/30/1971	01/30/1971	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	01/30/1971			
NO480003	MTS 23	F	PACIFIC SPOTTED DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	02/01/1971	02/01/1971	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D				
NO480004	MALANAI	M	PACIFIC SPOTTED DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	02/11/1971	02/11/1971	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	02/24/1971			
NO480005	ELNA	F	PACIFIC SPOTTED DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	02/11/1971	02/11/1971	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	04/06/1971			
NO480006	MOKUNANI	M	PACIFIC SPOTTED DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	02/12/1971	02/12/1971	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	07/28/1971			
NO480007	X	U	PYGMY KILLER WHALE	Unknown	W	07/14/1968	07/14/1968	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	08/04/1968	RESPIRATORY DISTRESS		
NO480008	X	M	PYGMY KILLER WHALE	Unknown	W	12/13/1970	12/13/1970	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	12/26/1970			
NO480009	X	F	PYGMY KILLER WHALE	Unknown	W	12/18/1971	12/18/1971	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	12/28/1971			
NO480010	JAY	M	Spinner	Unknown	U	06/01/1971	06/10/1971	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	06/22/1971			
NO480011	(NO NAME)	M	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	07/25/1972	07/25/1972	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	07/29/1972	CAPTIVE RELATED		
NO480012	NAMI	F	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	12/04/1969	12/04/1969	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	06/01/1971			
NO480013	KELIKOLE	M	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	10/19/1972	10/19/1972	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	10/24/1972			
NO480014	(NO NAME)	M	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	10/19/1972	10/19/1972	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	10/20/1972			
NO480015	LAKA	F	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	07/02/1968	07/02/1968	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	06/29/1972			
NO480016	PUKA	M	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	11/01/1968	11/01/1968	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	01/08/1974			
NO480017	ALI	M	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	11/01/1968	11/01/1968	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	04/04/1971			
NO480018	PIKAI	F	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	12/11/1968	12/11/1968	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	06/18/1972			
NO480019	MOANA	F	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	07/09/1970	07/09/1970	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	06/13/1971			
NO480020	(NO NAME)	F	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	06/24/1970	06/24/1970	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	06/24/1970	DIED AT CAPTURE		
NO480021	AKAMAI	M	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	06/13/1969	06/13/1969	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	06/06/1970			
NO480022	PUKOO	F	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	04/20/1968	04/20/1968	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	06/24/1970			
NO480023	TEA	F	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	05/13/1968	05/13/1968	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	06/26/1972			
NO480024	WAMEA	M	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	05/06/1968	05/06/1968	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	06/29/1970			
NO480025	KAMAI	M	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	12/12/1968	12/12/1968	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	05/23/1971	FIBROUS PERICARDITIS & PLEURITIS		
NO480026	NOHA	M	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	12/04/1968	12/04/1968	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	05/07/1972	CHRONIC HEPATITIS		
NO480027	KAIH	F	SPINNER DOLPHIN	06/01/1968	Estimate	U	07/13/1972	Sea Life Park Hawaii	07/13/1972	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	05/28/1981	CHRONIC HEPATITIS	
NO480028	MALE	F	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	07/22/1972	07/22/1972	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	05/30/1979	HEPATITIS, CIRRHOSIS & PANCREATITIS		
NO480029	EDMOUANA	F	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	06/11/1970	06/11/1970	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	10/21/1974	LIVER FAILURE		
NO480030	BAKLE	M	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	05/05/1969	05/05/1969	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	05/02/1972			
NO480031	PONAKAI	F	SPINNER DOLPHIN	09/08/1971	Actual	C	09/08/1971	09/08/1971	Sea Life Park Hawaii	09/08/1971	Sea Life Park Hawaii	D	05/02/1972	HEPATITIS	
NO480032	MALAKANI	F	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	05/23/1974	05/23/1974	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	HI	D	01/13/1980	HEART FAILURE		
NO480033	(NO NAME)	U	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	05/26/1974	05/26/1974	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	HI	D	06/26/1974			
NO480034	(NO NAME)	F	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	05/26/1974	05/26/1974	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	HI	D	06/13/1974	PANCREATITIS		
NO480035	FANALANI	M	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	05/29/1974	05/29/1974	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	HI	D	01/24/1976	ENTEROCOLITIS		
NO480036	TSARE	F	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	06/14/1974	06/14/1974	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	HI	D	10/06/1975	DROWNING		
NO480037	MOI	M	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	06/14/1974	06/14/1974	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	HI	D	12/24/1974	ASCIDIC INFL		
NO480038	ALUANA	F	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	06/14/1974	06/14/1974	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	HI	D	04/02/1977	TRAUMA		
NO480039	KABUKI	F	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	06/13/1975	06/13/1975	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	HI	D	07/23/1978	ANEMIA		
NO480040	LENOE	F	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	06/22/1975	06/22/1975	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	HI	D	11/01/1977	BARBITES		
NO480041	APKI	M	SPINNER DOLPHIN	Unknown	W	06/27/1976	06/27/1976	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	HI	D	02/08/1980	PNEUMONITIS		
NO480042	LEILE	M	SPINNER DOLPHIN	05/01/1968	Estimate	W	06/02/1976	06/02/1976	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	HI	D	02/19/1980	CHOLANGITIS, CHRONIC PARASITIC	
NO480043	KESAUANI	F	SPINNER DOLPHIN	05/01/1970	Estimate	W	06/04/1976	06/04/1976	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	HI	D	06/05/1980		
NO480044	KEHAULANI CALF	U	SPINNER DOLPHIN	07/21/1977	Actual	C	07/21/1977	07/21/1977	Sea Life Park Hawaii	07/21/1977	Sea Life Park Hawaii	D	07/24/1977	TRAUMA	
NO480045	ELNA	F	hawaiian dolphin	05/01/1963	Estimate	W	12/31/1972	12/31/1972	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	12/26/1972	PNEUMONIA	
NO480046	EANENI	M	hawaiian dolphin	01/01/1968	Estimate	W	12/31/1972	12/31/1972	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	04/03/1984	UNDERNOURISHED	
NO480047	KANLE	F	hawaiian dolphin	01/01/1963	Estimate	W	12/31/1972	12/31/1972	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	11/02/1978		
NO480048	PUKA	F	hawaiian dolphin	01/01/1963	Estimate	W	12/31/1972	12/31/1972	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	06/15/1974		
NO480049	ELNA'S CALF	M	hawaiian dolphin	04/07/1971	Actual	C	04/07/1971	04/07/1971	Sea Life Park Hawaii	04/07/1971	Sea Life Park Hawaii	D	04/17/1971		
NO480050	AREKAO	M	hawaiian dolphin	01/01/1965	Estimate	W	12/31/1972	12/31/1972	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D		HEART-MURAL DYSMORPHIA & FOCAL MYOCARD	
NO480051	TI-48	F	hawaiian dolphin	06/12/1968	Estimate	W	07/12/1978	07/12/1978	Sea Life Park Hawaii	07/12/1978	Sea Life Park Hawaii	HI	D	06/21/1978	
NO480052	NALI	M	California sea lion	01/01/1973	Estimate	W	04/28/1972	04/28/1972	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	02/22/1988	ACUTE PANCREATITIS	
NO480053	KILEE	F	California sea lion	01/01/1971	Estimate	W	04/28/1972	04/28/1972	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	02/18/1981	CHRONIC INTERSTITIAL NEPHRITIS	
NO480054	LEKOKI	F	California sea lion	01/01/1972	Estimate	W	04/28/1972	04/28/1972	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	07/23/1981	ENTEROCOLITIS	
NO480055	418	F	California sea lion	01/01/1972	Estimate	W	12/05/1972	12/05/1972	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	06/10/1978	SEPTICEMIA	
NO480056	MOKE	M	California sea lion	01/01/1968	Estimate	U	06/07/1976	Sea Life Park Hawaii	06/07/1976	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	12/15/1978	CHRONIC BACTERIAL INFECTION	
NO480057	ELAWE 42	F	California sea lion	01/01/1973	Estimate	W	04/14/1974	04/14/1974	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	HI	D	05/02/1978	TUBERCULOSIS	
NO480058	PUKI 84	M	California sea lion	01/01/1973	Estimate	W	04/14/1974	04/14/1974	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	HI	D	04/10/1986	ANESTHETIC RELATED DEATH	
NO480059	ALONS 45	M	California sea lion	01/01/1973	Estimate	W	04/14/1974	04/14/1974	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	HI	D	04/05/1988	PULMONARY PNEUMONIA	
NO480060	17-4118 KAPOKA	F	California sea lion	01/01/1976	Estimate	C		02/01/1978	02/01/1978	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	07/23/1980	DROWNING	
NO480061	ZAP	M	California sea lion	01/01/1976	Estimate	C		02/01/1978	02/01/1978	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	07/17/1980	OBSTRUCTION OF SMALL INTESTINE	
NO480062	MALAI 78 PUP	M	California sea lion	06/06/1978	Actual	C	06/06/1978	06/06/1978	Sea Life Park Hawaii	06/06/1978	Sea Life Park Hawaii	D	06/24/1978	PULMONARY INSUFFICIENCY & ANOREXIA	
NO480063	JOOLSON 78 PUP	F	California sea lion	06/12/1978	Actual	C	06/12/1978	06/12/1978	Sea Life Park Hawaii	06/12/1978	Sea Life Park Hawaii	D	07/03/1978	PNEUMONIA	
NO480064	KILEE 78 PUP	F	California sea lion	06/13/1978	Actual	C	06/13/1978	06/13/1978	Sea Life Park Hawaii	06/13/1978	Sea Life Park Hawaii	D	07/09/1978	DROWNING	
NO480065	LE 79	M	California sea lion	07/04/1978	Actual	C	07/04/1978	07/04/1978	Sea Life Park Hawaii	07/04/1978	Sea Life Park Hawaii	D	04/15/1980	CHRONIC ENDOCARDITIS, MYOSITIS	
NO480066	NANNO 79 PUP	U	California sea lion	06/29/1978	Actual	C	06/29/1978	06/29/1978	Sea Life Park Hawaii	06/29/1978	Sea Life Park Hawaii	D	06/29/1978	STILLBORN	
NO480067	194923E PSE 79 PUP	U	California sea lion	06/24/1978	Actual	C	06/24/1978	06/24/1978	Sea Life Park Hawaii	06/24/1978	Sea Life Park Hawaii	D	06/24/1978	STILLBORN	
NO480068	PUMERANA 79 PUP	U	California sea lion	06/01/1978	Actual	C	06/01/1978	06/01/1978	Sea Life Park Hawaii	06/01/1978	Sea Life Park Hawaii	D	06/01/1978	STILLBORN	
NO480069	KILEE 79 PUP	F	California sea lion	06/21/1978	Actual	C	06/21/1978	06/21/1978	Sea Life Park Hawaii	06/21/1978	Sea Life Park Hawaii	D	06/05/1978	PNEUMONIAS	
NO480070	SWISSE PSE	F	California sea lion	01/01/1972	Estimate	W	12/05/1972	12/05/1972	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	04/15/1978	CHRONIC NEPHRITIS	
NO480071	TURN	F	California sea lion	01/01/1972	Estimate	W	12/05/1972	12/05/1972	Sea Life Park Hawaii	Sea Life Park Hawaii	PA	D	06/24/1977	UNDERNOURISHED	
NO480072	KILEE 80 PUP	F	California sea lion	06/15/1980	Actual	C	06/15/1980	06/15/1980	Sea Life Park Hawaii	06/15/1980	Sea Life Park Hawaii	D	06/24/1980	UNDERNOURISHED	
NO480073	ALILE 77 PUP	M	California sea lion	06/30/1977	Actual	C	06/30/1977	06/30/1977	Sea Life Park Hawaii	06/30/1977	Sea Life Park Hawaii	D	06/30/1977	STILLBORN	
NO480074	KAMOA	M	California sea lion	01/01/1969	Estimate	U		07/01/1977	Sea Life Park Hawaii	07/01/1977	Sea Life Park Hawaii	D	07/01/1977	old age (estimated age - 39 years)	
NO480075	JOOLSON	F	California sea lion		Unknown	U		07/01/1977	Sea Life Park Hawaii	07/01/1977	Sea Life Park Hawaii	D	06/01/1980	UNDERNOURISHED	
NO480076	KILEE 77 PUP	U	California sea lion	03/18/1977	Actual	C	03/18/1977	03/18/1977	Sea Life Park Hawaii	03/18/1977	Sea Life Park Hawaii	D	03/18/1977	STILLBORN	
NO480077	ALILE 79 PUP	M	California sea lion												

NGA000026	DRAGON	F	California sea lion	05/01/1972	Estimate	W	12/08/1972	12/08/1972	See Lib. Park Internal		See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	02/17/1982	UNDETERMINED
NGA000027	BROOD	F	California sea lion	05/01/1972	Estimate	W	12/08/1972	12/08/1972	See Lib. Park Internal		See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	02/21/1982	HEART FAILURE
NGA000028	MAKAI	F	California sea lion	05/01/1972	Estimate	W	12/08/1972	12/08/1972	See Lib. Park Internal		See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	04/14/1987	UTERINE RUPTURE
NGA000029	MAKAPOLO	F	California sea lion	05/01/1972	Estimate	W	12/08/1972	12/08/1972	See Lib. Park Internal		See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	04/13/1984	UNDIFFERENTIATED CARCINOMA
NGA000031	GENENG	F	California sea lion	05/01/1972	Estimate	W	12/08/1972	12/08/1972	See Lib. Park Internal		See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	05/18/1980	CELL CARCINOMA WITH MULTIPLE METASTASES
NGA000034	HEENO	M	SPINER DOLPHIN	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	12/04/1978	12/04/1978	See Lib. Park Internal		See Lib. Park Internal	PA	R	05/13/1972	
NGA000033	MAKAPLO H PUP	M	California sea lion	07/08/1980	Actual	C	07/08/1980	07/08/1980	See Lib. Park Internal	07/08/1980	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	07/22/1988	LIVER TUMOR
NGA000036	473	F	California sea lion	05/01/1972	Estimate	W	12/08/1972	12/08/1972	See Lib. Park Internal		See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	04/12/1973	
NGA000037	48	F	California sea lion	05/01/1972	Estimate	W	12/08/1972	12/08/1972	See Lib. Park Internal		See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	05/24/1974	
NGA000038	JUN-NAMED	F	California sea lion	05/01/1972	Estimate	W	12/08/1972	12/08/1972	See Lib. Park Internal		See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	04/02/1973	
NGA000039	JUN-NAMED	M	California sea lion	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	06/29/1971	06/29/1971	See Lib. Park Internal	06/29/1971	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	05/18/1973	
NGA000040	APOCAL	F	Stenopus dolphins	03/11/1980	Actual	C	03/11/1980	03/11/1980	See Lib. Park Internal	03/11/1980	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	06/07/1988	MALNUTRITION
NGA000041	BO	F	Stenopus dolphins	03/11/1980	Actual	C	03/11/1980	03/11/1980	See Lib. Park Internal	03/11/1980	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	04/28/1988	UNDETERMINED
NGA000044	ALLE H2 PUP	M	California sea lion	05/17/1982	Actual	C	05/17/1982	05/17/1982	See Lib. Park Internal	05/17/1982	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	06/27/1982	SEPTICEMIA, ENDOCR. DEFECT
NGA000046	KILLE H2 PUP	F	California sea lion	07/02/1982	Actual	C	07/02/1982	07/02/1982	See Lib. Park Internal	07/02/1982	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	06/27/1982	NEPHRASTIC FAILURE
NGA000048	BOOCOS H PUP	M	California sea lion	05/18/1983	Actual	C	05/18/1983	05/18/1983	See Lib. Park Internal	05/18/1983	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	05/27/1984	ACTIVE SIGNAL NEPHROSIS
NGA000049	ALLE H3 PUP	M	California sea lion	05/18/1983	Actual	C	05/18/1983	05/18/1983	See Lib. Park Internal	05/18/1983	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	07/05/1983	MALNUTRITION
NGA000051	REEBOY	M	California sea lion	06/28/1983	Actual	C	06/28/1983	06/28/1983	See Lib. Park Internal	06/28/1983	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	02/06/1984	ENTEROCOCALMUSCLE SEPTICEMIA INFECTION
NGA000052	KAZOTIA H PUP	M	California sea lion	06/28/1983	Actual	C	06/28/1983	06/28/1983	See Lib. Park Internal	06/28/1983	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	05/18/1984	CHRONIC PANCREATITIS
NGA000054	41 RAULA	F	Stenopus dolphins	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	08/22/1984	08/22/1984	See Lib. Park Internal	08/22/1984	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	05/27/1989	SEVERE PULMONARY HEMORRHAGE & NECROSIS
NGA000058	49	F	Stenopus dolphins	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	05/07/1984	05/07/1984	See Lib. Park Internal	05/07/1984	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	05/18/1984	ACUTE PNEUMONIA
NGA000059	41 OMGA	F	Stenopus dolphins	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	05/18/1984	05/18/1984	See Lib. Park Internal	05/18/1984	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	07/14/1988	PNEUMONIA
NGA000059	46 ULLA	F	Stenopus dolphins	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	05/18/1984	05/18/1984	See Lib. Park Internal	05/18/1984	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	05/27/1989	ACUTE BACTERIAL INFECTION
UNK000078	PALAS H PUP P2	M	California sea lion	05/16/1984	Actual	C	05/16/1984	05/16/1984	See Lib. Park Internal	05/16/1984	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	07/08/1984	BRONCHO-PNEUMONIA
UNK000081	L-PS H PUP	F	California sea lion	05/20/1984	Actual	C	05/20/1984	05/20/1984	See Lib. Park Internal	05/20/1984	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	07/13/1984	LACK OF CALORIC INTAKE
NGA000082	PUMELIANAS H PUP	F	California sea lion	07/04/1984	Actual	C	07/04/1984	07/04/1984	See Lib. Park Internal	07/04/1984	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	07/13/1984	LACK OF CALORIC INTAKE
NGA000083	PULAKAJS H PUP	M	California sea lion	07/04/1984	Actual	C	07/04/1984	07/04/1984	See Lib. Park Internal	07/04/1984	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	07/04/1984	STILLBORN
NGA000084	ETREDS (TT X P2)	M	LINCOLN DOG DOLEPHIN OR PORPOISE	03/11/1985	Actual	C	03/11/1985	03/11/1985	See Lib. Park Internal	03/11/1985	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	03/11/1985	STILLBORN
UNK000085	WITTE	M	California sea lion	05/21/1985	Actual	C	05/21/1985	05/21/1985	See Lib. Park Internal	05/21/1985	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	02/17/1988	PNEUMONIA
NGA000071	TT-488	F	Stenopus dolphins	02/18/1978	Estimate	W	02/24/1984	07/13/1986	See Lib. Park Internal	07/13/1986	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	02/27/1989	PNEUMONIA
NGA000072	MAKAPUS H CALF	M	Sea killer whale	03/01/1986	Actual	C	03/01/1986	03/01/1986	See Lib. Park Internal	03/01/1986	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	03/02/1988	PANCREATIC NECROSIS
UNK000081	REPS H PUP	M	California sea lion	05/04/1986	Actual	C	05/04/1986	05/04/1986	See Lib. Park Internal	05/04/1986	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	05/04/1986	PNEUMONIA
UNK000084	BOOCOS H PUP	M	California sea lion	05/14/1986	Actual	C	05/14/1986	05/14/1986	See Lib. Park Internal	05/14/1986	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	05/14/1986	PNEUMONIA
UNK000087	MAKAPUS H PUP	M	California sea lion	06/26/1986	Actual	C	06/26/1986	06/26/1986	See Lib. Park Internal	06/26/1986	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	06/26/1986	PNEUMONIA
NGA000074	PULAKAJS H PUP	F	California sea lion	07/13/1986	Actual	C	07/13/1986	07/13/1986	See Lib. Park Internal	07/13/1986	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	07/13/1986	STILLBORN
UNK000075	ALLE H3 PUP	M	California sea lion	04/28/1987	Actual	C	04/28/1987	04/28/1987	See Lib. Park Internal	04/28/1987	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	04/29/1987	Pneuman/Fold back
UNK000076	ALLE H3 PUP	F	California sea lion	04/29/1987	Actual	C	04/29/1987	04/29/1987	See Lib. Park Internal	04/29/1987	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	04/29/1987	Pneuman/Fold back
NGA000080	NANDOS H PUP	M	California sea lion	07/04/1987	Actual	C	07/04/1987	07/04/1987	See Lib. Park Internal	07/04/1987	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	07/13/1987	ACUTE INFECTION
NGA000082	PAKKO'S CALF	M	Stenopus dolphins	04/21/1988	Actual	C	04/21/1988	04/21/1988	See Lib. Park Internal	04/21/1988	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	03/03/1989	DIARRHOEA, NUTRIENT INTAKE
NGA000084	LAWNA'S CALF	F	Stenopus dolphins	05/08/1988	Actual	C	05/08/1988	05/08/1988	See Lib. Park Internal	05/08/1988	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	05/28/1988	BEHOLDING
NGA000084	REPS PUP	F	California sea lion	06/07/1988	Actual	C	06/07/1988	06/07/1988	See Lib. Park Internal	06/07/1988	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	06/15/1988	PNEUMONIA
UNK000087	LINDO'S H PUP	M	California sea lion	06/25/1988	Actual	C	06/25/1988	06/25/1988	See Lib. Park Internal	06/25/1988	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	07/13/1988	ACUTE INFECTION
UNK000088	MAKAI JS H PUP	M	California sea lion	06/28/1988	Actual	C	06/28/1988	06/28/1988	See Lib. Park Internal	06/28/1988	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	07/25/1988	Eutanasia: Life threatening condition involving jaundice
UNK000092	BOOCOS H PUP	M	California sea lion	07/25/1988	Actual	C	07/25/1988	07/25/1988	See Lib. Park Internal	07/25/1988	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	07/27/1988	Eutanasia: Life threatening condition involving jaundice
NGA000091	MIPOLE	M	Hawaiian monk seal	01/01/1993	Estimate	B	11/18/1993	11/18/1993	See Lib. Park Internal	11/18/1993	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	08/17/1993	OLD AGE
NGA000096	WAIAS PUP	M	California sea lion	06/18/1990	Actual	C	06/18/1990	06/18/1990	See Lib. Park Internal	06/18/1990	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	06/23/1993	ANESTHETIC DEATH
NGA000098	MAKAI JS PUP	F	California sea lion	07/18/1990	Actual	C	07/18/1990	07/18/1990	See Lib. Park Internal	07/18/1990	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	02/01/1993	BRONCHOPNEUMONIA
NGA000098	ETREDS (P)	F	Stenopus dolphins	07/18/1990	Actual	C	07/18/1990	07/18/1990	See Lib. Park Internal	07/18/1990	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	07/23/1990	MALNUTRITION, POSSIBLE
NGA000040	HANU H3P3	F	California sea lion	05/12/1991	Actual	C	05/12/1991	05/12/1991	See Lib. Park Internal	05/12/1991	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	10/30/1992	HEAT EXHAUSTION
NGA000089	PAKKO'S CALF	F	Stenopus dolphins	07/02/1991	Actual	C	07/02/1991	07/02/1991	See Lib. Park Internal	07/02/1991	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	07/03/1991	RESPIRATORY DIFFUSE MODERATE PNEUMONIA
NGA000012	Pao	M	Sea killer whale	05/01/1991	Estimate	W	03/22/1990	04/28/1992	See Lib. Park Internal	04/28/1992	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	03/19/1996	Chronic infection
NGA000013	ARC	F	Sea killer whale	05/01/1991	Estimate	W	03/28/1990	04/28/1992	See Lib. Park Internal	04/28/1992	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	06/20/1997	Severe Trauma
NGA000017	LAWNA'S CALF	M	Stenopus dolphins	06/11/1991	Actual	C	06/11/1991	06/11/1991	See Lib. Park Internal	06/11/1991	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	06/27/1993	CONGESTIVE HEART FAILURE
UNK001011	TT-484	F	Stenopus dolphins	05/12/1984	Estimate	W	07/11/1978	07/11/1978	See Lib. Park Internal	07/11/1978	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	02/24/1979	
NGA000041	Y100	M	Hawaiian monk seal	04/01/1986	Estimate	W	03/18/1986	03/18/1986	See Lib. Park Internal	03/18/1986	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	10/26/2012	renal failure
NGA000042	Y176	F	Hawaiian monk seal	04/29/1986	Estimate	W	07/02/1989	07/02/1989	See Lib. Park Internal	07/02/1989	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	05/17/2013	Eutanasia: Life threatening condition involving jaundice
NGA000044	Y11	M	Hawaiian monk seal	03/01/1986	Estimate	W	04/28/1987	04/28/1987	See Lib. Park Internal	04/28/1987	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	05/17/2013	Eutanasia: Life threatening condition involving jaundice
NGA000047	Y104	M	Hawaiian monk seal	05/01/1987	Estimate	W	08/01/1991	08/01/1991	See Lib. Park Internal	08/01/1991	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	05/18/2014	Undetermined
NGA000071	Y104	M	Hawaiian monk seal	05/01/1987	Estimate	W	05/05/1987	05/05/1987	See Lib. Park Internal	05/05/1987	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	04/11/2013	Undetermined
NGA000042	KAMALAN'S PUP	F	California sea lion	05/28/1997	Actual	C	05/28/1997	05/28/1997	See Lib. Park Internal	05/28/1997	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	08/04/2004	multiple complications including mild pulmonary edema, right ventricular hypertrophy, mild valvular endocarditis
NGA000096	Y1LNDK-Z-02-JR	M	California sea lion	06/18/2002	Estimate	B	06/23/2002	06/23/2002	See Lib. Park Internal	06/23/2002	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	08/04/2004	multiple complications including mild pulmonary edema, right ventricular hypertrophy, mild valvular endocarditis
NGA000094	KCB-88-01	F	MELON-HEADED WHALE	04/01/1998	Estimate	B	04/18/1998	04/18/1998	See Lib. Park Internal	04/18/1998	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	06/23/2003	jaundice
NGA000087	MAKAPU	F	Sea killer whale	03/01/1973	Estimate	W	03/12/1963	03/12/1963	See Lib. Park Internal	03/12/1963	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	03/13/1991	GRANULOMATOUS PNEUMONIA & SEPTICEMIA
NGA000088	FANGS	M	Sea killer whale	03/01/1973	Estimate	W	03/11/1973	03/11/1973	See Lib. Park Internal	03/11/1973	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	07/26/1987	VASCULITIS/NON SUPPURATIVE ENCEPHALITIS
NGA000089	AJUNLU H	F	Sea killer whale	03/01/1973	Estimate	W	03/11/1973	03/11/1973	See Lib. Park Internal	03/11/1973	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	11/09/1978	PNEUMONIA
NGA000090	OLA	M	Sea killer whale	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	08/22/1987	08/22/1987	See Lib. Park Internal	08/22/1987	See Lib. Park Internal	PA	D	03/23/1972	
NGA000091	OLEGO	F	Sea killer whale	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	07/28/1982	07/28/1982							

NOA000747	1989-1	LELANE	F	hottelone dolphin	01/01/1989	Estimated	W	02/11/1989	02/11/1989	Dolphin Quest, Inc.	08/20/1989	Dolphin Quest - Hawaii	4021	D	0094/1989	kidney obstruction
NOA000748	1989-2	HOOM	M	hottelone dolphin	01/01/1989	Estimated	W	02/11/1989	02/11/1989	Dolphin Quest, Inc.	08/20/1989	Dolphin Quest - Hawaii	4021	D	0126/1989	Acute nephritis
NOA000750		YORKE	M	hottelone dolphin	01/01/1989	Estimated	W	02/20/1989	02/20/1989	Dolphin Quest, Inc.	08/20/1989	Dolphin Quest - Hawaii	4021	D	0816/1989	NA-CHANNEL BLOCKER TOXINS
NOA000751	1989-7	PELE	F	hottelone dolphin	01/01/1989	Estimated	W	01/26/1989	01/26/1989	Dolphin Quest, Inc.	08/20/1989	Dolphin Quest - Hawaii	4021			
NOA000752		KAI	M	hottelone dolphin	01/01/1989	Estimated	W	01/26/1989	01/26/1989	Dolphin Quest, Inc.	08/20/1989	Dolphin Quest - Hawaii	4021	D	0409/1989	NA-CHANNEL BLOCKER TOXINS
NOA000753		PELE'S CALF	F	hottelone dolphin	06/30/1994	Actual	C	06/30/1994	06/30/1994	Dolphin Quest, Inc.	06/30/1994	Dolphin Quest - Hawaii		D	0102/1994	
NOA000754	ALUKE-1	PELE'S CALF(MALIA)	F	hottelone dolphin	08/21/1991	Actual	C	08/21/1991	08/21/1991	Dolphin Quest, Inc.	08/21/1991	Dolphin Quest - Hawaii		D	0823/2000	intestinal torsion
NOA000755	OCTYMA-1	HANA'ALE-PETE'S CALF	M	hottelone dolphin	08/21/1991	Actual	C	08/21/1991	08/21/1991	Dolphin Quest, Inc.	08/21/1991	Dolphin Quest - Hawaii		D	1218/2002	not reported
NOA000756	99-1		F	hottelone dolphin	11/01/1997	Actual	C	11/01/1997	11/01/1997	Dolphin Quest, Inc.	11/01/1997	Dolphin Quest - Hawaii		D	1119/1997	Trauma
NOA000757	1989-1	SONARI	M	hottelone dolphin	05/22/1989	Actual	C	05/22/1989	05/22/1989	Dolphin Quest, Inc.	05/22/1989	Dolphin Quest - Hawaii		D	0423/2003	sepsis
NOA000758	41 HOKULELE		F	hottelone dolphin	01/01/1971	Estimated	W	09/14/1978	09/14/1978	Sea Life Park Hawaii		Sea Life Park Hawaii - HI		D	0628/1984	PULMONARY INSUFFICIENCY
NOA000759		APO	F	hottelone dolphin	Unknown	Unknown	W	06/11/1981	06/11/1981	Sea Life Park Hawaii		Sea Life Park Hawaii - HI		D	09/01/1980	PNEUMONIA
NOA000760		HANACMA	M	hottelone dolphin	Unknown	Unknown	W	09/01/1980	09/01/1980	Sea Life Park Hawaii		Sea Life Park Hawaii - HI		D	01/21/1974	
NOA000761		MUKIMU	M	hottelone dolphin	Unknown	Unknown	W	12/08/1970	12/08/1970	Sea Life Park Hawaii		Sea Life Park Hawaii - HI		D	06/08/1974	
NOA000762		HELEA	M	hottelone dolphin	Unknown	Unknown	W	05/11/1971	05/11/1971	Sea Life Park Hawaii		Sea Life Park Hawaii - HI		D		
NOA000763	41		U	hottelone dolphin	Unknown	Unknown	W	05/21/1974	05/21/1974	Sea Life Park Hawaii		Sea Life Park Hawaii - HI		B	05/21/1974	
NOA000764		EALANA	F	hottelone dolphin	05/29/1977	Actual	C	05/29/1977	05/29/1977	Sea Life Park Hawaii	05/29/1977	Sea Life Park Hawaii		D	1028/1983	ENTERITIS/ENTERA & FOOD POISONING
NOA000765		POLLE	M	hottelone dolphin	Unknown	Unknown	W	12/13/1972	12/13/1972	Sea Life Park Hawaii		Sea Life Park Hawaii - HI		D		
NOA000766		NEONOE	F	hottelone dolphin	Unknown	Unknown	W	06/13/1960	06/13/1960	Sea Life Park Hawaii		Sea Life Park Hawaii - HI		D	05/23/1970	
NOA000767		KEKE	M	hottelone dolphin	Unknown	Unknown	W	05/24/1964	05/24/1964	Sea Life Park Hawaii		Sea Life Park Hawaii - HI		D	06/04/1972	
NOA000768		EADU	F	hottelone dolphin	Unknown	Unknown	W	02/26/1969	02/26/1969	Sea Life Park Hawaii		Sea Life Park Hawaii - HI		D	02/26/1970	
NOA000769		MEAO-LAMAKANE	M	rough-toothed dolphin	01/01/1971	Estimated	B	06/21/1976	06/21/1976	Sea Life Park Hawaii	06/21/1976	Sea Life Park Hawaii		D	08/31/1984	DIARRHOEA
NOA000770		MALIA	F	rough-toothed dolphin	Unknown	Unknown	W	01/14/1964	01/14/1964	Sea Life Park Hawaii		Sea Life Park Hawaii - HI		D	06/13/1960	HEPATITIS/POSSIBLE BACTERIAL ETIOLOGY
NOA000771	HYBRID (ORCA X T)	HYBRID-ETENG MAMA	U	UNSPECIFIED DOLPHIN OR PORPOISE	09/04/1971	Actual	C	09/04/1971	09/04/1971	Sea Life Park Hawaii	09/04/1971	Sea Life Park Hawaii		D	06/23/1975	
NOA000772	41		M	rough-toothed dolphin	Unknown	Unknown	W	05/24/1974	05/24/1974	Sea Life Park Hawaii		Sea Life Park Hawaii - HI		B	05/30/1974	
NOA000773	42		F	rough-toothed dolphin	Unknown	Unknown	W	02/24/1974	02/24/1974	Sea Life Park Hawaii		Sea Life Park Hawaii - HI		B	05/30/1974	
NOA000774	49		F	rough-toothed dolphin	Unknown	Unknown	W	06/23/1974	06/23/1974	Sea Life Park Hawaii		Sea Life Park Hawaii - HI		D	02/23/1975	HEPATITIS
NOA000775		BOU	F	rough-toothed dolphin	Unknown	Unknown	W	03/03/1963	03/03/1963	Sea Life Park Hawaii		Sea Life Park Hawaii - HI		D	02/08/1970	
NOA000776		MOA	F	rough-toothed dolphin	Unknown	Unknown	W	08/22/1968	08/22/1968	Sea Life Park Hawaii		Sea Life Park Hawaii - HI		D	01/08/1974	
NOA000777		MARENA	F	rough-toothed dolphin	Unknown	Unknown	W	07/11/1969	07/11/1969	Sea Life Park Hawaii		Sea Life Park Hawaii - HI		D	06/18/1970	
NOA000778		MAKALANI	F	rough-toothed dolphin	Unknown	Unknown	W	08/01/1969	08/01/1969	Sea Life Park Hawaii		Sea Life Park Hawaii - HI		D	10/23/1973	
NOA000779		MAKOOE	F	rough-toothed dolphin	Unknown	Unknown	W	06/08/1971	06/08/1971	Sea Life Park Hawaii		Sea Life Park Hawaii - HI		D	05/13/1972	
NOA000780		MAKANA	F	rough-toothed dolphin	Unknown	Unknown	W	06/08/1972	06/08/1972	Sea Life Park Hawaii		Sea Life Park Hawaii - HI		D	11/26/1972	INTERNAL BACTERIAL INFECTION
NOA000781		MARAVE	M	California sea lion	06/21/1980	Actual	C	06/21/1980	06/21/1980	Sea Life Park Hawaii	06/21/1980	Sea Life Park Hawaii		D	10/23/1982	PANCREATITIS, ACUTE, NONCRITIZING
NOA000782	MAKAI 80 PUP		M	California sea lion	06/24/1980	Actual	C	06/24/1980	06/24/1980	Sea Life Park Hawaii	06/24/1980	Sea Life Park Hawaii		D	05/21/1981	ABNORMAL KIDNEY MASS
NOA000783		KEAKA	M	short-finned pilot whale	Unknown	Unknown	W	06/24/1972	06/24/1972	Sea Life Park Hawaii		Sea Life Park Hawaii - HI		D	07/04/1979	GENERALIZED NECKPAIN
NOA000784		HELOKAI I	M	short-finned pilot whale	Unknown	Unknown	W	03/10/1970	03/10/1970	Sea Life Park Hawaii		Sea Life Park Hawaii - HI		D	05/18/1970	
NOA000785		HELOKAI II	F	short-finned pilot whale	Unknown	Unknown	W	03/27/1970	03/27/1970	Sea Life Park Hawaii		Sea Life Park Hawaii - HI		D	07/23/1970	
NOA000786		HEHE	M	short-finned pilot whale	Unknown	Unknown	W	06/16/1971	06/16/1971	Sea Life Park Hawaii		Sea Life Park Hawaii - HI		D	07/23/1971	
NOA000787		X	U	short-finned pilot whale	Unknown	Unknown	W	06/27/1972	06/27/1972	Sea Life Park Hawaii		Sea Life Park Hawaii - HI		D	10/04/1972	
NOA000788		X	U	short-finned pilot whale	Unknown	Unknown	W	10/24/1972	10/24/1972	Sea Life Park Hawaii		Sea Life Park Hawaii - HI		D	11/01/1972	
NOA000789		X	U	short-finned pilot whale	Unknown	Unknown	W	10/27/1972	10/27/1972	Sea Life Park Hawaii		Sea Life Park Hawaii - HI		D	11/11/1972	
NOA000790		WAIWANA	F	short-finned pilot whale	Unknown	Unknown	W	03/16/1967	03/16/1967	Sea Life Park Hawaii		Sea Life Park Hawaii - HI		D	01/23/1970	

January 31, 2018

RE: Opposition to SB 3055

Dear Committee Members,

I am a marine mammal scientist and cognitive psychologist with a PhD from MIT, who has been researching dolphin behavior, cognition, and welfare for over 15 years. I give you this background so you will understand that I am a well-trained, highly educated scientist with many years of directly relevant experience, who takes education, welfare, and the importance of factual data very seriously. As such, I am writing to ask you to oppose SB 3055. Although I applaud the desire for high standards of animal welfare, and welcome discussions of these standards, I also firmly believe it is essential that these discussions be honest and factual in nature. As such, I am vehemently opposed to any legislation based on demonstrable inaccuracies, as is SB 3055. For example:

It is simply untrue that survivorship of dolphins in marine mammal facilities is reduced compared to dolphins in the wild. While this may have been true decades ago (as noted in the old references that are sometimes used to support this claim), survival rates have consistently increased over the years in marine mammal parks and aquariums (1, 2), with the most recent study showing an annual survival rate of 0.97 for dolphins in U.S. facilities (2). This is demonstrably higher survival than found for populations of wild dolphins, with survival rates ranging from .902 - .961 (3-6).

There are no scientific studies suggesting that dolphins in marine mammal facilities are chronically stressed, or are any more stressed than dolphins in the wild. On the contrary, studies have shown that cortisol levels (i.e., the "stress hormone") of dolphins in marine mammal facilities are either very similar to, or lower than, cortisol levels of wild dolphins, depending on the technique used to obtain the samples (7-9).

There is similarly no scientific evidence to suggest that dolphins in marine mammal facilities are any more aggressive than dolphins in the wild (See, e.g., 10, 11).

Although dolphin intelligence is relatively sophisticated among nonhuman animals (although not in all areas, & the specifics are still the subject of debate among scientists e.g., 12, 13), there is no scientific evidence suggesting that having complex cognitive abilities leads an animal to fare any worse in a zoo or aquarium-like setting (14).

In short, there is no scientific evidence to support the claims in this bill that dolphins in accredited facilities are anything other than healthy and thriving. It is also worth noting that marine mammal facilities contribute to the conservation of wild dolphins and their ecosystems, both by the research they perform (Please see the attached Scientist Statement supporting the importance of research in marine mammal facilities, signed by 82 scientists worldwide [Attachment A]) and by educating and motivating the public (e.g. 15-17).

While many people around the world are genuinely concerned with the well-being of animals,

which can help lead to useful discussions and policies, it is unfortunate that the information (or misinformation) cited to motivate this bill seems to be ideologically based rather than based on sources that are scientifically objective and accurate. Legislation has real-world consequences for animals, for employment and local economies, and for the public. Therefore, it is crucial that any information used to make legislative decisions be based on actual science. The claims being advanced to support SB 3055 do not meet that criterion.

Sincerely,

Kelly Jaakkola, PhD
Director of Research
Dolphin Research Center
58901 Overseas Highway
Grassy Key, FL 33050

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Appendix A.

Scientist Statement Supporting Research in Marine Mammal Facilities

April 8, 2016

We, the undersigned members of the scientific community, wish to acknowledge the importance of marine mammals in zoos, aquariums, and marine mammal facilities, and express our support for research conducted at these facilities. We know that critical research findings have come from studies of dolphins and related species in managed care environments, which have provided the vast majority of what is known about their perception, physiology, and cognition. This includes both basic facts about these animals (e.g., echolocation and how it works¹, diving physiology², energetics³, gestation period⁴, hearing range⁵, signature whistles⁶, and so forth) and applied information such as how they react to environmental stressors⁷ and how to diagnose and treat their diseases.⁸

The benefits of such research extend well beyond the animals in zoological facilities. The interpretation of data from field studies is directly informed by what we have learned about the cognition and physiology of these animals in managed care settings. Moreover, because science is inherently a collaborative endeavor, research findings from these animals contribute to our collective understanding across the animal kingdom. Finally, research in managed care settings impacts conservation efforts by: (a) providing the baseline information necessary to inform conservation plans and practices (e.g., typical respiration rates, metabolic rates, gestation length, hearing range and thresholds, etc.), (b) documenting physiological and behavioral responses to environmental stressors such as sound and contaminants⁷ to inform population managers, and (c) developing and testing techniques and tools for assessing animals in the field.⁹

The advances that have come from research in marine mammal facilities could not have come from studies of animals in the wild. Field studies are crucial, however, many research questions are unsuited to discovery at a distance. Studies of pregnancy, birth, and fine-scale calf development require the type of close and consistent observation that is only possible in zoological settings. The hypothesis testing required for questions about cognition, perception, and physiology requires the ability to present animals with specific situations and challenges utilizing the necessary controls, consistency, and repetition that are impossible to achieve in the wild. Indeed, as with research in any discipline, a comprehensive understanding of these animals requires a combination of both in-situ and ex-situ studies; studies based in the wild and in zoological settings. This idea is neither new nor specific to marine mammals, but is critical to the way scientific discovery works.

Sincerely,

Francisco Aboitiz, PhD, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

José Fco. Zamorano Abramson, PhD, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Michael Adkesson, DVM, Dipl ACZM, Chicago Zoological Society / Brookfield Zoo

Javier Almunia, PhD, Loro Parque Fundación

Richard Bates, PhD, University of St. Andrews

Gordon B. Bauer, PhD, New College of Florida

Don R. Bergfelt, PhD, Ross University, School of Veterinary Medicine

Gregory D. Bossart, VMD, PhD, Georgia Aquarium

Ann E. Bowles, PhD, Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute

David Brammer, DVM, DACLAM, University of Houston

Micah Brodsky, VMD, V.M.D. Consulting

Jason N. Bruck, PhD, University of St. Andrews, School of Biology, Sea Mammal Research Unit

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Fabienne Delfour, PhD, L.E.E.C., Paris 13 University
Alistair D.M. Dove, PhD, Georgia Aquarium
Samuel Dover, DVM, Channel Islands Marine & Wildlife Institute
Kathleen M. Dudzinski, PhD, Dolphin Communication Project; Managing Editor, Aquatic
Mammals Journal
Holli Eskelinen, PhD, Dolphins Plus
Andreas Fahlman, PhD, Texas A&M- Corpus Christi
Antonio Jesús Fernández Rodríguez, DVM, PhD, Veterinary School University of Las Palmas de
Gran Canaria
Vanessa Fravel, DVM, Six Flags Discovery Kingdom
Steven J.M. Gans, MD, St. Jansdal Hospital
Joseph Gaspard, PhD, Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium
William G. Gilmartin, President, Hawai'i Wildlife Fund
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Basilio Valladares Hernández, PhD, Universidad de La Laguna
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Klaus Lucke, PhD, Centre for Marine Science & Technology, Curtin University
Heidi Lyn, PhD, University of Southern Mississippi
Radhika Makecha, PhD, Eastern Kentucky University
Katherine McHugh, PhD, Chicago Zoological Society
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Lance Miller, PhD, Chicago Zoological Society / Brookfield Zoo
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SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:16:42 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Nachtigall	University of Hawaii	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Respected Legislators,

Senate bill 3055 would direct the State Department of Agriculture to block all permits to move dolphins whales and porpoises within the State. It exempts those held solely for research or education, but there are none like that now since my laboratory at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology was recently closed due to constraints on funding. Hawaii once had two of the best dolphin laboratories in the world at the Kewalo Basin Marine Mammal Laboratory and the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology but both have closed. Hawaii has been known as the world leader in the study of cetacean behavior, echolocation and hearing.

Why is there a regulation requiring approval by the Department of Agriculture to approve the movement of animals? What purpose does it serve? This issue of animal movement between facilities is fully covered by the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act because all cetaceans must have stringent permits and direct permission to be moved by the National Marine Fisheries Service. The proposed law is therefore duplicative and redundant of Federal Laws and Regulations.

This is an attempt to shut down public display facilities in the State. The law requiring the State Department of Agriculture to block the movement of animals will also further damage basic scientific research on dolphins and whales. The only opportunity scientists like myself have to do work on hearing, echolocation and the effects of sound on animals is in facilities that keep the animals like Sea Life Park and Dolphin Quest. If the facilities are restricted and closed the science like I do will stop. *We have work going on at both places.*

The bill, if it passes would also be most unfortunate for both children and the wild dolphins around Hawaii. Kids should be able to see dolphins. Few of the State's children will have the opportunity to go out on expensive tours to see wild dolphins and if they do they will be upsetting the wild animals. Excellent published research demonstrates that swimming with the wild animals is very disruptive to the populations. Sea Life Park is an outstanding facility that is getting a bad rap. Dolphin Quest is also an excellent facility that allows folks to get up and close to dolphins without bothering the wild populations. Both strongly support basic research.

Perhaps it would be reasonable to modify this bill if it cannot be stopped. Perhaps it could be changed to allow the animals to continue to be moved by facilities that allow basic research to be done

Paul E. Nachtigall, Director Emeritus Marine Mammal Research Program, University of Hawaii

Former President of The Society of Marine Mammalogy, Honorary Member of the European Association for Aquatic Mammals, Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America and Chair of the Ethics Committee of the Society of Marine Mammalogy.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:45:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sean gallarde	sea life park	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Aloha,

im Sean Gallarde I was born and raised in waimanalo. Growing up me and my family always went to sea life park. It's a positive, exciting and great experience. Still til this day all the younger generations and myself still go to sea life park. Being that it's located in on the windward side in waimanalo it provides a handful of jobs for people all on the windward side. As an employee at sea life park, it makes me happy to have a job that I love so much. It also gives education to my nieces and nephews that come so often to sea life park. We all enjoy that everybody actually learns and gets educated on biology life. Sea life park makes people so happy. I wouldn't want to see sea life park go. Thank you so much mahalo

Sean Gallarde

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:16:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sarah pedro	sea life park	Oppose	No

Comments:

Sea life park provides a life living for me an iove my job an I love my customers an the keki loves the animals especially the dolphins my nephew loves sea life park he enjoys coming to the park .

Senator Mike Gabbard
Chair, Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 201
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Senator Gil Riviere
Vice Chair, Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 217
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairman Gabbard and the Agriculture and Environment Committee:

My name is Taylor Gray and I am writing in strong opposition to Senate Bill No. 3055 ("SB 3055"). From my reading of SB 3055, the Resolution is grossly inaccurate, biased, and ill informed. Having lived in Hawaii my entire life, I have learned to love the ocean and the marine mammals that call it their home. My passion and support for marine mammal conservation began at the tender age of ten, when I first interacted with dolphins at Sea Life Park. I was enthralled by these magnificent animals. It was from this experience that I became an avid and zealous supporter of marine mammal conservation.

Without this experience, I am not sure if I would have developed the love and interest that I have for dolphins and other marine mammals. Facilities like Sea Life Park and Dolphin Quest Oahu give people the opportunity to interact and learn about dolphins. As such, these dolphins are ambassadors for their relatives in the ocean. These ambassadors allow people to establish meaningful connections that spark awareness for the necessity of conservation and custodianship. Removing dolphins from these facilities would ultimately rob future generations of the opportunity to interact, fall in love, and become inspired to protect dolphins and other marine mammals that are being threatened with extinction in the wild.

Dolphins living at these facilities are not being ill-treated, as inferred by the misinformed language contained in SB 3055. In fact, Dolphins housed at facilities accredited by the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums live significantly longer in human care than they do in the wild. See Willis, K. Life Expectancy of Bottlenose Dolphins in Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums' North American Member Facilities: 1990-Present. (2007) (available at http://www.amma.org/doc_dolphin_factsheet.html) (stating current scientific data show that the average lifespan of bottlenose dolphins in Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums member facilities is considerably longer than their counterparts in the wild). These dolphins are cared for by loving, dedicated trainers and experienced veterinarians.

Dolphins housed in facilities like Dolphin Quest Oahu and Sea Life Park serve a vital purpose, which is to motivate people to engage in the conservation of marine mammals found

in the wild. Passing SB 3055 would result in a horrendous disservice to captive and wild dolphins alike. Therefore, I strongly oppose SB 3055 in its entirety.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Taylor Gray', written in a cursive style.

Taylor Gray, Esq.

808-489-5132

taylorwg@hawaii.edu

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 7:30:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen		Support	No

Comments:

Dolphins and other cetaceans are sentient, highly intelligent being who suffer in captivity. As with circus elephants, lions, tigers, and bears, it is time to end cruel captivity of cetaceans for entertainments entertainment. Please pass this bill! Mahalo!

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 4:45:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elsie Akau	Sea Life Park	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Elsie Akau and I am a photographer here at Sea Life Park. I am around these animals and trainers and is a big animal lover who is not a big fan of animal cruelty or animals abuse but I've been here for over a year and I fell in Love with these dolphins as well as the trainers and people who work with our animals. These animals are treated with the all the love and care that they need. As a Veterinary Tech student and a employee of sea life park I do not agree to this bill for It not only jeopardize the life of or animals but also all of our jobs. It's not easy living or finding a job in Hawaii. So I ask that you please think about what will happen to the animals and not pass this bill for the sake of the dolphins. Mahalo

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 8:34:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
carissa cabrera		Support	No

Comments:

Dear Hawaii Legislature,

I am a master's student studying Marine Science at the Oceanic Institute (HPU) that shares land with Sea life Park. I spend a lot of my time at OI and pass the dolphin enclosures on a daily basis. Although this institution is aware of the effects on captive cetaceans, it is still pushing breeding. Breeding in captive animals is unwilling, and in order to keep them viable for other parks they must be on birth control which severely affects their hormones and internal physiology, resulting in more stress. Transfer of cetaceans often results in death, as the transportation puts the cetacean in a much tinier enclosure for transport. This is something that is widely known and universal. During the transport of Hawaiian cetaceans to Odysea Aquarium in Arizona, most did not make the plane ride. Why are we doing this?

I know first-hand what this does to the psychology, sociability, and functionality of these creatures. Hawaii generates enough money with sustainable, eco-friendly whale-watching and wild dolphin encounter businesses, captive cetaceans are unnecessary.

As islanders we interact closely with the ocean and understand how our actions affect the health and wellbeing of the ecosystem as a whole. By disrespecting such important top-trophic level species like cetaceans, we are saying more about own own hypocrisy than pretending we are stewards the environment. By ending transfer of cetaceans we can set an example for the rest of the country, something we desperately need to do right now.

Mahalo,

Carissa Cabrera

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 8:53:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alyson Easton		Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha and welcome back to our new session!!!!

I am writing to you tonight in support of SB3055.

Please support our continued efforts to end the cycle of cetaceans being born into captivity in our beautiful, progressive state.

Captivity kills these wild animals.

Please show you care for our beloved ocean creatures by stopping the suffering and misery of their unborn.

Im counting on your vote!!!!

Alyson Easton, MSW

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 9:26:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenneth Young		Support	No

Comments:

Cetaceans are marine mammals that are highly intelligent and self-aware. Their large, complex brains allow them to form unique social bonds, problem solve, empathize and communicate with each other. The ratio of the brain size to body size of dolphins is only second to humans.

They are wild animals and should remain free in the wild.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 11:12:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Miskavitch		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha! I'm writing to you on behalf of Keiko Conservation. We are currently trying to pass legislature to halt further breeding and transfers of captive cetaceans in the state of Hawaii to hopefully begin phasing out this practice at our local facilities. I'm in full support of this. It is cruel that we take animals from their home to be placed in zoos or aquariums simply for our entertainment. Once the animals get to these facilities they are stuck in tank for the rest of their lives versus the ocean. Most will be mistreated and neglected and live a life of solitary confinement. We as humans have lost sight of our humanity because we were blinded by the dollar sign, but it's not too late to take our humanity back and put a stop to this cruel act. Animals deserve to thrive and live in their natural habitats! Thank you.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 4:13:58 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anna Hall	Keiko Conservation	Support	No

Comments:

Capturing and keeping whales and dolphins in captivity is deplorable. They are highly intelligent, sentient creatures, who feel as we humans do. They live in complex societies, have unique relationships with one another, and mourn death of loved ones. But they are taken from their homes, separated from their families and confined for human 'entertainment.' The tanks where they live are generally too small, compared to the open ocean. Mental psychosis and physical harm ensue after long periods of captivity. I urge this bill to pass in order to empty the tanks of cetaceans in Hawaii and keep them wild, where they belong.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 5:28:07 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn Lauterbach	individula	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not support this bill. Research and protections of dolphins is vital to their survival long term. Groups who value and take care of dolphins and educate the public tourists and locals are so important. I have personally seen the support and care offered to dolphins at facilities like Dolphin Quest. Like zoos and aquariums, the opportunity for people to learn about these creatures leads to their care and continuation. As a teacher, I have experienced the educational opportunities this organization has created to benefit the dolphins. It is unique among businesses in that care of the animals comes first and foremost. There are already agencies that monitor the care of the animals. Trust them to do their jobs rather than extremists shock value groups. Those things we learn about, we take care of and love and preserve. Dolphins in facilities like Dolphin Quest are vital to people learning, loving, and caring for them. Please do not pass this bill. It would impact local children and their free access to learn about animals that are important in their lives and culture. I have been able to experience this myself and know it is true first hand. Do not pass this extreme bill. Thank you.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 6:30:45 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benjamin Sawicki	Mr.	Support	No

Comments:

Science has proven captive cetaceans have a shorter lifespan, are more prone to disease and stress, and can almost never be kept in an environment that resembles their natural habitat. I am a marine biologist who has worked with marine mammals in various settings and have seen this firsthand. Please do not allow any more permits allowing the transportation of cetaceans within Hawaii, and pass SB3055. Let Hawaii be a leader in this field! My comments and observations cover cetaceans transported for any purpose, but ESPECIALLY those used for entertainment purposes only!

Thank you.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:53:50 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tulia Ferguson		Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please Do Not support SB3055. Accredited marine mammal facilities like Dolphin Quest need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding and to best manage and care for the animals. Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Let the expert agencies do their job. To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks and rob future generations of the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about these animals up close. I've been to Dolphin Quest and have seen first-hand that these animals are absolutely adored and well care for by their animal caregivers.

Please do not support SB3055. Do not rob Hawaii of the educational opportunities and conservation efforts shared at places like Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park.

Mahalo nui loa,

Tulia Ferguson

Hawaii Resident

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:12:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tess Chapman		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Tess Chapman and I am a current marine biology student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am also the former President of the American Cetacean Society Student Coalition at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

The cetacean entertainment industry is one that is dying out. We as a species are becoming aware of the inherent cruelty that is deeply woven into this seemingly wonderful "experience". While I am supportive of cetaceans in captivity for **rehabilitation** purposes including when an animal is **accurately and undoubtedly** deemed unable to survive in the wild, to submit them to becoming an entertainer is certainly abhorrent. The **anthropocentrism** that we exhibit as a species may be our undoing as we continue to exploit the environment around us.

I admit that there are certainly flaws with the current alternative to dolphin captivity swim programs, in which tour companies dumb snorkelers in the middle of resting pods but this should not be a valid argument on the opposing side of this legislation. This is an entirely different topic. This can also be said for the argument that places such as SeaLife Park are imperative to the education of children. There are many better ways to educate children on cetaceans than in these facilities that do not represent their natural behaviors.

We need to follow in the footsteps of our neighbors on Maui and end this vicious cycle of cetacean captivity and exploitation. I urge you to vote in support of this legislature and stand with others who have moved on from the ways of the past.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:18:06 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sara M Forsgren		Support	No

Comments:

I'm here to support this testimony to HALT further breeding and bringing in captive cetaceans in the state of Hawaii. These mammals, are not to be held in living quarters too small and not adequate enough for them to live out their lives. These are migrating, intelligent creatures, and it is inhumane to take them away from where they can naturally thrive. These mammals, need the big spacious waters and their own species, pod, food, amongst other things that they're not getting while being held captive.... They need to not to be taken away from their home or bred for show purposes in what are essentially bathtubs for them. Thank you for hearing me out, and please do the right thing for cetacean living.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:41:51 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Samantha Berberich	Ms.	Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:03:06 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Wolden		Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

The proposed transport ban on cetaceans is wrong and unjust, and is nothing but an attempt to shut down important dolphin swim programs like Dolphin Quest.

To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks and rob future generations of the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about these animals close up.

The dolphins at Dolphin Quest are absolutely adored and well cared for by their animal caregivers, and the educational value of this program is very impactful and important.

Accredited marine mammal facilities like Dolphin Quest need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding and to best manage and care for the animals.

Please do not support HB3055.

Thank you.

WW

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:26:13 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nate Chambers	CS Holdings Corporation	Oppose	No

Comments:

There are no marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii or anywhere in the US. Dolphin Quest provides critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education to our community. Dolphin Quest brings top scientists to Hawaii who then give free talks to the public and share their knowledge with locals.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:41:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan P Dunn		Oppose	No

Comments:

There are no marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii or anywhere in the US. An organization like Dolphin Quest provides critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education to our community. Dolphin Quest brings top scientists to Hawaii who then give free talks to the public and share their knowledge with locals. Accredited marine mammal facilities like Dolphin Quest need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding and to best manage and care for the animals.

The educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine life park like Dolphin Quest should also be taken into account. It's safer for the dolphins and people. This is much better than dozens of boats harassing our wild spinner dolphins when they're trying to rest.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:54:52 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacklyn Milligan		Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello,

I strongly oppose SB3055. Cetaceans under human care are instrumental in educating the public about the plight these animals face in the wild. Cetaceans all over the world are dying from the effects of climate change, pollution and overfishing. The facilities that have dolphins not only provide phenomenal care for these animals, but they allow guests from all over the world to make a personal connection with them and therefore inspire them to make a difference for them in the wild. Companies like Dolphin Quest donate a tremendous amount of money to help fund research for these animals as well as provide grants for local schools to come and learn about dolphins, conservation and their marine habitats. These facilities offer an opportunity for people in Hawaii to engage with these animals in a safe environment rather than chasing and harrassing wild spinner dolphins in the wild. The ban of cetacean transport would limit the amount of future generations that would get the opportunity to engage with these animals. I strongly suggest that you consider the ramifications of what this bill would do. Thank you.

Jacklyn Milligan

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:12:45 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kyler Badten		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:08:51 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurel Brabson		Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not support SB 3055. While the proposal appears to be an attempt to promote animal welfare, it is a misguided attempt for several reasons.

First, in banning the transport of dolphins by zoological facilities in Hawaii, with the exception of facilities that are SOLELY for research or education, the proposed measure overlooks the fact that no such facilities exists. Research/education only facilities cannot be sustainably funded, which results in the need for some type of income from entertainment. The three facilities with dolphins and whales in Hawaii all contribute tremendously to research, stranding response training, education, and conservation.

Second, if Hawaii legislators are concerned about animal welfare, their efforts would better focused outside of facilities such as DolphinQuest, where animals are well cared for. Instead, attention should be focused on the welfare of dolphins and whales in the wild, who often drown in discarded fishing nets, or are otherwise harmed due to the human impacts of overfishing and pollution.

Finally, while there are many other points I could make as to why this measure should be opposed, I would like to end with this point: the transportation of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Let the expert agencies do their job!

Thank you for your consideration.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:18:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Joseph		Oppose	No

Comments:

1. Please do not support SB 3055.
2. The importance of access to Dolphin Quest for local Hawaiians and school age children. It's not just for tourists. Locals can go and watch the dolphins for free. Add your personal experience and observations.
3. DQ provides a wonderful environment for the dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution and Marine debris.
4. Educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine life park like Dolphin Quest is safer for the dolphins and people. This is much better than dozens of boats harassing our wild spinner dolphins when they're trying to rest.
5. The Marine Mammal Specialists at Dolphin Quest are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals' behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone.
6. There are no marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii or anywhere in the US. Dolphin Quest provides critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education to our community. Dolphin Quest brings top scientists to Hawaii who then give free talks to the public and share their knowledge with locals.
7. Accredited marine mammal facilities like Dolphin Quest need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding and to best manage and care for the animals.
8. Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Let the expert agencies do their job!
9. If you ban the transport of dolphins what's next... horses? Dogs? Cattle?

10. To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks and rob future generations of the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about these animals up close.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:28:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Bishop		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to testify IN SUPPORT of SB3055. This bill is long overdue! Isn't it time we prioritize the welfare of these magnificent and highly intelligent cetaceans over continuing to allow them to be forced into an unnatural existence?

Mahalo,

E. Bishop

Honolulu, Hawai'i

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:38:09 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chelsea Kyst		Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not support SB 3055. It is not fact based and what they are proposing would rob future generations of both local and tourist of being able to see dolphins and other cetaceans up close and personal. I personally have been to Dolphin Quest and have seen how well their animals are cared for. I remember talking to one of the trainers who stated that the animals were a part of her family now. One of the biggest things that stood out to be about Dolphin Quest, was the amount of conservation and research aspects they had in their programs as well as in the company in general. Not allowing animals to be transported in or kept under human care would take those conservation efforts away. Think of all of the humans that they interact with on a daily basis and how many minds they can influence into helping out the environment even after they leave the site. As previously stated, the bill is NOT fact based at all. Wouldn't you feel more comfortable with the experts doing what they do best instead of listening to random people who are not knowledgeable. For example, the transport of cetacean is already regulated very closely by the USDA and the Hawaiian Department of Agriculture, why not let them do their jobs which they are already doing quite well. If you stop the transport of cetaceans, what will you stop next. There are so many stray and malnutrition animals on this island, are we going to stop allowing dogs to come in? cows? Horses? But the animals that are really well cared for such as the Dolphins and Dolphin Quest who are getting restaurant quality food and top of the line health care since the company is owned by vets, you want to stop transporting them? That doesn't seem to make any sense. In conclusion, I ask that you DO NOT SUPPORT SB 3055. Do some research and ask the experts before you make a rash decision. Thank you.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:55:38 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie McLaughlin		Support	No

Comments:

Dolphins and whales are very intelligent. They have large, complex brains; they are self-aware; and they create complex languages. Their experience of the world is similar to our own. They should not be forced into a life of servitude and captivity any more than people should. Hawaii must stop breeding dolphins and keeping them imprisoned just for the entertainment of humans. This is Hawaii. If people want to see dolphins or whales, all they need to do is go out into the ocean and view them in their natural habitat acting wild and free. Keeping dolphins in marine parks in Hawaii is cruel and inhumane. Dolphins in captivity go crazy and do not show the public what a wild dolphin acts like. They are merely robots who perform because they are kept hungry. Hawaii should not support this barbaric industry!

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:05:41 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Allison Jacobson		Support	No

Comments:

These marine mammals need to be protected. They are not here for our entertainment. We have continually see these beautiful creatures die in captivity when utilized for entertainment. This measure is an important step toward protecting these amazing creatures.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:11:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marcia W Woolman	The Outdoorsman	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a visitor to HI who is familiar with Dolphin Quest and the scientific work they do in keeping dolphins healthy and keep their population stable. Do not support SB3055 A few things that need to be considered when addressing SB3055, it is not just the scientific work they do but the educational value to the children of HI who benefit from field trips where they learn about so much in environmental science and ecology. The educational value is even more important than the tourism value which is significant.

Top quality organizations like Dolphin Quest provide top scientists to HI and they give free presenations to the public and share their knowledge. It is short sighted to endanger the work and presence of top flight people who enhance not just the lives of the dolphins with their love and care, but are outstanding contributors in many ways that aide society.

Please consider these simple thoughts of mine, and know that these animals are well cared for are a great benefit to scientific research that in the end will keep all ocean creatures safer and better off.

I appreciate and hope that you will take my comments seriously. But I hate to see a big mistake made if these lovely dolphins would end up without the loving care given them by these dedicated people who care for them. Yes, they are wild, but once upon a time so were horses, dogs, and the list is endless of animals some of whom share their lives with humans and it is beneficial to both.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:12:54 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah		Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Sarah and I am a local resident of the state of Hawai'i. I am writing this testimony in **OPPOSITION** for SB 3055; the banning of transportation of cetaceans to/from the state of Hawai'i. Facilities that house marine mammals in this state play an important role in increasing public knowledge of not only the threats that these animals face out in the ocean, but also inspire guests (myself included) to become active stewards to the environment. These parks and aquariums are closely regulated by the USDA and provide exceptional care for their animals and create a safe environment that allows people to interact with nature and for researches to gather invaluable data that would otherwise not be possible to collect. Not only do tourists benefit from these experiences, but places like Dolphin Quest are an awesome resource for local residents and offer special programs for Hawai'i students to learn about their native ecosystems. By discontinuing the transport and breeding of cetaceans under human care, this would ultimately phase out marine life parks and deprive future generations of the opportunity to view, experience, and learn about these extraordinary animals. Onto another point, it is a waste of critical time to debate this controversial topic when there are very real dangers that our oceans face that we can all agree on, such as the high mortality rate of bottlenose dolphins in the Florida Panhandle (http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/health/ume_bottlenose_2004.pdf), the near extinction of the vaquita porpoise in Baja Mexico (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1748-7692.1999.tb00873.x/full>), or even the unsustainable fishing practices that pose a threat to our own Hawai'ian wildlife (<https://academic.oup.com/jmammal/article/89/3/541/859978>). Maybe if we all combine our focus and efforts into these greater matters, then we can possibly create some real positive change for the natural world. Bottomline, allow the professional who work closely with these animals and who know them best make the decisions that are in the animals' best interest. Thank you for listening and I hope with this information you will be able take the responsible action.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:21:59 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jordan Cadaoas		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:21:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
koko butcher		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:23:07 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benjamin Winland		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:23:13 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
shaun kaulukou		Support	No

Comments:

I am opposed to the Hawaii State Legislation proposed Bill S.B. NO. 3055

Please do not support SB3055 for the following reasons:

- 1.) Preventing healthy and natural water settings like Dolphin Quest to survive because of rash legislation will prevent the further education of the Keiki in Hawaii and many of the tourists that come to Hawaii to learn more about the Hawaiian culture and about protecting the wonderful environment of the beautiful islands of Hawaii during the programs and visits. Experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine life park like Dolphin Quest is safer for the dolphins and people. It provides a more favorable environment than where dozens of boats harass the wild spinner dolphins when they're trying to rest.
- 2.) For a The Legislation to put forward A Bill For An Act with the statement that *"The legislature further finds that the dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals."* Is language that could be applied to our local school systems. We place our children (mammal keiki) in new social environments all the time and they adapt and create new and bonding social structures and applaud this. What scientific evidence has been verified that natural environments with social pods are more "dysfunctional" or any more stressful or harmful just because the environment is under human care? How is it worse than what our boats, drilling, pollution, and other water activities have done to impact animals living in the ocean? I believe there are many more unnatural deaths per capita in the ocean than there are with animals in human care that are based upon wellbeing like Dolphin Quest. We should be focusing on the big issue not taking away from the opportunities provided by creating safe environments for people to learn about what we want to protect.
- 3.) Additionally, the statement that *"Survivorship of cetaceans is reduced, sometimes drastically, in captive environment."* leaps beyond its scientific bounds. If the proposed language was true, why are there so many dolphins living in human care that are well beyond forty years old? Hundreds of young or "before their time" cetacean strand each year. I think we should help prevent the hundreds of animals that are stranding because of the human impacts on the oceans, in Hawaii alone NOAA reports:
 - a. *"Approximately 20 cetacean (whale and dolphin) stranding's occur in the Hawaiian Islands in an average year. The Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) of NOAA Fisheries, along with various partners, responds to these strandings to render care when possible or to humanely euthanize sick or injured animals to reduce their suffering when recovery or rehabilitation is not feasible, and to retrieve carcasses of deceased animals. When marine mammal carcasses are retrieved we try, whenever possible, to determine cause of death and gather other important information. During our efforts to determine the cause of death, we frequently need to conduct a necropsy (animal autopsy). In addition to helping to determine the cause of death, conducting a necropsy can provide a great deal of information about Hawaii's cetacean populations, local ecosystem health, and the occurrence of common and unusual diseases that may affect other marine mammals or other species. Cause of death investigations, including necropsies, can also help identify signs of human interaction, such as foreign body ingestion, entanglement, acoustic impacts, and intentional killings."*

http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/Library/PRD/Marine%20Mammal%20Response/MM_Strandings_in_HI_FAQ_FNL.pdf)

We should be more concerned about how to help prevent human impacts in the wild!

- 4.) I understand that the people of Hawaii and its legislation want to prevent the possibility of humans creating non-sustaining habitats for animals in human care, but, to limit the ability for any animal park to exist because of such broad and unrealistic definitions based on non-scientific statements or thoughts (NOT scientific facts) is inappropriate logic and very sad. It appears to be an act of uneducated band-wagoning.
- 5.) Proposing a Bill for this action to take place will deny animals the opportunity to breed free of potential defects of in-breeding. Just like other mammals, especially humans who like dolphins engage in sexual activity for enjoyment, the effects of breeding with a close relative could bring about genetic mutations. Including Dolphins in this definition of Cetacean, and having the ban be so broad, will prevent healthy environments such as Dolphin Quest from letting their animals thrive and breed and educate the people of Hawaii and its/their visitors.
- 6.) Dolphin Quest and other institutions caring for animals have been able to provide financial and in-kind support and access to comparative data to scientists for research and support of our world's animals. Legislation such as SB3055 will prohibit these institutions from thriving and thereby the Legislature will diminish its own government's income from taxes and will reduce the support provided for education and research by these institutions. Which could be the key to preventing extinction.
- 7.) The language will also prevent transport permits when there are successes from live stranding efforts where the facility that had the animal survive does not have the funds or facilities to maintain the animal and needs to transport, what then?

While I am not a Hawaiian resident, I am a tourist of Hawaii and have enjoyed the opportunities of swimming with dolphins in Hawaii at Dolphin Quest. This proposed Bill will not help the people of Hawaii nor the animals within its care.

Sincerely,

Vivian Strolis Plowman

rnpplowman@aol.com

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:27:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ben Gillette		Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support SB 3055 for 3 fundamental reasons.

1. Accredited marine parks provide an educational platform for people in a safe and responsible environment. It gives education to all different ages on marine life without putting the animals at risk or disturbing them in their natural habitat.

2. There are ZERO marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins anywhere in the US. These facilities provide support for scientists, research, conservation and education to our community.

3. Accredited marine mammal research facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding and provide the best care for the animals.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:37:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Drake Miyama		Support	No

Comments:

Despite the entertainment and appearances that dolphins in shows and aquariums show they are, in actuality, suffering as they can't use their echolocation, swim their 100 mile quota daily unless they swim in constant circles, and they do in fact commit suicide under too much stress. They can even gain mental problems when they are bred as they are mostly forced to breed with other dolphins that are related to them causing incestual problems. Dolphins are also drugged to keep them hungry for training so that they need to do tricks and live with the harsh conditions they are put through to survive. The transferring of dolphins to use for entertainment purposes may one day cause an uproar similar to the event leading up to circus acts being banned in Hawaii, as any dolphin can become to stressed out and commit suicide by not breathing or jumping out of the tank during a show. The transfer and breeding of dolphins and other cetaceans for entertainment purposes will cause dolphins to enter in an endless cycle of suffering. Also, most aquariums that are deemed to be "education for kids" tend to misdirect the consumer as dolphins are trained to act the way that is shown and is drugged, without a family, stressed, can be depressed, starving, and exploited for money in exchange for the dolphin's natural way of life. Dolphins are not happy or content with life in a tank. Thanks but no tanks.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:46:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
doorae shin	uh manoa	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support this bill. Animals with clearly documented levels of high intelligence must not be subject to live and suffer in captivity purely for breeding and entertainment. Education is also not an excuse, as we can become effectively educated about animals by keeping them in the wild and appreciating them in the habitat that they belong.

It is immoral to control the lives of these animals and subject them to unnecessary suffering – artificial insemination, forced performances, stressful transports, and most importantly, loss of freedom.

Please pass bill SB3055.

Mahalo,
Doorae Shin

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:48:19 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:59:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erica Snook		Oppose	No

Comments:

Esteemed Legislators,

I am writing in ***strong opposition*** of the proposed Senate bill 3055.

As a resident of Hawaii, and a strong proponent of Dolphin Quest (as well as other marine mammal parks and facilities throughout the islands, and the nation), I urge you to vehemently reject the legislature proposed in this bill. The unnecessary ban of the transportation of cetaceans in Hawaii will not only be detrimental to the animals currently receiving top of the line care at the aforementioned facilities, but will have a largely negative impact on the local communities, and people.

Dolphin Quest provides access to marine life and conservation education for American and international tourists, as well as the local school children and their families. As someone who has spent many years living on smaller islands throughout the world, I have personally seen far too many cases in which the local children have an unnecessary fear and limited appreciation for the oceans and marine life in their backyard, simply due to a lack of education on the matter. Dolphin Quest allows school aged children to experience the beauty and intricacy of the oceans, and the marine mammals housed in it, in order to foster a better understanding of the natural world. Not only are the local children able to participate in exceptional educational programs and activities, but the locals and their families are able to view the dolphins, and access similar educational materials for free. This creates a connection to nature, and a passion to learn more, that these local children will carry with them throughout the remainder of their formative years, and into adulthood.

Dolphin Quest, as accredited by the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums, utilizes a natural lagoon system to provide the highest quality environment, healthcare,

facility maintenance, husbandry training, and enrichment for the animals in their care. This keeps the dolphins safe from the encroaching dangers that are present in today's oceans. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration confirms that over 1.4 billion pounds of trash and plastics make their way into the oceans every single year. Not only are the dolphins at Dolphin Quest protected from the current abuse of the world's oceans, they are safe from the threat of starvation due to overfishing, entanglement caused by poor fishing practices, and habitat loss and destruction. Why is the focus not placed more heavily on animals that are immediately threatened by the blatant mistreatment of our Earth? Why are we not more focused on protecting the waters that house the animals that will populate our planet for years to come, as opposed to being unjustly accusatory towards the facilities and marine mammal specialists that provide the highest caliber of care for the animals they house?

We, as citizens, are no strangers to the threats our planet is currently facing. If we continue to follow this current trajectory, we will undoubtedly see the extinction of hundreds of species – including marine mammals – within our lifetime, not to mention our children's lifetime. The Vaquita, a small porpoise living off the coast of southern California, is in critical danger of becoming extinct within the immediate future. What has been claimed to be the "world's cutest" marine mammal has fewer than thirty known animals left, potentially even less. If one of the most adored marine mammals in the world can face extinction so readily, what's to say that dolphins, whales, even sea lions and otters cannot meet this same untimely demise? Dolphin Quest and its' ability to maintain the transport of marine mammals – which is highly regulated by the USDA; experts in their field – is keystone to the perpetuation of healthy marine mammals. This transport allows for the maintenance of genetic diversity within populations, as well as allowing for the best opportunity to care for the animals in question. It is essential to ensuring they are able to care for the most healthy, genetically diverse population of animals. Animals in human care often double, if not triple, the life expectancy of those in the wild. Statistics show time and time again that marine mammal facilities like Dolphin Quest, and their ability to transport healthy animals, are necessary in ensuring that the world is able to experience the joy and beauty of the oceans. Without this, dolphins in the ocean could very easily become extinct, much like the vaquita, leaving hundreds of generations of children unable to learn and foster a love for these animals and the waters they inhabit.

I urge you, as responsible legislators with a clear passion for this planet and its prolonged health, to join me in **STRONG OPPOSITION** of this proposed legislature, SB 3055. The claims these animal extremists are making are based strictly on emotion, and have no scientific support, making them the equivalent of speculation and hearsay. That would not stand in a court of law, and it should not stand here. Please show your opposition towards this proposed bill; this is about the future of our planet, the future of

our oceans, the future of these amazingly well loved and well cared for animals, and the future of our children.

Sincerely,

Erica Snook

Testimony for Public Hearing
SB3055
February 1, 2018

Kasumi Shishido
Torrance CA, 90503

Good Afternoon. My name is Kasumi Shishido and I am a member of Keiko Conservation Japan chapter. I would like you to support measure SB3055 that prohibits the department of agriculture from issuing permits for the interstate, intrastate, and inter-facility transfer of captive cetaceans solely for breeding or entertainment purposes. Captive cetaceans such as Bottlenose Dolphins and Pilot Whales are highly intelligent species with complex social structures with an average lifespan of approximately 40 years in the wild. Recent federal data show that the average lifespan of cetaceans born in captivity is merely 5 years. The compromised welfare of captive cetaceans is evidenced not only by data but from common behaviors such as chewing on concrete walls and metal gates.

We must take an example of The Orca Protection Art, AB 2305 and take the steps forward to banning captive cetaceans for breeding and entertainment purposes. These animals should not suffer any longer for human greed.

I would appreciate your support and careful consideration to this issue.

Thank you for your valuable time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kasumi Shishido



<http://www.cetabase.org/captive/cetacean/pregnancies/>

<http://elsaenc.net/wp-content/uploads/report2013.pdf>

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 12:23:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah BEverly		Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not support SB 3055. As a resident of Hawaii, the facilities that house cetaceans here on the islands are an invaluable resource.

The proposed legislation separates facilities into those that are solely for breeding and exhibition and those that are solely for research and education. There is no such facility in the entire country, the Hawaiian Islands or the mainland, that fits in either of these two categories. Any facility that houses cetaceans must do research or education or both to get and keep their permits. Likewise, these animals are expensive to keep. No facility can fund their care, research and education without having them on exhibition.

Furthermore, facilities like Dolphin Quest have animals on exhibition in areas that are free for public viewing. This allows local residents to see and learn about cetaceans regardless of their income level. In a time when conservation and climate change is such an important topic, restricting some of the only institutions on the islands that are actively educating and campaigning for conservation makes no sense.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 12:37:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
inara		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 12:40:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimberlee Boldt		Oppose	No

Comments:

There are no marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii or anywhere in the US. Dolphin Quest provides critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education to our community. Dolphin Quest brings top scientists to Hawaii who then give free talks to the public and share their knowledge with locals.

Accredited marine mammal facilities like Dolphin Quest need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding and to best manage and care for the animals.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 12:51:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Bishop	Friends of Hanauma Bay	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony IN SUPPORT of SB3055. For too many years we have allowed Cetaceans to be trapped in unnatural artificial environments, forced to perform in aquatic circuses. We urge you to support this long-overdue legislation!

Mahalo,

Lisa Bishop

President

Friends of Hanauma Bay

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 12:51:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Trina Kaonohi		Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 12:51:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Kewley-Adam		Support	No

Comments:

Support SB3055 relating to Cetateans

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:03:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Allie Etter		Oppose	No

Comments:

The furor surrounding the care of cetaceans in a Zoo and aquarium setting continues to astound me. The animals that reside at Dolphin Quest are clearly healthy, thriving, and free from the increasing dangers that wild cetaceans face every day. This bill to ban the transport of cetaceans is ignorant at best, misguided zeal at its worst. The prohibition on changing the social groups via transport is ultimately to the detriment of their wellbeing and care, as their caretakers are intimately familiar with their social needs (which change over time). Often these social needs involve moving to different groups throughout their lives, and the staff should be able to make those decisions at their will, uninhibited by those that have no understanding of their needs.

Don't be taken in by the stories painted by those that have themselves been deceived by storytellers- the animals at Dolphin Quest are ambassadors to their wild kin that are in real need of help. Please protect these dolphins from those that seek to impede their care to satisfy their agendas, founded only in theories and emotions rather than science and hands on professional experience. Thank you.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:06:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elaine o'sullivan	Blackfish	Support	No

Comments:

I support bill SB3055 relating to Cetaceans

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:12:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Catherine Rochester	cool spring yoga	Oppose	No

Comments:

1. Please do not support SB 3055.
2. The importance of access to Dolphin Quest for local Hawaiians and school age children. It's not just for tourists. Locals can go and watch the dolphins for free. Add your personal experience and observations.
3. Dolphin Quest provides a wonderful environment for the dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution and Marine debris.
4. Educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine life park like Dolphin Quest is safer for the dolphins and people. This is much better than dozens of boats harassing our wild spinner dolphins when they're trying to rest.
5. The Marine Mammal Specialists at Dolphin Quest are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals' behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone.
6. There are no marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii or anywhere in the US. Dolphin Quest provides critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education to our community. Dolphin Quest brings top scientists to Hawaii who then give free talks to the public and share their knowledge with locals.
7. Accredited marine mammal facilities like Dolphin Quest need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding and to best manage and care for the animals.
8. Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Let the expert agencies do their job!
9. If you ban the transport of dolphins what's next... horses? Dogs? Cattle?
10. To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks and rob future generations of the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about these animals up close.
11. I've been to Dolphin Quest and have seen first-hand that these animals are absolutely adored and well care for by their animal caregivers.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:13:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Esther Shore		Oppose	No

Comments:

I believe the ban should be kept in place.

As a resident of Hawaii, I am deeply concerned about the proposed Bill that would prohibit the transfer of cetaceans in Hawaii, and the implications it would have on zoological institutions in our state and worldwide. This Bill aims to set a dangerous precedent. The statements made within it are NOT backed by science. To say that “the dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is clearly an attempt by animal extremists to end dolphins living in marine life parks. I’ve been to Dolphin Quest on both the Big Island and Oahu. I know they are one of only a handful of institutions accredited by American Humane - the world’s largest certifier of the welfare and humane treatment of animals. To earn that certification, the inspectors observe animal behavior, condition and care over the course of days. The animals don’t lie! The Bill also states that “the causes of death for Hawaii’s captive cetaceans include food poisoning, capture-related incidents, malnutrition, debilitation, drowning, jumping out of enclosures, trauma, and failure to thrive.” Those are not representative of the majority of dolphin mortalities in managed care settings. Those are extremes! The fact that dolphins are reproducing in a managed care environment means they are thriving. Dolphin Quest has dolphins in their 30s and one that is 47 years-old!

The ability to transfer animals is important for many reasons. Particularly for genetic diversity, otherwise populations will diminish and eventually cease to exist which is what extremists want. Transfers are also just part of good animal care. Dolphin socialization is very dynamic and ever changing. Transferring individuals to find the best social companions is in the best interest of the animals. Transfers are closely regulated by expert agencies like USDA so we should just let them do their job.

I am greatly disturbed by the animal extremist agenda which seeks to end all animal-human partnerships. It won’t end with dolphins. Next it will be farm animals, horses, dogs and cats. We cannot allow that to happen. Experiential learning is so important if we are to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards. I’ve heard school teachers tell me that many of their students have never seen a dolphin let alone meet one until they visited Dolphin Quest. Those living in poverty stricken areas just don’t have the means which is another reason I love Dolphin Quest because they provide grants to fund the transportation for students to connect with their animals and inspire a passion to protect them. Passing this Bill would rob future generations of the opportunity to see, learn about and connect with dolphins in Hawaii’s zoological institutions which is not something I want for my children and future grandchildren. The internet, books, TV shows and movies cannot replicate what is learning through hands-on experiences.

Marine parks and zoos are dedicated to the conservation of wild populations. Part of that is contributing to scientific studies. This Bill proposes transfers solely for institutions that are for research and education. There are no marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii or anywhere in the US. Places like Dolphin Quest provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education to our community. We should be more concerned about the welfare of wild dolphins and whales that are faced with increasing human-imposed threats: entanglement, ingestion of marine debris, overfishing and pollution.

I strongly urge you to oppose

Respectfully,

Nina Lambert

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:22:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Durbin		Oppose	No

Comments:

Hawaii's uniqueness of the 50 states cannot be overstated. This is a combination of its flora and fauna and the grandeur that the other 49 states cannot match. As long as animals are treated humanely and properly cared for, animal parks allow people (especially children) to get to interact with these animals up close and develop an appreciation for them which cannot be matched by reading books or watching movies or TV shows. SB3055 is a hamfisted misguided proposal.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:28:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Virginia Hinshaw		Oppose	No

Comments:

Learning about cetaceans is important - if people care about these animals, they will work to protect them. These educational programs involving these animals are very important and should not be eliminated. Therefore, I oppose this bill.

Aloha, I am a local resident of Hawaii and I strongly **OPPOSE** the SB3055.

Facilities such as Dolphin Quest Hawaii (DQH), Dolphin Quest Oahu (DQO), and Sea Life Park (SLP) provide the local community and tourists the opportunity to see common bottlenose dolphins up close and personal. Accredited facilities such as DQH, DQO, and SLP provide a safer environment for dolphins and people, verses have a bunch of boats harassing wild dolphins in the bays. Additionally, DQH and DQO allow visitors to view the animals without an admissions fee. Education and conservations are the key missions of these facilities. Community outreach and educating the local community is at the core of what DQ and SLP does. DQ provides grants to schools, so local school children can come do an educational segment about the importance of dolphins, whales, and other marine life and their aquatic home. After the education portion is complete, the children have the chance to get into the water and interact with a dolphin. What better way to inspire the future generations than giving them the chance to directly connect with nature.

It's not only school children that learn from the dolphins at facilities like DQH, DQO, and SLP, but also the Hawaii Stranding Network. Just last week the Hawaii Stranding Network volunteers were able to utilize DQH animals to help with a stranding workshop, this helps ensure that the volunteers get hands on experience in a safe environment, before experiencing a real stranding emergency.

Facilities like DQH, DQO, and SLP are full of dedicated individuals who devote their life to ensure the health care for these animals. Some important reasons to be able to transport an animal to another facility is to provide the best animal care, management, and prevent interbreeding. So, let the people that dedicate their lives to these animals make the call for when a relocation is in the animal's best interest. Transporting a cetacean is heavily monitored by the USDA, and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, so let the experts make those vital decisions.

Finally, the bill states that facilities that solely utilize the animals for educational and scientific research are exempt. But there are no facilities in Hawaii or even in the US that solely does education or research. So does that mean that the education and research that is done at DQH, DQO, and SLP are somehow less valuable? DQ brings in scientists from across the globe to study dolphins, give free presentations, and educate the locals about their findings. Should SB3055 pass, it would eventually lead to the disappearance of marine life facilities in Hawaii and ultimately there would be no more research, no more education, and no more connection. I believe that everyone should have the opportunity to see, interact, engage with, and learn about these amazing animals up close. When I was a child, I had the chance to meet a dolphin at a zoological facility and it changed my life! It made me want to save and care about these creatures, and it sparked a passion to learn more about the ocean and the wonderful animals that inhabit it. Please don't let this bill rob future generations the opportunity to become inspired by these amazing animals. Because if you pass this bill that is exactly what you would be doing...

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:31:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia Leos	Sea Life Park	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello, I'm writing because I'm opposed to the Bill 3055. I've been greatly impacted by Sea Life Park & love sharing my experiences there with friends & family. We've lived here since July 2014 & have taken our visitors from the Mainland as well. On average we've visited 3 times a year with an average of 20 friends, all who've also loved their time & experiences there. The amazing amount of information & education has been just as vital as the entertainment we've witnessed & have grown in our love for these animals. To see the care & important education these animals are being taken care of & prolonging their lives; it's evident the employees love them & want others to enjoy them as well. Please don't take away this incredible Park, especially from the future generations to come who are greatly impacted as well! Mahalo Nui Loa (thank you very much!), Cynthia Leos

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:37:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brooke Kahalioumi	1985	Oppose	No

Comments:

It saddens me that there are people out there that are against all of the great contributions that are made by marine parks, aquariums, and zoos that have cetaceans in their care. Not only do these animals and their caregivers educate millions of people each year, they are active in conserving and protecting their counterparts in the wild. Without these animals under human care, we would not have the information we have to save cetaceans that are stranded or sick in wild. They also inspire people to make a difference to those animals in the wild by taking better care of our environment.

They are not only used for entertainment purposes and thrive in their environments. Many of the statements made in this bill are not based on scientific findings or facts. They are the misguided and unfounded opinion of some people that disagree with having animals in human care.

I do not support bill 3055 and hope that you consider the scientific facts and evidence that animals in these facilities are well cared for and loved not only by those providing care but those that frequent these establishments as well. Prohibiting the movement of these animals in essence will put an end to the existence of these creatures in aquariums, parks, and zoos.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:57:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
daniel simounds	dreamworld	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a zoological professional with 10 years experience in the industry, BSc zoology and BIHTM tourism management, it is detrimental to the conservation of cetaceans, marine ecosystems and global ecosystems to impose a ban on the transfer of cetaceans for entertainment and educational purposes. I am from Australia and have visited dolphin quest Waikoloa four times, and the sealife park in Oahu (once about 10 years ago), these institutions do far more benefit for conservation efforts financially and educationally as they have a broad reach, enable emotional connection to these animals and the plight of their wild counterparts and the greater ecosystems they inhabit. Also these institutes directly enhance the tourism revenue generated for the state of Hawaii and is the sole reason I have made two trips to Waikoloa in the past 30months and plan many future trips all contributing to increased revenue into the local community and many more tourists would travel for the same pull factors. On a conservation basis these institutions contribute far more, millions more for marine conservation projects over their opposers, the organisation against captive cetaceans have minimal or nonexistent support for wild marine ecosystems and this proposition would reduce important conservation efforts. Tourists have the money to support these programs without tourism then conservation efforts would be almost negligible. Captive institutes must have acces to imports and not be restricted to continue the positive impact they have for conservation, any inhibition passed down will restrict an already dire situation for marine conservation.

kind regards,

Daniel

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:08:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Palmer		Support	No

Comments:

I SUPPORT SB3055 RELATING TO CETACEANS

I support Bill SB3055 & hope it gets passed in to law. This is an opportunity for Hawaii to set a moral code & lead by example that cetaceans do not belong in tanks & are not here for human entertainment & greed.

Please take the right & moral direction & pass this very important bill in to law.

Kind regards

Ann Palmer

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:09:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rochelle Maloy		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:15:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michele Wischmeyer	Palace Entertainment	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB3055! Dolphins are amazing creatures that should be shared with humans for a better understanding of how intelligent they are. Without educational experiences such as Sea Life Park's programs, the children of tomorrow will not learn to respect our oceans and the creatures living within. Sea Life Park gives kids an opportunity to feel what is beneath the waters.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:36:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexandra Duke		Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support SB 3055. Animals in accredited marine mammal facilities are healthy, thriving and provide so much to both local communities and the greater marine conservation effort. Part of their continued well-being through social and genetic diversity overtime is ensuring that the transport of cetaceans, (which is already closely and appropriately regulated by the USDA and the Department of Agriculture), is an option. Places like Dolphin Quest provide critical support for scientists, research and local education about marine life. I have lived in Hawaii my entire life, one of my earliest memories and connections to my ocean home began on a school field trip to Dolphin Quest. Hundreds of school kids still continue to have those impactful experiences every year to this day. Having programs like this available is a huge opportunity to create more conscious conservation-minded global stewards in a safe and effective way...definitely prefferable over encouraging people to harrass our wild spinner dolphin population in the water or through boat traffic. We should be more concerned about the welfare of our oceans and our impact on wild animals that have to survive pollution, marine debris, fishing nets, etc. The animals in marine mammal facilities are safe, healthy, well-loved and serve a greater purpose.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:37:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauren Prutow McKenna		Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Representative,

Please do not support SB 3055. This proposed Bill is not based on any facts or science and hearing about its proposal infuriates me as a Hawaiian resident. This bill would unnecessarily limit and prohibit the transfer of cetaceans in Hawaii which is already closely monitored by regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life educational centers such as Dolphin Quest. Zoos and aquariums like Dolphin Quest are critical to connecting our community to the ocean and environment around them.

Dolphin Quest has donated over \$3 million dollars to critically important conservation and research efforts. What other Hawaiian organizations have donated that kind of money to help save and protect our beautiful oceans and the animals that inhabit them? None that I know of.

Those dolphins receive amazing care. The dolphins are so happy and LOVED. The trainers and vet staff are extremely experienced and are leaders in their field. The best in the world work for Dolphin Quest. We should continue to support their great work in our community and lean on them for their expertise when discussing things like transporting cetaceans, as they are the experts, not random extremists with no knowledge base.

Dolphin Quest is committed to sharing their passion for marine animals and conservation through educational interactions that the dolphins voluntarily participate in. As a Hawaiian Resident, my daughter is planning on meeting the dolphins with her school in the spring for \$5 a child. That is amazing and affordable for all children from all walks of life. Allowing school children the opportunity to come learn about the ocean and how to protect it while connecting with dolphins is beyond special. That's a moment that these local children will never forget! We need to do a better job protecting our environment and Dolphin Quest helps educate our community about conservation as well as visitors to our island.

Dolphin Quest provides critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education to our community. Please support Dolphin Quest and not this Bill.

With Aloha,

Lauren Prutow McKenna

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:45:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alex	Sea life park	Oppose	No

Comments:

I love sea life park and i believe this bill is horrible for it.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:52:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Haylee		Oppose	No

Comments:

Proposing the ban of transportation of cetaceans to and from the island of Hawaii between institutions, accredited by the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (among others), is in the interest of mankind, NOT in the best interest of the animals. Those who have studied animal care and training understand the key role that animal transport has in overall care of the animals. First off, the animals are trained extensively and conditioned for months to become comfortable with new environmental factors, including transportation. Transportation is key to maintain high quality of life for animals who remain under human care. Whether it be for a male dolphin, who is too old to live with his mother and needs to establish key male bonding relationships with other dolphins at other facilities (the same type of common male-to-male social structure you would find in the wild). Or for a marine mammal who was rescued from the wild, and who needs to be relocated to a facility that can best meet his or her needs. The possibilities are endless, and cutting off this essential resource would be beyond limiting to the animals already living under human care in Hawaii. Dolphin Quest is a leader for high quality marine mammal care in the industry. Their methods of teaching, training, and caring for the animals set the standard amongst US accredited facilities. To listen to the concerns of well-meaning yet uneducated citizens, and ignore the well-researched evidence provided by educated trainers and industry leaders would be ludicrous. Humans are emotional, and often ignore the facts. The facts here are clear: transportation of cetaceans, particularly those residing at Dolphin Quest, is essential for their overall care, health, and well-being. Anybody who truly cares for the animals would take that upon consideration.

Dolphin quest provides an exceptional amount of it's annual revenue to research on marine mammals. Without facilities like this, their wild counterparts would simply have no financial aid to assist them. Our planet absolutely needs zoological facilities and aquariums for their generous donations that directly impact the welfare of wild animals. Marine Mammals who remain in the wild face abundant life threatening dangers, such as pollution, fishing nets, boating, wild predators, and so much more. A life under human care can expand their lifetime twofold, wild providing them with incredible mental and physical stimulation through training and enrichment. As stated before, transportation of Cetaceans is an essential part of animal care, when looking at their overall health throughout their lifetime. This process is already heavily managed by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. It seems people who have concerns,

have not properly done their research about current laws in place for the protection of marine mammals.

In summary, transportation is essential for 1. the overall health and wellbeing of marine mammals under human care; 2. to continue to facilitate research and protection of marine mammals who remain in the wild; 3. to allow future generations the opportunity to be educated at zoos and aquariums; 4. to continue to support the organizations, such as Dolphin Quest, who provide the most financial support to research and the protection of wild marine mammals.

Please do not allow the uneducated cries of the public to silence the educated, well-researched, scientifically sound facts provided by marine mammal professionals.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:57:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tori		Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB 3055.

This bill will prove to be detrimental to the lives of the cetaceans that call these facilities home. Facilities such as Dolphin Quest provide the best care for the animals. The Marine Mammal Specialists that care for the animals are the experts, not the animal extremists that are pushing this bill. The Marine Mammal Specialists are the ones who spend everyday with these animals; they know and have devoted their lives to understanding and caring for the animals' behavioral, physiological, and psychological needs. They are the ones who you should be talking to, and listening to.

Animals that have been under human care their whole lives are not fit to return to the wild. Dolphin Quest provides a safe environment where they are nurtured and cared for. Your focus should be turned to the animals in the ocean that are suffering from pollution, net entanglement, and overfishing. People that come to Dolphin Quest leave with the knowledge that these animals are thriving. The dolphins show clear signs of health, such as interacting in play with each other, voluntarily participating in training sessions with the trainers, as well as voluntarily participating in husbandry sessions which allow the marine mammal specialists to monitor their health and take preventative measures to ensure they remain healthy.

There are no marine mammal facilities where dolphins are cared for that are ONLY for and research and education in Hawaii or the US. Dolphin Quest and other interaction facilities provide scientists with critical support which enables them to conduct research, encourage conservation, as well as educate the public about these incredible animals.

Accredited facilities like Dolphin Quest need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding and to best manage and care for the animals.

The transport of dolphins is already closely regulated by USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. They should continue to be allowed to monitor these transportations.

If the transportation of cetaceans were to be banned, marine life parks would eventually be phased out and future generations would be robbed of the chance to experience these amazing animals up close. In a study, research has shown that active participation in an interactive program, rather than passive observation of a dolphin show, is a driving force to inspire conservation. When people physically interact with dolphins in a more personalized setting, they gain an increased understanding and appreciation for the marine environment and the animals that inhabit it. A majority of those who participated in the interaction program said it was the best experience of their life, and they were more likely to maintain their conservation-minded actions (Miller et al. 2013).

We need to allow facilities like Dolphin Quest to do the very best job they can. They already provide outstanding care for the dolphins, they eat restaurant quality fish, participate in voluntary husbandry sessions to look over their body, and voluntarily give samples to be observed in a lab, they participate in voluntary training and interaction sessions that stimulates their mind and keeps their minds healthy. Marine Mammal Specialists provide top quality care at Dolphin Quest. That needs to include allowing them to transport cetaceans when necessary.

I strongly oppose SB 3055, and I encourage you to vote NO.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:00:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Courtney Cotton		Oppose	No

Comments:

While I appreciate the concern for animal welfare, if that is where this stems from, I think this bill's action is misplaced. To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks and rob future generations of the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about these animals up close. Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Let the expert agencies do their job!

It is rare for any science to be funded without some sort of outside aid, and if that is to be open to the public as an entertainment factor and the animals are being cared for in tandem, then that is a best case scenario for ensuring the longevity of the species.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:02:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel	Leos	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB 3055. The verbiage in this bill has many hidden agendas. It states to stop the transfer of Cetaceans from the wild to captured facilities for the purpose of breeding and entertainment. Most transfers in the state of Hawaii are for the purpose of education and protection of this wildlife. The institutions on Oahu (i.e, Sea Life Park) are providing a valuable service by educating the public on how to conserve our resources and how to safely address our wildlife. The park teaches and educates on how to protect endangered Cetaceans and how to keep our coral, beaches, and oceans clean and safe for the longevity of our Cetaceans. The public is allowed to view and learn up close these precious animals instead of trying to abuse them in their natural environment. Please DO NOT PASS this bill. It will only lead to more destruction of our natural wildlife environment.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:09:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jackie		Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. We need to protect these animals!

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:09:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Glenn MacDonald		Oppose	No

Comments:

Passing this bill will have a severe negative impact on dolphin facilities such as those at the Kahala hotel. My children had a wonderful time learning about the dolphins at this facility, spending most of a day feeding and. Sting for them with their caregiver. Others enjoyed watching the dolphins in their pool. People learn to appreciate animals be spending time with them, viewing their habits and learning about them. Please direct your energies at those who harm dolphins in their natural habitat by leaving old fishing nets about and bringing boats to close to native species. This bill is an ill advised attempt to improve the situation for dolphins. There are better solutions to address problems of dolphin abuse. Please vote no on this bill and allow dolphins facilities such as those at the Kahala Hotel to continue serving these beautiful mammals and the people who admire them. Thank you.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:11:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan		Oppose	No

Comments:

I, Megan Lee, do not support HB 3055. Many local children are able to see the dolphins and learn about their ecosystem for free. I went as a young child and was able to understand why keeping our oceans and environment clean was so important. The love that Dolphin Quest has for them is unreal. Dolphin Quest always has created a wonderful, safe home for them, since fishing nets are so common now for them to get trapped in. Also, their work supplies important research and conservation for dolphins that you can't find anywhere else. When they do transport them, they are regulated by USDA and are very good at their job. If we lose them, who knows what will happen to future generations of dolphins without their efforts.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:12:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Trace Page		Support	No

Comments:

The quality of life for the marine mammals at Sea Life Park, which this bill would directly effect, was atrocious - cetaceans especially. I worked backstage with several cetaceans of the dolphin variety and was heartbroken and appaled almost every day. These sentient animals serve no educational or conservational purpose. These animals existed in concrete tanks, solely for the purpose of entertainment..I strongly support SB3055.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:17:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danielle Schiff		Oppose	No

Comments:

As a 10 year resident of Hawaii, I have seen and experienced first hand the positive scientific, educational and cultural impacts made by the animals at the Dolphin Quest facilities. The animals welfare and well-being is well guarded and protected by the caring professionals responsible for them, guided by state of the art veterinary practices, in compliance with federal regulations overseen by the USDA.

To allow armchair activists to influence legislation sets an unbelievable poor precedent for decision making that is not based on fact, and will in actually do more harm to the animals than good. The guidelines and regulations followed by these facilities are determined and enforced by individuals and institutions with expertise in the areas of animal care and welfare that far exceeds that of the vocal detractors. To pass SB3055 would not only limit Hawaii school children, residents and visitors educational, scientific and conservation opportunities, but it would be detrimental to the welfare of the animals.

Please vote no on SB 3055

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:32:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dasha Ivandaeva		Oppose	No

Comments:

Please DO NOT support Bill SB3055. Dolphin Quest has a positive impact on these wonderful mammals, keeping both them and the people safe.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:33:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alex Poppen		Oppose	No

Comments:

This proposal unjustly targets the men and women who work to provide high quality care for ocean mammals in ANY shape or form. This bill would essentially prevent any future sea mammals from being raised under human care in Hawaii - a consequence that is unacceptable to myself and hopefully to anyone who believes in the importance of educating the next generation regarding oceanic conservation. Supporters of this bill are misguided - it does NOT further the protection of ocean life. Without exposure to these truly intelligent and unique mammals humans will stop caring - and the sad truth is that this will lead to decimation of their populations and their habitat. Facilities such as Dolphin Quest are certified by multiple organizations as providers of the highest level of care for their marine mammals (please see link below).

<https://dolphinquest.com/certifications/>

If this bill is passed it will further isolate humans from marine mammals and sever any compassion and empathy that has been cultivated over many years - what does that accomplish?

These facilities that care for marine mammals are accredited by professionals - they serve as hotspots for promoting environmental conservation and cannot be jeopardized.

I resolutely OPPOSE this bill as it directly takes away from conservation efforts with no justifying benefit or valid reasoning.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:36:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet McDonagh		Support	No

Comments:

I urge everyone to please support SB3055 relating to cetaceans and the proposed ban on any further breeding and transfer of dolphins, or other cetaceans, to Hawaii for exhibition.

Thank you.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:44:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
julie johnson		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:43:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jon Dusza		Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposed to restricting the care options at the few facilities that do work with dolphins. They should be able to move them around as needed.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:45:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Mercer		Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha.

I am writing to oppose bill SB3055. This bill is the latest ugly head attached to the animal activist hydra. It is not based upon any form of credible science and is merely meant to be an emotive piece that basically says "Stop this because it is bad" but provides no evidence to support its position.

It is my opinion that Hawaii has some of the very best zoological institutions for the study and care of marine life including cetaceans. I have personal experience with the staff and animals at Dolphin Quest Hawaii and as such I know that they take perfect care of their animals, both physically and emotionally. The dolphins at this facility are cared for as if they were human, they eat only restaurant quality fish and every single thing they are asked to do is completely voluntary, the animal can refuse to participate in any activity with no consequence.

The research done at DQ Hawaii is uniquely important as no other institution is performing such research anywhere in the state.

Shutting down the opportunity to learn from marine life cannot be allowed to happen. It will not benefit anyone in the long run and is potentially very damaging to the relationship between humans and marine life.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:49:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
raymond hunt		Oppose	No

Comments:

Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Let the expert agencies do their job - this legislation is unnecessary.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:52:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Wireman	Blackfish Brigade	Support	No

Comments:

I fully and completely support SB3055 relating to cetaceans.

I wholeheartedly believe cetaceans do not belong in captivity. Nor do I believe cetaceans, who may have been 'rescued' and deemed unreleasable, should be used for breeding purposes.

Thank you!

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:55:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melanie Clark	Ms.	Support	No

Comments:

I SUPPORT SB3055 RELATING TO CETACEANS

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:52:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terry Schmerling		Support	No

Comments:

I SUPPORT SB3055 RELATING TO CETACEANS

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:55:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David A Bice		Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii needs to evolve and stop using captive dolphins and whales for entertainment purposes at its marine parks such as Sea Life Park, the Kahala Hotel and the Waikoloa Hilton on the Big Island of Hawaii. We have a big, beautiful ocean surrounding our islands. Let people who want to see dolphins and whales, see them in their natural environment. Just look at Maui. I spend lots of money every year travelling to Maui just to go out on the boats to view our magnificent humpback whales. Let wildlife live in the wild. There is no Aloha in captivity.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 4:03:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paige Nelson	Blackfish Brigade	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB3055 Relating To Cetaceans! Hawaii has the unique opportunity to lead the world in banning breeding and transport of cetaceans. These creatures have served enough time in an unnatural environment. Adding stress during transport to a sentient being who belongs wild and free where nature intended is wrong. Nature never meant for them to log miles on the highway, in the air or by boat. The mortality rate of captive born cetaceans is high. No mother should be put through this time and time again. We must do better. We must be their voice louder than profit and selfish indulgences.

Hawaii can ban this. Hawaii must ban this.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice support.

Thank you for your time and consideration. It is much appreciated.

Paige Nelson

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 4:08:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebecca Ashton		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 4:23:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brigid Dodge		Oppose	No

Comments:

- As a former resident of Hawaii and professional animal behaviorist, I strongly urge you, Please **do not** support SB 3055.
- The drafted language that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data.
- The importance of access to dolphins in Hawaii’s accredited marine parks for local Hawaiians and school age children. It’s not just for tourists. Locals can go and watch the dolphins, in some cases for free. Add your personal experience and observations of guests experiencing marine life at your zoo or aquarium.
- Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators.
- Educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine parks is safer for the dolphins and people. This is a much better alternative than dozens of boats harassing free ranging spinner dolphins when they’re attempting to rest.
- The marine mammal specialists at accredited marine parks are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals’ behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone. This is a perfect place for you to describe your personal experience of dedication to cetaceans in managed zoological settings.
- There are NO marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii (this is the exception in the Bill). Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community.
- Accredited marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the

animals.

- Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. There is no reason to duplicate or ignore the already existing regulatory process!
- If one bans the transport or breeding of dolphins, based on zero scientific data suggesting one should, what is next? Horses? Dogs? Cattle? This is an emotional plea by misinformed animal extremists.
- To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks, thus robbing future generations the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about dolphins in this unrivaled setting.
- If you've been to Dolphin Quest or Sea Life Park, and have seen first-hand that these animals are well cared for by their trainers and veterinarians, please communicate it.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 4:30:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Forrest Allen		Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB3055 because I believe that Dolphin Quest and other educational marine mammal sites are important to the public. They teach about conservation and a better understanding of our oceans. Dolphin Quest is a leader in their field and they provide a safe environment for the Dolphins. The individuals that work with the animals are Marine Mammal Specialists and they know and understand physiology, behaviors and mental needs better than anyone. I have personally been to Dolphin Quest many times and always learn more about the amazing animals and also how the Dolphins at DQ are helping us learn more about how to protect Dolphins in the wild. I understand that it is important for DQ and similar organizations to be able to transport their Dolphins to ensure the best care and prevent inbreeding. This bill is aimed to stop that and I know that will be detrimental to the Dolphins and the organizations that drive to increase awareness and education about important marine issues.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 4:31:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Madeline Gress		Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing to voice my concern with the proposed SB 3055. I find that this proposal will have dramatic negative effects on the cetaceans currently housed in zoological facilities in Hawaii. The animals under human care are provided a sanctuary away from the pollutants of the ocean, reduction of food from overfishing, and boat strikes that have lead to many cetacean deaths. There is no scientific data to support the claim that animals under human care are experiencing aggression and stress that is not present in their wild counterparts. The passing of this bill would mean the end of all cetaceans under human care in Hawaii as there are no facilities that are solely for education and research. Education and research are two of the main goals of both Sea Life Park and Dolphin Quest, however these facilities could not operate without the funding received through tourism. Additionally, the opportunity for guests to interact with the animals is the most meaningful education available. Having concern for animals and their habitats is the kind of care these facilities inspire, and without them there is no guarantee the future generations will care in the same way. Denying SB 3055 is the best for these animals and the animals to come.

From: [Josh Bullock](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Opposition for SB3055 relating to cetaceans
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 3:38:23 PM

I oppose this bill. It has many discrepancies.

"Go Ducks"...

From: [Valerie Lee](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: SB 3055
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 2:45:15 PM

To whom it may concern,

I would like to state strong opposition to bill 2055, I have visited DophinQuest personally with my family and will attest that they are education based and the dolphins are well cared for by the competent staff.

At this facility your time with the dolphins is spent learning and observing, not swimming by, touching or harassing them. If you ban the transportation of the dolphins, then you essentially will be dooming accredited marine animal facilities as the need exists at times to move the animals for their care and well being.

To put in an exemption for facilities that exist solely for research and education is not relevant as their are no such facilities in Hawaii, or for that fact in the United States.

Dolphin Quest exists not just for visitors from out of state but also for the locals, who can go to the park and observe the dolphins for free.

It appears that the transport of dolphins is already well regulated by the state and that this bill law is unnecessary and will indeed have the effect of depriving all people from observing and learning about dolphins in a safe and healthy environment.

I strongly urge you to not pass this bill

Valerie H Lee, PT, CHT

From: [Adam Jenkins](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support For SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 7:10:07 AM

Please prohibit the department of agriculture from issuing permits for the interstate, intrastate, and inter-facility transfer of captive cetaceans solely for breeding or entertainment purposes. Exempts facilities that use cetaceans solely for scientific and educational purposes. Defines cetaceans to include dolphins, porpoises, and whales.

Best,
Adam Jenkins

From: [Elephantlovr33X](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for 2B3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 5:31:46 AM

Support the dolphins!

Thank you,
-Alana W

From: [Andres L](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 relating to cetaceans
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 2:14:44 PM

Aloha!

As a advocate and lover of free wildlife there is nothing more painful to see than a marvelous animal such as a dolphin and orca been kept in small pens for people's entertainment.

Here in Hawaii we have a very unique and beautiful ecosystem full of animals and full of life from which he must take care and learn from.

Many of the animals that are been kept in pens were never meant to be kept in such small and enclosed areas without the ability to swim freely causing them pain, suffering, illnesses and in many cases even death.

This is both a terrible and I would consider inhumane treatment to treat such beautiful creatures of the ocean.

Personally I have been able to experience, admire, respect and learn from our ecosystem and this is knowledge that can only be experienced and seen through wild animals.

This animals are intelligent who feel and live as we do and need to be treated with the respect they deserve so that future generations can learn and respect from them.

I support SB3055.

From: [Becca Hoff](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 relating to cetaceans
Date: Monday, January 29, 2018 11:31:28 PM

I support bill SB3055 that prohibits transfers and/or imports of captive cetaceans for breeding purposes and entertainment.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Hoffmann

From: [Bella Nelson](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 5:22:45 AM

I would like to please add my support for this proposal!

Prohibits the department of agriculture from issuing permits for the interstate, intrastate, and inter-facility transfer of captive cetaceans solely for breeding or entertainment purposes. Exempts facilities that use cetaceans solely for scientific and educational purposes. Defines cetaceans to include dolphins, porpoises, and whales.

Bella Nelson
h.bell.nelson@gmail.com

From: [Estelle C](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 3055
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 9:16:54 AM

Please stop transferring and breeding these wild creatures, they deserve to be out in nature. Please do the right thing.
Ban this terrible atrocity.

Sincerely,
Estelle Cruse
Big island resident

May all beings be peaceful. May all beings be happy.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 4:38:35 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Federici		Support	No

Comments:

No animal deserves a life of captivity. Cetaceans are highly intellegent animals. Haven't we evolved in this day and age that we no longer need to use these creatures as entertainment? Its time to change our ways and leave animals where they belong, in the wild. I urge you to pass this bill and end the capture and captivity of cetaceans.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 4:41:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Yee		Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a resident of Hawaii and I oppose SB3055. Dolphins should continue to be shared with future generations for a better understanding of wildlife conservation. Without educational experiences such as Sea Life Park's programs, the children of tomorrow will not learn to respect our oceans and the creatures living there. Sea Life Park provides hands-on meaningful encounters to connect with marine life.

Testimony against SB 3055

Submitted January 30, 2018

Michelle Benedict – [REDACTED] – 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 misleading information. 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 bold contrast, 2 out of 4 facilities housing marine mammals on public display 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. The restrictions proposed in this bill are 100% contrary to the health and well-being of the marine mammals in human care in Hawaii.

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

In summary, I hope the Agriculture and Environment Committee, House of Representatives and Senate conclude this proposal is woefully inadequate at making a case for preventing transfer of cetaceans into, out of and around Hawaii and, further, that by preventing these actions the proponents of the bill are, in fact, endorsing **inhumane** treatment of cetaceans they claim to want to protect.

In closing, 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: [Janet Kewley-Adam](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: SB3055
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 1:14:58 PM

Sir/Madam
Support SB3055 relating to Cetateans
Than You
Janet Kewley-Adam

--

Janet Kewley-Adam

From: [Janet McDonagh](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Please support SB3055
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 3:30:49 PM

I request that you support SB3055 relating to cetaceans and the proposed ban on any further breeding and transfer of dolphins to Hawaii for purposes of public exhibition.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jessi Schultz](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 relating to cetaceans
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 9:21:58 AM

Hello,

I am in favor of ending captivity in cetaceans. As an advocate for Keiko Conservation and One Ocean Diving, I write to tell you that I support an end to captivity in cetaceans now and completely. It is a barbaric act and those creatures deserve to live in the wild.

Jessi S.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 4:49:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Furman		Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Gabbard and Agricultural Committee Members:

Please do not support SB 3055. The motivation behind SB 3055 seems to be to do away with marine life parks and facilities like Dolphin Quest. There exists a philosophical divide between people who work each day to care for dolphins and whales in human care and those who believe that such animals are better off in the wild. The truth is that humans have polluted and desecrated the wild and now wild animals and their habitats are in peril. Thousands of cetaceans die each year because of bycatch alone. Many more die due to other human causes such as pollution. Those who support SB 3055 do not care about these animals and they are misdirected and misinformed. Those humans who care for the animals in accredited public display facilities do care and try to educate people about the harms caused by humans in the wild. The proponents of SB 3055 do not spend their time, money or resources to educate people about these most important issues.

When deciding which side is right, it is important to acknowledge the facts. Animals in human care are in better health than their counterparts in the wild. They live longer, they have enriched lives, they do not have predators and have high quality diets. The people who care for them are the experts, and have spent their lives dedicated to understanding them so they can teach others about them. Transporting the animals is necessary to maintain genetically diverse and healthy populations. The wild environment is not ideal or even healthy for dolphins because of human impacts. Interacting with dolphins in the wild puts those animals in danger and unnecessary risks.

Those who support SB 3055 are not experts and do not care for these animals on a daily basis. They do not have any credible research that support their position. They rely on fear and misinformation to push their agenda. If the supporters of SB 3055 got their way, it would rob future generations of humans the opportunity to meet and interact with dolphins in person. It would set back research and the knowledge gathering on these animals by decades. Society would be worse off and we would be less informed about these animals. These are the facts.

I urge you to read the materials from scientists who support Dolphin Quest and the public display community. Companies like Dolphin Quest are a benefit to Hawaii and

Hawaii's keiki. Passing a bill that ultimately seeks to do away with facilities that are accredited and licensed to display these wonderful animals is not in the best interests of Hawaii.

Kevin Furman

From: ["Katja Krüger"](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support For SB 3055 Relating To Cetaceans
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 3:01:35 AM

Hello,

my name is Katja and I am from Germany. I visited Hawaii in october and I am sure it's one of the most beautiful places on earth! Something else that was absolutely overwhelming was the connection between people and their environment, including or especially the marine life! This case with captive dolphins for tourist Entertainment is not just totally unnecessary (the ocean in front is full of happy playing dolphins) and absolutely cruel, it is so much against everything the ancient and the modern hawaiian culture and the aloha spirit are standing for.

Please make a change!

Aloha,
Katja

From: [Lindsey Edwards](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 - Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 9:34:34 AM

To whom it may concern,

I implore you to please pass SB3055. These cetaceans are highly social animals that should be left in the wild- not used for human entertainment!

Thank you.

Lindsey Edwards

From: [madi makoff](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support For SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Monday, January 29, 2018 11:20:38 PM

Aloha,

I am writing to you regarding SB3055. Dolphins belong in the wild and not in captivity. I would love to see the breeding of captive dolphins and transfers in the state of Hawaii stopped. A tank is no life for a dolphin they belong in the ocean.

- Mahalo
Madi

From: [Maly Wally](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 7:57:23 AM

I am writing to ask for your support on this matter. I am a Kailua Kona resident and have seen the dolphin conditions at dolphin quest. They are held in a tiny space for the amusement of tourist. Eventhough these dolphins are trained and they don't know life outside this little pool, we should not continue to breed and held them captive.

Maly Romero

From: [Marion Agnel-Guidoni](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 6:00:18 AM

Marion Agnel-Guidoni
Architecture Intérieure
contact@marionguidoni.com
instagram: @marionagnelguidoni
0623547036

From: [Maryrose Markham](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Fwd: SB3055
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 12:59:01 PM

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

> I write to support SB3055 to ban further breeding and transfers of dolphins for exhibition and the start to begin to phase out dolphin captivity in the State of Hawaii
> Yours sincerely Maryrose Markham
>
> Sent from my iPad

From: [Olivia Press](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support For SB3055 Relating To Cetaceans
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 2:37:39 PM

Sent from Olivia Press

From: [Patrick Hernandez](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: SB3055
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 2:04:22 PM

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to inform you that I am against any captive breeding and showing of dolphins and porpoises in your state. These animals were not meant to be displayed in sea animal shows or to be swan with in some of the hotels in your state (e.g.: The Waikoloa Village on the Big Island of Hawaii). It is cruel and unusual punishment given they have an entire ocean for their habitat and they are being forced to lived in contained pools in some park or hotel's premises. It is the equivalent of keeping a human being confined to their house and backyard or worse yet, a jail cell. Please outlaw and ban this practice in the great state of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Patrick Hernandez
pth713@att.net
713-703-4845
Houston, Texas

From: [pauline van der Woude](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 relating to Cetaceans
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 11:37:15 AM

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Полина Алексеева](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support For SB 3055 Relating To Cetaceans
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 10:18:28 AM

Dear people,

You are right in your thoughts that we must stop violence and cruelty!
No one was born to be a slave. We must let dolphins and whales be free

You should know that Russian people think like you. Together we can do everything!

Best regards,
Polina Pivovarova
DVM

From: [Sandra Audije, RN \[CA\]](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 3:46:34 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
Importance: High

Hello State Government of Hawaii Representative,

I recently came across some information online about Bill SB3055.

I'm in support of banning dolphins in captivity. I've visited resorts in Hawaii that have captive dolphin attractions.

These "attractions" are heartbreaking to see. The dolphins looked completely miserable w/ such a small area dedicated to their housing.

It is completely cruel and disgusting that this exists. Please abolish dolphins in captivity in Hawaii. They thrive better in nature. Thank you.

Sandra Audije, Lead RN
HealthCare Partners
Atlantic Infusion Center
Ph: (562) 426-3333 Ext: 43047
Fax: (562) 981-0545



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From: [Shelby Andre](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 relating to Cetaceans
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 4:28:17 PM

Hello,

I am in support of this bill moving forward!! Please offer your support as well!

Shelby Andre

Sent from my iPhone. Please excuse my brief responses!

From: [Tracie Sugo](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 6:44:16 AM

Hello,

I am writing to state that I support SB3055 relating to cetaceans.

Dolphins, whales and porpoises suffer greatly in captivity and it is inhumane to keep them in captive settings in the name of profit and entertainment. Several countries have already outlawed (or nearly outlawed) keeping cetaceans in captivity, including the United Kingdom, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Slovenia, Switzerland and India.

If this bill becomes law, Hawaii can lead by example and initiate other state to apply similar laws!

Please support SB3055!

Thank you,

--

Tracie Sugo

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 4:55:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Payton Romano		Oppose	No

Comments:

The drafted language that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data. The importance of access to dolphins in Hawaii’s accredited marine parks for local Hawaiians and school age children. It’s not just for tourists. Locals can go and watch the dolphins, in some cases for free. I personally have seen hundreds of children affected positively through their experiences at marine parks in Hawaii and spoken to many local adults who have had incredibly positive experiences as well. Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators. Educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine parks is safer for the dolphins and people. This is a much better alternative than dozens of boats harassing free ranging spinner dolphins when they’re attempting to rest. The marine mammal specialists at accredited marine parks are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals’ behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone. There are NO marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii (this is the exception in the Bill). Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community. Accredited marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the animals. Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. There is no reason to duplicate or ignore the already existing regulatory process. If one bans the transport or breeding of dolphins, based on zero scientific data suggesting one should, what is next? Horses? Dogs? Cattle? This is an emotional plea by misinformed animal extremists. To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks, thus robbing future generations the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about dolphins in this unrivaled setting.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 4:57:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tray Federici		Support	No

Comments:

In this day and age, its unbelievable that we still feel the need to capture and torment for entertainment. In the wild is where they belong. Viewing and observing them in a natural habitat is far more humane and rewarding.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 4:57:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Shulze		Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

I strongly oppose SB3055. This bill is not based on documented science or research. These animals are not just a tourist attraction. Each year hawaiian children and families are able to visit and watch at accredited parks, in many cases for free. This open environment helps educate children about keeping the oceans clean, and protecting the environment, which directly supports the Hawaiian economy.

Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators. Dolphin Quest also helps train wildlife responders on how to handle injured wildlife properly. This gives the responders hands on experience that they could not otherwise gain.

The marine mammal specialists at accredited marine parks are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals' behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone. As someone who interned at Dolphin Quest personally, these specialists dedicate countless hours to care for these animals. They understand their personalities and their needs. Without first hand experience, misinformed animal extremists don't understand.

There are NO marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii. Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community while receiving no direct government support for their operations.

Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. There is no reason to duplicate or ignore the already existing regulatory process!

This is an emotional plea by misinformed animal extremists. If one bans the transport or breeding of dolphins, based on zero scientific data suggesting one should, what is next? Horses? Dogs? Cattle?

To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine

life parks, thus robbing future generations the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about dolphins in this unrivaled setting. It would also significantly impact research that can improve the lives of wild cetaceans globally.

I ask you to please oppose SB3055.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Shulze

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 4:58:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kianna Scott		Oppose	No

Comments:

I am strongly against the passing of Bill SB 3055. Allowing facilities like Dolphin quest to transport their cetaceans enables them to preserve genetic diversity in their breeding programs. Breeding programs are vital to preserve the captive population of cetaceans and prevent the future need to take cetaceans out of the wild. Breeding in captivity allows for research and collection of data on cetacean physiology, reproduction, growth rates and other information that will be vital in efforts to help preserve wild species of cetaceans. The aquatic ecosystem is becoming more and more dangerous as pollution, overfishing of cetacean's primary food sources, discarded nets, and whale and dolphin hunts take the lives of countless cetaceans every year. Without conservation efforts both in captivity and in the wild species like the vaquitas (estimated around 30 left in the wild), the Atlantic humpback dolphin (less than 1,500 estimated mature individuals left and population dropping rapidly), and the Hector's dolphin (estimated population of 55) will all soon be extinct with many other species to follow. Are we just going to sit back and watch these species die off because of legislation that inhibits healthy research on cetacean reproduction and growth?

In many situations the movement of cetaceans can be warranted in order to give an animal its best quality of care. From medical treatments to social and behavioral enrichment possibilities movement of animals must be an option determined by, and available to the individuals responsible for their well-being. Being a vital part of a veterinary staff, the idea of legislation restricting the movement of any animals at the risk of compromising its best care possibilities and taking away the ability of care providers to make the best decisions for the animals is horrifying.

Locations like dolphin quest enable the education of the public on the negative impact their actions can cause on wild marine life while sparking the passion and interest needed to change the seemingly dark future of all cetaceans. Programs like the ones at Dolphin quest give opportunities to raise the financial aid needed for research. Dolphin quest has donated over 4 million dollars to scientific studies that support the health of marine mammals worldwide. On top of financial donations, Dolphin quest has donated countless staff volunteer hours to aid in conservation efforts. Dolphin Quest's animals are used to conduct world class research that would be impossible to replicate in the wild. It is not financially feasible to house marine mammals in safe, healthy environment that allow for behavioral enrichment for only research purposes. Public funding is needed. Without public funding Dolphin Quest along with all other facilities that house

dolphins in the US would be at dire risk of not being able to afford quality care to their animals, much less the ability fund research to save wild populations. Without the ability to transport, marine mammals' programs that facilitate public funding would eventually fall apart as the breeding programs that supply marine mammals for the public and research would be compromised.

The veterinary staff, animal behaviorists, and marine mammal specialists at Dolphin Quest and similar facilities have the sole passion to work toward the betterment of all marine mammals' nationwide and legislation like this only drains their financial means and time to do so. This bill will only negatively impacting the animals. I have met some of the veterinary staff that works at Dolphin Quest and know full well that they act with only the best interest of the animals in mind!

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 5:05:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emily Dietz		Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a Hawaii resident and I oppose SB3055. It would inhibit facilities' ability to educate the public on cetaceans, contribute to conservation efforts, and contribute to cetacean research. This would not only effect businesses, but also the people who work there, as well as the many people who visit and get inspired to care about cetaceans and the environment every day.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 4:59:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lyndsey Warmuth		Oppose	No

Comments:

This proposed bill is unnecessary and not based on any scientific evidence. It is based solely on the opinion of a loud minority of misinformed people.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 5:07:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jordyn Jensen		Support	No

Comments:

The oceans are a magical environment. Its home to many of the world' most magestic creatures. Not one of those animals should be in a cage or forced out of their environment for our amusement. I will never forget as a child seeing shamu and being so upset that he was locked behind glass. Even as a child I could see he was not happy. Stop allowing this tragic, inhumane, and extremely saddening endeavors take place..these coporoations should be ashamed of them selves. How would they feel to be ripped from there home with little to no chance of returning.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 5:14:44 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
emma		Oppose	No

Comments:

I spent 5 months as an intern at sea life park hawaii where I learned the importance of conservation and education to keep our environment safe. It was seeing the majesty and intelligence of the dolphins at sea life park hawaii that inspired me to take my own steps to reduce plastic wastage and pass on the inspiration to others. Here, i developed my passion for marine life and empathy for the speices out in the wild. Cetaceans in captivity create a unique opportunity to inspire others and create a personal connection with animals that people would otherwise not have and would thus be less likely to care about how the species survives in the wild. Sea life park do their part in each and every program, educating their guests and encouraging a more sustainable way of life. I OPPOSE this bill 100%.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 5:15:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shawn		Support	No

Comments:

This is an urgent issue. If the bill is passed, cetaceans can be protected.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 5:17:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brittany Pullin		Oppose	No

Comments:

The Bill is not based in science. It is an attempt by animal extremists to remove dolphins from marine life parks.

It would take away the opportunity for future generations to be inspired and educated with dolphins in Hawaii's zoological institutions.

The verbiage in this bill has many hidden agendas. It states to stop the transfer of cetaceans from the wild to captured facilities for the purpose of breeding and entertainment. Most transfers in the state of Hawaii are for the purpose of education and protection of this wildlife. The institutions on Oahu (i.e, Sea Life Park) are providing a valuable service by educating the public on how to conserve our resources and how to safely address our wildlife. The park teaches and educates on how to protect endangered cetaceans and how to keep our coral, beaches, and oceans clean and safe for the longevity of our cetaceans. The public is allowed to view and learn up close these precious animals instead of trying to abuse them in their natural environment. Please DO NOT PASS this bill. It will only lead to more destruction of our natural wildlife environment. As a friend of ocean conservation education, we are kindly asking for your help TODAY in opposing SB 3055.

From: [Daniel Leos II](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Opposition for SB3055
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 5:11:59 PM

I am opposing SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans.

Sea Life Park has taught me so much about marine life. It has brought hours and hours of fun and entertainment to me, my friends, and my Ohana.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sara Sass](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 5:10:27 PM

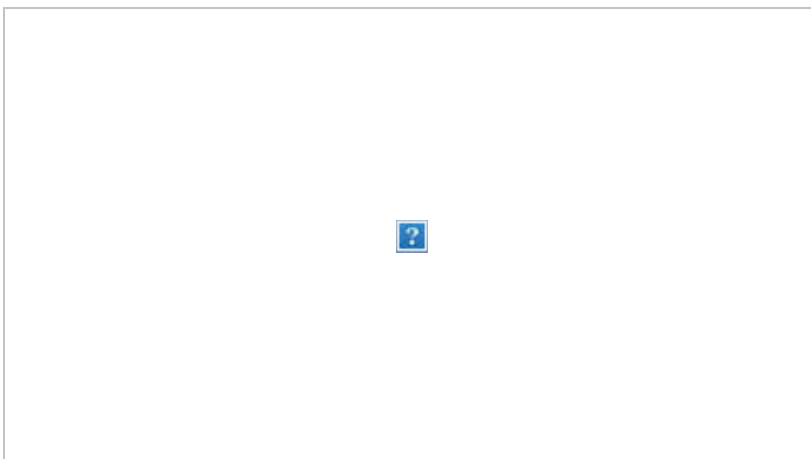
Dear Hawaii Legislature,

I am writing to you to support Bill SB3055, which prohibits any transfers or imports of captive cetaceans for breeding and entertainment.

Cetaceans held in captivity in Hawaii, and across the nation, are subject to high temperatures without shade, shallow pools, solitude, starvation for training exercises, foreign objects thrown in their pools that are then consumed (plastic, food, debris), rake marks, artificial insemination at ages much younger than the cows would get pregnant in the wild, chlorine, bacteria exposure from human beings and unclean enclosures and of course the mental strain being without their natural family unit (pods).



Additionally, the history of cetacean capture in the United States is a bloody and horrific one. The cove water of Taiji, Japan, which supplied the United States with its captive dolphins, literally runs red with the blood of slaughtered and captured dolphins and whales every year.



Juvenile cetaceans, after watching their family members massacred by hand, are dumped at sea to die of starvation and neglect. How is this slaughter funded? By dolphin shows, including dolphin shows here in the United States, where captive cetaceans bring in revenue for the sum of \$8000 purchase price: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/dec/11/not-ashamed-dolphin-hunters-of-taiji-break-silence-over-film-the-cove>

This captive revenue is not returned to the wild of Hawaii. The revenue does not go to a better, safer, more comfortable enclosure for the captive cetaceans like it would if they were employees. The revenue goes only to profit businesses like Dolphin Quest, and other "resorts" which engage in polluting practices (<http://www.hawaii oceanscience.org/ocean-pollution.html>)

Today I ask you, as this bill enters the floor, to think about the long-lasting image of Hawaii which includes its native species. Please support SB3055.

Aloha!

Thank you.

Sara

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 5:19:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katherine Russell		Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB3055. I am a resident of Hawaii and have worked for both Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park. Dolphins should continue to be shared with future generations for a better understanding of wildlife conservation. Without educational experiences such as Sea Life Park's programs, the children of tomorrow will not learn to respect our oceans and the creatures living there. Sea Life Park provides hands-on meaningful encounters to connect with marine life.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 5:26:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Faith Leach	concerned for Dophins	Oppose	No

Comments:

Bill SB3055 will severely restrict the access that the public has to the intellegent and interactive dolphins, and create a void in exposing children to the wonders of dolphins in a safe and nurturing environment. The value for all in experiencing the intellegence of dolfpins in an interactive marine park such as Dolphin Quest, wll sadly undermine efforts to increase awareness and appreciation for our oceans and the mammals and sea life that need the oceans to be clean for their survival. Accredited manine mammal facilities such as Dolphin Quest need to exist and not be restricted by the passage of SB3055. I encourage the legislative session to vote to oppose this law and maintain a healthy environment in Hawaii where Dolphins can safely live, receive excellent care nd stimulation, and interact with the general population. Thank you.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 5:30:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hiroshi Katsumta		Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not support SB 3055.

There are NO marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii (this is the exception in the Bill). Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 5:33:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Morgan	Kualoa Ranch	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not pass SB 3055.

As an individual, and for society's good, we must make it a priority to treat all animals humanely. It is the right thing to do. That does NOT mean that we should not keep animals in captivity. Animals have been kept in captivity for as long as mankind has been out of the stone age. Advocating for the stopping of keeping animals in captivity is unrealistic and totally misguided.

I agree that whales and dolphins are wonderous creatures, and probably possess more intelligence than many other animals. That having been said, they are still animals. Horses, cows, cats and dogs are also animals, all of which are held in some degree of captivity or another at some time or another.

For society, I feel it is very dangerous to humanize animals and postulate that captivity is inherently stressful and disadvantageous to either the animal or humans associated with them. The matter of great importance is not whether animals are held in captivity, it is how they are treated when they are under human control.

Please oppose this bill.

Mahalo

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 5:36:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Jacobson		Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB3055. Sea Life Park Hawaii changed my life. By being able to see these animals up close really opened my eyes on how amazing they truly are. We need future generations to value these amazing animals or they will no longer exist. Giving people a safe environment to view and learn is better than them going out into the ocean and harrassing dolphins. I oppose this bill for the well being of these animals, their future generations living under human care and out in the ocean.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 5:39:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marcy Chamblin	Ms.	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB3055 relating to cetaceans.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 5:46:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sean Leach		Oppose	No

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to SB3055 and urge you to not support this bill. This bill will have a very negative impact on the people of Hawaii who have such wonderful experiences with dolphins at facilities such as Dolphin Quest. Being able to provide the services that they do to Hawaiians and especially to children, is an important function of Dolphin Quest. Dolphin Quest helps teach people about those magnificent animals and helps people to understand the importance of respecting nature and animal life. This creates lifelong memories and helps to influence how people learn to treat animals - and dolphins in particular.

Of the utmost importance, Dolphin Quest provides a safe environment for dolphins. In fact, dolphins are better cared for and safer at these facilities than they are in the wild given how so many dolphins perish or are injured by things in the ocean such as fishing nets, ocean debris, boats, people who disrupt dolphins in the wild, and other such circumstances. The trainers and professionals at Dolphin Quest nurture, respect, care for, and provide support for their dolphins and I have never seen any situation at Dolphin Quest that concerns me about the welfare of their dolphins -- in fact, I've seen the opposite. I am totally impressed with the mission and actions of Dolphin Quest.

It would be devastating to these marine parks and ultimately to the dolphins to pass such legislation. It would lead to the eventual elimination of marine parks. That will be detrimental to the dolphins and to those who enjoy seeing and interacting with dolphins.

PLEASE do not support this bill. Those that are urging passage are either uninformed, misinformed, or are deliberately trying to mislead you to pass their harmful bill. Don't fall for it.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of my comments. I will follow this bill and follow your decision on this bill.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 5:42:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Giulio Campobassi	Salient Solutions	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern. I recently visited Grant Hilton waikoloa and participated in a personal experience from dolphin quest for myself and my family and had close contact with these animals. My first reaction to seeing these animals in their enclosure was for their immediate care and well-being. I asked the local trainer and biologists about their condition and habitat and it was clear to me that these Professionals take great care and have a close relationship with these animals who did not seem under any stress whatsoever and are well cared for. I would recommend that the bill be modified to allow such a service to continue to serve the public providing that safeguards for the well-being of the creatures is included. Being able to be in close proximity with these animals was a great personal experience for myself and my family and provides a greater appreciation for the Wonder and beauty of his creatures.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 5:53:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Link		Oppose	No

Comments:

- The language that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data. Furthermore, if this bill passes, it could limit the opportunities that Hawaii residents have to learn about these animals. I have been a guest at both Sea Life Park and Dolphin Quest Oahu. I've witnessed first hand the connection the guests that come to those parks make with marine life and how it makes their guests want to care more about the ocean.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 5:54:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherri		Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 5:59:44 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Schuler		Support	No

Comments:

From: [James Bingham](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I oppose this bill
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 6:00:45 PM

I feel this bill will hurt the survival of the sea life parks, and they are the best way for our children and their children to experience and see up close the joys of these amazing animals. This bill would destroy the very thing that inspires and educates our young.
Mahalo, James

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 6:07:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Nihan		Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Amy Nihan. My husband and I are retired elementary teachers who live in Lafayette, Colorado. Several years ago we visited Hawaii and stayed on several islands. While on the big island, we visited Dolphin Quest. The chance to see the dolphins up close and learn more about them from the knowledgeable trainers was definitely the highlight of our entire trip! They were unbelievably beautiful and so well cared for. My husband and I were inspired to come back to Colorado and share what we learned with our elementary students, many of whom had never been to the ocean, and were then inspired to go! The science research and dolphin care is invaluable and far-reaching! Please oppose SB3055, which will hinder the work and care for many amazing dolphins.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:24:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois J Young	Ms.	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Sirs:

I oppose SB3055.

Ocean mammals like the ones at Sea Life Park, offer locals and tourist an upfront close and personal experience with these creatures. This kind of hands-on education has proven valuable in understanding life's synergy with them. Banning their transport to accredited facilities will eventually close them down, increase unemployment and the loss of state revenue for our islands. Special memories and valuable learning experiences potentially launch young people to pursue careers in marine biology, ocean sciences etc soo needed to keep our people living here rather than going to the mainland.

Do not pass SB3055, oppose it.

Thank you, Lois Young

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 6:31:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristin Noggle		Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do NOT support SB 3055. The educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine life park like a Dolphin Quest is safer for the dolphins and the people. This is much better than dozens of boats harassing our wild spinner dolphins when they are trying to rest. The Marine Mammal Soecialists at Dolphin Quest are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals' behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone. Accredited marine mammal facilities like Dolphin Quest need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding and to best manage and care for the animals. There are no marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii or anywhere in the US.

Please do not support SB3055

Thank you

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 6:43:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
joy bitonio		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

The procurement process that is involved with the business of cetaceans in captivity is not only in humane, but it is also an injustice to the otherwise free and wild lives of these intelligent species. The conditions offered to cetaceans or any animal for that matter in captivity is never going to be sufficient enough to provide the life lived out in the wild where they belong. I am proud of the culture we share here in a hawaii that honors and respects the land, its resources, and inhabitants. In the spirit of Malama Honua, I urge you to be the voice for the voiceless, and bring us closer to the end of cetaceans in captivity. Let our state be a shining example for the rest of the world. We live in a beautiful place, where our wildlife should be observed from afar, respected and appreciated in their natural and wild homes of the ocean. Mahalo nui loa for your support of this important issue.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 6:44:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
George Brewster	Brim Dog Records	Support	No

Comments:

This bill should be ammended to prevent further captive breeding of cetaceans.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:05:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Wharton		Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose SB3055! The verbiage in this bill has many hidden agendas. It states to stop the transfer of Cetaceans from the wild to captured facilities for the purpose of breeding and entertainment. Most transfers in the state of Hawaii are for the purpose of education and protection of this wildlife. The institutions on Oahu (i.e, Sea Life Park) are providing a valuable service by educating the public on how to conserve our resources and how to safely address our wildlife. The park teaches and educates on how to protect endangered Cetaceans and how to keep our coral, beaches, and oceans clean and safe for the longevity of our Cetaceans. The public is allowed to view and learn up close these precious animals instead of trying to abuse them in their natural environment.

We have lived in Hawaii for the past 25 years and have often enjoyed going to Sea Life Park as a family. My two daughters have been attending week-long Sea Life Parks educational camps twice a year for the past four years with their classmates from Star of the Sea School. It is their favorite camp by far because they "learn so much and it is fun." My girls learn about protecting marine life and conservation in a hands on enviroment each time they attend the camp; they participate in beach cleanups and marine biology and ecology. Sea Life Park is providing an invaluable and interactive message to our children about how to care for and protect all living things.

The Marine Mammal Specialists at Sea Life Park are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals' behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone. There are no marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii or anywhere in the US. Sea Life Park provides critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education to our community. They brings top scientists to Hawaii who then give free talks to the public and share their knowledge with locals. Moreover, accredited marine mammal facilities like Sea Life Park need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding and to best manage and care for the animals. Finally, the transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Let the expert agencies do their job!

Please DO NOT PASS this bill. It will only lead to more destruction of our natural wildlife environment.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Wharton

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:10:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erik Pegg		Oppose	No

Comments:

While Sea Life Park has some major improvements to make regarding their facility, especially the water quality and size of enclosures, there is a place for cetaceans in marine parks. This is the only opportunity for younger generations to see dolphins up close and interact with them. Their experience will foster an appreciation for the ocean environment and they will become stewards for the sea. As a veterinarian I would be happy to help Sea Life Park with improvements to their facility, and overall improvement of animal care at their park.

I am a Hawaii Resident submitting this testimony

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:17:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaylee		Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB3055. Dolphins should continue to be shared with future generations for a better understanding of wildlife conservation. Without educational experiences such as Sea Life Park's programs, the children of tomorrow will not learn to respect our oceans and the creatures living there. Sea Life Park provides hands-on meaningful encounters to connect with marine life.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:27:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Claire Brenner		Oppose	Yes

Comments:

The educational benefits of sea life park way out weigh the arguements of keeping these animals in captivity. They are very well taken care of with the highest quality food, daily enrichment, routine veterinarian visits and meticulous care from the trainers. The reaseach and training that can be done daily with these animals is needed to further the studies of marine mammals. If the breeding is stopped of these animals more and more people will result to seeing these animals in the wild and will disrupt their migration, breeding, and daily feeding. It will be far worth for these animals to only be viewed in the wild by the combination of pollution and the hourly disruption of their daily lives.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:44:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Giulia Fiori		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:09:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Imai		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:45:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jean Simon		Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do NOT support SB3055.

The importance of Sea Life Park is that it's a wealth of information and learning not just for tourists, but for students as well. Not just tourists, but many Hawaii students visit the park each year and learn so much. This bill unfairly designates Sea Life Park as "entertainment" when it is so much more.

The Marine Mammal Specialists at SLP are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals' behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone.

There are no marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii or anywhere in the US. SLP provides critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education to our community. SLP brings top scientists to Hawaii who then give free talks to the public and share their knowledge with locals. SLP provides entertainment that teaches!

Please don't deprive Hawaii of these beautiful animals. If you ban the transfer of cetations the ones at SLP will inbreed and that's even worse!

Mahalo for your time.

Jean Simon

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:47:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sheldon gallarde	sea life park	Support	No

Comments:

When I was a child, my late grandfather took my family to the sea life park. As a child, the park was full of excitement and fun. As we grow older, people start to fade away from what's fun, but the truth is we need someplace to experience this fun. People/ tourist come to Hawaii to see sea life and what what better place to see sea life than at sea life park? When I get older and start to make a family of my own, I want sea life park to be there to take my family; as my grandpa did.

I am writing this in opposition to bill SB3055.

My name is Alexa Miller and I strongly oppose bill SB3055. The claims from SB3055 are commonly found on social media posts from animal extremists that seek to break the animal-human bond and close all zoos and aquariums. Zoos and aquariums are crucial for people to make a connection with nature and to be educated and inspired to make a difference for our planet. These facilities are also crucial for the survival of so many species that are on the verge of extinction. To ban cetaceans from breeding would not only rob future generations of people to learn and connect with these animals, but it was also be detrimental to the animals. Dolphins are one of the few species that engage in sexual behavior not only for reproduction but also to strengthen their social bonds as well as for pleasure. To take that natural right away from them would be unjust. This bill also says that cetaceans do not thrive under human care and that is very far from the truth. Dolphins under human care generally out-live their counterparts in the ocean and are given the highest standard of care and are well-loved. The cetacean facilities here in Hawaii also support scientific studies to help wild populations both through donations as well as onsite research. There is still so much to learn from these amazing animals and some of that research cannot be done out in the ocean. I have been apart of and have hands on experience with the programs offered as these facilities and it has changed my life. The information I learned while I was there and the connection I made with that dolphin is not something I could have learned from a book. Living here in Hawaii I am very fortunate to be surrounded by this beautiful ocean and to see a lot of marine life, but to visitors that have never even seen an ocean, let alone a marine mammal, an up-close encounter is just what they need to be inspired. Some might argue that to get that experience they should swim with wild dolphins and marine life, but this goes against the Marine Mammal Protection Act. There have already been a lot of discussions about the negative effects that tour boats are having on our spinner dolphin populations around the islands from disruption of their resting time which is during the day (because they are nocturnal) as well as harassment. If you support this bill to eventually ban cetaceans from breeding, therefore phasing our marine mammals under human care, there will be more visitors that will try to get that experience with wild populations, which is dangerous for both humans and animals. I urge you to please do research and look at the true facts about the success and importance of marine mammals under human care and not to listen to extremists with misguided information.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:55:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dave		Oppose	No

Comments:

The trainers are highly qualified individuals who provide the highest level of care for the dolphins. They are in a safer and better environment away from fishing nets and other marine debris that could harm or even kill them. The program also provides an educational platform not only to visitors but to the children and residents of Hawaii.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:16:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Sweeney		Oppose	No

Comments:

I urge you to oppose SB 3055.

This Bill does not help solve any of the real and serious problems affecting dolphins and whales, such as coastal pollution, marine debris (especially plastic pollution in the ocean), bycatch in fishing operations, entanglement in drifting "ghost nets", increasing human-made noise in the ocean, oil spills, reduced prey, and collisions and harassment by boaters and swimmers in the cetaceans' habitat.

This bill would hurt the good work of fully accredited, fully regulated, responsible and successful zoological facilities. In Hawaii, Dolphin Quest provides exemplary care of its animals while offering residents and visitors safe and inspiring opportunities to meet and learn about dolphins. These interactive educational experiences help to forge emotional connections to dolphins and to the need for a healthy ocean. For thirty years, Dolphin Quest has also engaged in research projects that have had direct benefits to dolphins in the wild. Dolphin Quest is a great resource and neighbor in Hawaii and a leader in the marine mammal global community, a fact that all of Hawaii should celebrate and be proud. Please support their important work by voting NO on SB 3055.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:19:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
yvonne mahelona		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:18:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brianna LeDoux-Bricker		Oppose	No

Comments:

Sea Life Park holds some of the best memories for me and my nieces and nephews. It means the world to them to be able to come to sea life park and those smiles mean the world to me. My niece learned all about sharks and turtles. My nephews learned why we need to protect our oceans and keep our trash in the trash because they are not good in anyway for the animals they come to visit. This place doesn't just teach children it reminds adults that if they want to continue to see these beautiful animals in the wild they need to love our oceans like they love our park.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:24:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
brooke friswold		Support	No

Comments:

As a zoologist, it is incorrect and inhumane to keep animals of this intelligence level in their current conditions in captivity. This archaic and regressive practice must end and Hawaii should be a leader of this movement away from cetacean captivity that is already happening throughout the world.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:28:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debbi Yoshimoto		Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose Bill SB3055. I am a resident of Hawaii and I personally work at Sea Life Park Hawaii. All of our marine animal specialists are experts in their field and take extreme care of our marine animals at the park. Sea Life Park's vision as well as its employee's is to provide the community with knowledge and education about marine animals. Growing up in Hawaii has made me very appreciative of all the wonderful sea life we are surrounded by. It is an eye opener when institutions such as Sea Life Park have an array of marine animals where the public can speak and interact with the animal specialists as well as the animals themselves. This gives the public a unique opportunity because they can learn up close and personal about these wonderful creatures where out in the wild it'd be more difficult. I oppose this bill because the community should be aware of these wonderful creatures and fundamental that the community continues to learn about wildlife conservation.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:29:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debbie Herrera		Oppose	No

Comments:

I believe Sea Life Park does a wonderful job of educating and making the public aware of all wild life...ocean and land. If wild life was only in "the wild", imagine how many children and adults would miss out on a chance to see such creatures up close and personal. We learn by seeing and being taught by those experts around us. If my children were only to learn from a book or see marine animals in the wild...they may never have a passion for those very animals. Becuase of Sea Llife Park, our children have a respect for all and always come back with new facts. Consider the bigger picture.

On the honu side of things, SLP has done an amazing job of helping to increase the population with their hatchling program and the touch tank area.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:21:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gregg Levine		Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Gregg Levine. I am a veterinarian that has focused much of my twenty year career on marine mammal medicine and cetaceans under human care. I am writing today to oppose SB3055.

It is my opinion that, if passed, this bill would adversely effect the animals that it is designed to protect. The passage of this bill would greatly restrict important animal management options for facilities responsible to giving the highest level of care to these amazing animals.

Legitimate rational for moving animals from one facility to another include, but is not limited to:

1. Increasing genetic diversity from one population to another with the transfer of sexually mature animals.
2. Facilitation of a positive change in the social dynamic from one population to another.
3. Emergency contingency planning for facilities (ie. Hurricane etc)

For these reasons, I strongly oppose the Bill SB3055.

Gregg Levine DVM

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:57:00 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jane sleeper		Oppose	No

Comments:

Please oppose SB3055. We need to be able to learn, be educated, and enjoy the life of the dolphins both outside in the wild and within in caring sanctuaries. For example, Dolphin Quest does an amazing job caring, educating, and sharing the magic of the Dolphin.

please do not support SB3055.

respectively submitted,

Jane Sleeper

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:38:48 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debora Silva		Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support SB 3055.

- The drafted language that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data.
- The importance of access to dolphins in Hawaii’s accredited marine parks for local Hawaiians and school age children is absolutely and undoubtedly immeasurable. It’s not just for tourists. Locals can go and watch the dolphins, in some cases for free. I have first hand, personal experience and observations of guests experiencing marine life at zoos and aquariums, as I am a professional animal trainer with many years of experience. The look on a child’s face as they see up close the power, strength, intelligence, and soul in an animal is indescribable and in and of itself worth fighting this bill for. The smile on people’s faces, of all ages, as they are able to observe these animals in a personally unique setting, and as they realize just how important each animal is, not as a species, but as individuals, is something that I will always be proud of being involved in. The relationships built with each and every animal by their trainers, veterinarians, or any care giver of any kind, shows us all that these animals become a huge part of our lives and even families. This is not something that I am willing to give up or see destroyed.
- Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators.
- Educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine parks is safer for the dolphins and people. This is a much better alternative than dozens of boats harassing free ranging spinner dolphins when they’re attempting to rest.

- The marine mammal specialists at accredited marine parks are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals' behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone. As I have previously stated, I am a marine mammal specialist. My knowledge on the differing species is tremendous, but more than that, my knowledge on the specific individual animals that I have worked with is unparalleled. There is no one in the world that knows those animals the way that I do, or that has the same relationship, or that is able to just as easily identify how the animals are feeling.
- There are NO marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii (this is the exception in the Bill). Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community.
- Accredited marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the animals.
- Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. There is no reason to duplicate or ignore the already existing regulatory process!
- If one bans the transport or breeding of dolphins, based on zero scientific data suggesting one should, what is next? Horses? Dogs? Cattle? This is an emotional plea by misinformed animal extremists.
- To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks, thus robbing future generations the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about dolphins in this unrivaled setting.
- I have never personally been to Dolphin Quest or Sea Life Park, but these are accredited, well known institutions and there is no doubt in my mind that the animals housed there are well cared for by their trainers and veterinarians, one simply has to arrange a visit to be able to see that first-hand.
-
- In summary, passing this bill would be a mistake. Please use the voice of reason and logic rather than the voice of emotional bias from a group with a clear agenda when making decisions. The future depends on it. .

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:30:27 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sally L. Bub	individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I have been to Dolphin Quest at Waikoloa Village, and my 2 granddaughters swam with the dolphins and loved it. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I hope you will allow dolphins to continue to be transported so people who would never know what one looks like can get to know these wonderful, intelligent creatures. They are well cared for and give a tremendous amount of pleasure to people of all ages. Thank you.

Sally L. Bub

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:35:38 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emily Wilkins		Oppose	No

Comments:

Animals in human care act as ambassadors to their wild counterparts. Experiencing an animal up close and personal allows people to gain a better appreciation for them which leads to increased efforts to protect those in the wild. Animals living in human care live rich and happy lives and are incredibly well cared for by their trainers who love them and want only what's best for them. The relationship between the animals and the trainers is very strong and fulfilling to both the animal and the human. Facilities that house animals give wild animals a second chance at life by taking in rescues who were deemed unreleasable by the government. Without such facilities, these animals would die either through lack of medical care or by being released without the skill set to live in the wild.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:47:59 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristine Funk		Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I have worked with ex situ marine mammals for nine years. I agree that these animals are highly social and intelligent animals. Accredited marine facilities work hard to maintain a very high standard of care for these animals and part of that responsibility is to ensure that a healthy social structure is maintained and when possible breeding opportunities should be provided for healthy animals. Breeding is a healthy and natural part of being a social animal. In order to accomplish this transportation of animals between facilities is important to maintain genetic variability and appropriate social structure of the pods. I have not participated in cetacean transports, however, I have participated in sea lion transportation and can assure you that these transports involve months of planning by highly qualified professionals and are managed carefully with the health and best interests of the animals involved.

Legal restriction of these activities should not be based on the perception of public opinion that has been magnified by activists and non-scientific media.

Kristine Funk

Senior Marine Mammal Trainer

Coral World Ocean Park

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:51:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Annette Pedersen		Oppose	No

Comments:

- The drafted language that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data.
- The importance of access to dolphins in Hawaii’s accredited marine parks for local Hawaiians and school age children. It’s not just for tourists. Locals can go and watch the dolphins, in some cases for free. Add your personal experience and observations of guests experiencing marine life at your zoo or aquarium.
- Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators.
- Educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine parks is safer for the dolphins and people. This is a much better alternative than dozens of boats harassing free ranging spinner dolphins when they’re attempting to rest.
- The marine mammal specialists at accredited marine parks are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals’ behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone. This is a perfect place for you to describe your personal experience of dedication to cetaceans in managed zoological settings.
- There are NO marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii (this is the exception in the Bill). Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community.
- Accredited marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the animals.
- Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. There is no reason to duplicate or ignore the already existing regulatory process!
- If one bans the transport or breeding of dolphins, based on zero scientific data suggesting one should, what is next? Horses? Dogs? Cattle? This is an emotional plea by misinformed animal extremists.

To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks, thus robbing future generations the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about dolphins in this unrivaled setting.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 3:37:00 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tanner McNulty	IMATA	Oppose	No

Comments:

The importance of access to dolphins in Hawaii's accredited marine parks for local Hawaiians and school age children. It's not just for tourists. Locals can go and watch the dolphins, in some cases for free. Add your personal experience and observations of guests experiencing marine life at your zoo or aquarium. Educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine parks is safer for the dolphins and people. This is a much better alternative than dozens of boats harassing free ranging spinner dolphins when they're attempting to rest. There are NO marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii (this is the exception in the Bill). Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 3:39:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Henrik Futtrup		Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 4:06:42 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Gaglione	Georgia Aquarium	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please **do not** support SB 3055.

Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators.

There are NO marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii (this is the exception in the Bill). Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community.

Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. There is no reason to duplicate or ignore the already existing regulatory process!

Thank you.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 4:09:31 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jillian Costello Chavers		Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Legislature,

As a member of the veterinary community, I am strongly opposed to passage of SB3055. The verbiage allows for possibly crippling effects on the educational and scientific programs of area marine biologists and researchers, as some will surely argue that "education" and "entertainment" fall in the same category, rendering transport of these magnificent animals illegal in almost all aspects. Additionally, and as stated in the bill, these animals are intelligent, and prohibiting their transport as young animals as they mature will lead to inbreeding and further social order difficulties, as they will not be able to interact with other pods, or in this case research stations, through transport between facilities similarly to how they would in the wild. The educational experiences provided by these research stations and marine biology parks are the inspiration for thousands of people every year that become the future keepers and protectors of our oceans and wildlife. I strongly recommend the Legislature to reach out to local marine parks and experience the interaction with and care of our marine mammals by the experts who love them before acting on legislation that could remove one of our last tangible connections to the wilds of the sea.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jillian Costello Chavers, DVM

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 4:27:11 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Samantha		Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am opposed to the Bill SB 3055 limiting and prohibiting the transfer of cetaceans in Hawaii. The drafted language that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data. It is so important to give people access to these incredible animals in a protected setting, rather than encouraging tour boats to harass pods of spinner dolphins and disrupt their rest. Allowing ACCREDITED facilities that are REGULATED BY THE USDA AND THE HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE to house and transport cetaceans will help educate people and change their lives, along with promoting conservation and helping to contribute to incredibly important research (as these facilities have done already for DECADES). Additionally, transport of these animals can prevent inbreeding, adding to providing the best care for these animals. I have significant personal experience working with these animals, and everyone involved with caring for them (trainers, vets, interns, etc.) makes huge personal sacrifices in their own lives in order to provide the best care possible. Discontinuing the transport of cetaceans will ultimately lead to the decline of marine facilities that provide so much education, outreach, conservation, and research support to the animals that cannot speak for themselves.

Thank you very much.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 4:27:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roma Hayward		Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not support SB 3055.

The importance of access to Dolphin Quest for local Hawaiians and school age children. It's not just for tourists. Locals can go and watch the dolphins for free. Add your personal experience and observations.

DQ provides a wonderful environment for the dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution and Marine debris.

Educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine life park like Dolphin Quest is safer for the dolphins and people. This is much better than dozens of boats harassing our wild spinner dolphins when they're trying to rest.

The Marine Mammal Specialists at Dolphin Quest are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals' behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone.

There are no marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii or anywhere in the US. Dolphin Quest provides critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education to our community. Dolphin Quest brings top scientists to Hawaii who then give free talks to the public and share their knowledge with locals.

Accredited marine mammal facilities like Dolphin Quest need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding and to best manage and care for the animals.

Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

I've been to Dolphin Quest and have seen first-hand that these animals are absolutely adored and well care for by their animal caregivers.

This Bill does not help solve any of the real and serious problems affecting dolphins and whales, such as coastal pollution, marine debris (especially plastic pollution in the ocean), bycatch in fishing operations, entanglement in drifting "ghost nets", increasing human-made noise in the ocean, oil spills, reduced prey, and collisions and harassment by boaters and swimmers in the cetaceans' habitat.

This bill would hurt the good work of fully accredited, fully regulated, responsible and successful zoological facilities. These interactive educational experiences help to forge emotional connections to dolphins and to the need for a healthy ocean.

Please, oppose this bill. It will be detrimental to our oceans and the animals. People need this connection to nature to help create global stewards of the future.

Sincerely,

Roma Hayward

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 4:42:38 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Juliana Wendt		Oppose	No

Comments:

There are some key points I'd like to referece in opposition.

1. Transport of cetaceans is already highly monitored by the USDA and the Hawaii Dept of Agriculture. There is no need to duplicate or ignore the already existing regulatory process.
2. Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins. We should be more concerned for the hundreds of thousands of cetaceans drowning in fishing nets, impacted from overfishing, pollution, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators.
3. The drafted language "dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness or death to the animals" is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data.

Please consider shutting this down through complete objective measures.

Thank you

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 4:30:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherri Waldrop		Oppose	No

Comments:

As a marine mammal trainer, I firmly oppose this new bill. The transfer and relocation of animals in a zoological facility or aquarium is sometimes necessary for the health, well being, or quality of life for the animal. Every single trainer only has the best interest of the animals in our care at heart. This is not a measure that ensures what is best for the zoological population of this species. Occasional animal transfers are necessary for a well managed overall population with genetic diversity. The goal of zoos and aquariums is to educate the public and create connections between the people visiting and the animals. Our hope is that they will hopefully walk away having gained some love and respect for the animals in our facilities because we want to be able to preserve the wild populations that are being harassed by humans and having their food supplies and natural habitats destroyed because people do not understand, appreciate, or respect them. Please do not restrict the freedom of these facilities to properly manage the animals in their care by limiting their breeding ability with this bill. Make the right choice that will allow them to continue with their mission of public education and conservation of these amazing animals.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 4:56:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Luisa Hardy		Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I strongly urge you to consider voting no on the bill being considered because of the vast impact it could have for cetaceans both under human care and in the wild. Facilities that maintain cetaceans under human care are of vast importance especially with the decline of many species populations in the wild. The ever increase of both commercial and recreational fishing and boating creates an increasing threat to wild populations of cetaceans. Creating a connection to these cetaceans in facilities in which they are extremely well cared for and loved allows for many to be cognizant of decisions that they may make in their own lives that make a difference.

Working in the field of Marine Mammal training I have seen the immense impact these animals make on peoples lives. Not a day goes by that doesn't influence someone to care and respect these animals not only when they are interacting with them but also wild populations as well. The care and consideration that goes into daily operations with cetaceans is second to none and passing this bill would greatly limit the ability to do so freely.

I urge you strongly, both as a professional and an individual, to vote NO on this bill.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 5:02:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Todd Coffman	IMATA	Oppose	No

Comments:

The care these animals is the best that can be given. The educational benefit of these types of facilities is immeasurable. People learn to love and protect these and other animals BECAUSE of accredited facilities like these.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 5:07:29 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Liselotte Rijnink		Oppose	No

Comments:

Good day,

I am writing you to express my opinion regarding bill SB3055. I urge you to please do **not** pass this bill. Regulations prohibiting all transportation of cetaceans would not be in the best interest of the animals in question, nor in the people's who dedicate their lives to taking care of them.

Animals in the wild should remain in the wild, and animals in the excellent care of trained, loving professionals should have the right to this care throughout their lives too. Part of these basic rights that help these animals lead fulfilling lives, include the right to procreate with genetically unrelated mates, as well as to build new social bonds with animals from or at different facilities.

Passing this bill would deny them of the rights to this life's purpose and primary need for survival. I urge you to look into the people who propose this bill, carefully assess their background and their motives to get this bill passed. Animal rights and wellbeing is a highly popular cause among the masses, and inaccurate portrayals of the lives that animals in human care at facilities like Dolphin Quest's live broadcasted by these extremists wrongfully play on people's emotions. All those millions of dollars people donate to these causes thinking they are fighting in the interest of the animals, often go into the pockets of the people working for these organizations and rarely attribute to tangible improvements in the lives of the animals. The professionals at Dolphin Quest dedicate their loves, their free time and most of their proceeds into efforts that **directly** improve the lives of the animals in their care, as well as those out in the wild.

The plethora of scientific studies that are conducted at Dolphin Quest on a daily basis offer knowledge to stranding facilities around the world, help to advise government agencies in place to develop legislation to protect animals in the wild (how could they do that without the science to prove what those animals actually need or need banned??).

All elements of housing cetaceans in human care. including rules and guidelines regarding transport of cetaceans, are already closely regulated by agencies such as the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Please trust these people are professionals, and know which independent parties to call on for information to base

their work on. It is your job to objectively assess this bill, and I urge to call on the experts to inform you of what is in the animals' best interest.

please, do not pass this bill.

Thank you for your time,

Liselotte Rijnink, MSc.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 5:18:16 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Martha Hiatt		Oppose	No

Comments:

Respected Officials,

I was very dismayed this morning to hear about proposed SB 3055. I am not a resident of Hawaii, but your state has been a large part of my life. The marine parks of your beautiful home helped to inspire me to dedicate myself to caring for animals, and educating and inspiring people to protect marine life. My role in this endeavor has been as a marine animal caretaker, educator, and conservationist for over 30 years.

Our community—both public aquariums (such as the Wildlife Conservation Society’s New York Aquarium) and private marine parks—are tremendous advocates for marine animals. We bring people face to face with magnificent animals, providing them with an opportunity to understand why the animals and their habitats matter. No book or video can compare with the visceral experience of being next to a dolphin or whale.

Our mission has been to inspire people to protect habitats such as the extraordinary ones right off your shores. We bring our guests to understand the role they play in preserving and rejuvenating our oceans.

I believe that many of the people that speak out against us care about the animals. Unfortunately, they have been subjected to propaganda delivered by self-serving and/or uninformed activists who manipulate public opinion. It is ironic that marine parks and aquariums have been a tremendous influence in inspiring people to love cetaceans, and that love has driven them to listen to the loudest voices—voices whose statements are not scientifically sound and are based in opinion.

Hawaii is a progressive state that protects its people. I have been heartened by the courage you have displayed in your courts and government to protect people that want to enter our country for a better life. Please extend that passion for the underserved who will never be able to afford whale watching trips. Do not allow anyone to deny people the opportunity to fall in love with cetaceans. Education should not be limited to those that can afford it.

I implore you to vote down SB 3055.

Most Sincerely,

Martha Hiatt

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 5:56:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emily Trumbull		Oppose	No

Comments:

Sea Life Park is a critical part of marine conservation in Hawaii. Sea Life Park educates both locals and tourists about the Hawaiian ocean and environment and how to protect them while enjoying Hawaii's beautiful nature. Sea Life Park helps people and children connect with marine animals so that they can relate to these animals and find out how to protect their environment. The proceeds from Sea Life Park help support conservation efforts and the ocean environment. Without this revenue, it would be difficult for Sea Life Park to support children's programs and other educational opportunities for the public. Without Sea Life Park, the ocean would deteriorate at an even faster rate than it currently does.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 6:02:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeanne Shearer	Duke University	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to **oppose** the passing of SB3055 bill which would restrict the transport of cetaceans in Hawaii. By extension this bill would prevent the breeding of cetaceans in human care, as transport is necessary to promote healthy populations in zoological facilities and prevent inbreeding. The cessation of captive breeding would directly harm the **science, education, and conservation work** that these zoological institutions promote. As a marine mammal scientist, I recognize the value of marine parks, zoological facilities, and aquariums in providing access to scientists for research that cannot be done on wild animals. This research is often connected to promoting the health of animals in the wild. The ocean is no longer a pristine environment, and wild cetaceans face many threats, including increased noise and collision risk from shipping, entanglement in fishing lines, and pollution. To understand their reactions and responses to these threats, we need research that can only be done on trained animals. This includes research on animal's metabolic rates and energy requirements, hearing thresholds, responses to stimuli, and basic physiological parameters. To restrict animals in human care directly opposes scientific research and will ultimately hurt our ability to protect their wild cousins.

In addition to their **scientific benefit**, cetaceans in zoological institutions play important roles in **educating the public** about the need for marine conservation. They are often the first link between people and marine mammals, as it is not possible for everyone to see marine mammals in the wild. Early encounters with dolphins in human care foster a love for nature that inspires people to care for our environment. These early experiences are invaluable in promoting conservation and **respect for nature**. You protect what you love, and you love what you know—if people are never exposed to marine mammals the desire to protect their habitat will disappear.

Finally, zoological facilities like those in Hawaii play crucial roles in **conservation**, both by funding conservation research and programs and by providing the **facilities and expertise** to rehabilitate stranded animals. Without the knowledge gained from years of caring for marine mammals, it would be impossible to bring in sick or injured wild animals, rehabilitate them, and release them back into the wild. In order to continue to provide this important conservation service, these facilities need to be able to exist without undue restrictions on their operation. Cetaceans in human care in accredited

zoological institutions receive **excellent care**. Marine mammal facilities are heavily regulated and to receive accreditation must uphold **high standards**. There is no need for further regulations that prevent their ability to function and contribute to science, education, and conservation. **I ask you to oppose the SB3055 bill and allow marine mammal facilities to continue to provide the best care for their animals while helping wild populations with their research, promoting a love of nature in young visitors, and directly contributing to conservation.**

Sincerely,

Jeanne Shearer

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 6:14:11 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Krystina Olsen		Oppose	No

Comments:

The drafted language that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data.

Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators.

Educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine parks is safer for the dolphins and people. This is a much better alternative than dozens of boats harassing free ranging spinner dolphins when they’re attempting to rest.

There are NO marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii (this is the exception in the Bill). Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community.

Accredited marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the animals.

Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. There is no reason to duplicate or ignore the already existing regulatory process!

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 6:14:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Liz Conrad		Oppose	No

Comments:

These are my reasons for opposing this bill. Please take all of this into consideration as this decision will NOT benefit the health and well being of cetaceans under human care or in the wild.

- The drafted language that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data.
- The importance of access to dolphins in Hawaii’s accredited marine parks for local Hawaiians and school age children. It’s not just for tourists. Locals can go and watch the dolphins, in some cases for free. Add your personal experience and observations of guests experiencing marine life at your zoo or aquarium.
- Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators.
- Educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine parks is safer for the dolphins and people. This is a much better alternative than dozens of boats harassing free ranging spinner dolphins when they’re attempting to rest.
- The marine mammal specialists at accredited marine parks are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals’ behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone. This is a perfect place for you to describe your personal experience of dedication to cetaceans in managed zoological settings.
- There are NO marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii (this is the exception in the Bill). Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community.
- Accredited marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the animals.
- Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. There is no reason to duplicate or ignore the already existing regulatory process!

- If one bans the transport or breeding of dolphins, based on zero scientific data suggesting one should, what is next? Horses? Dogs? Cattle? This is an emotional plea by misinformed animal extremists.
- To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks, thus robbing future generations the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about dolphins in this unrivaled setting.
- If you've been to Dolphin Quest or Sea Life Park, and have seen first-hand that these animals are well cared for by their trainers and veterinarians, please communicate it.

Thank you.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 6:18:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ariel Evans	Georgia Aquarium	Oppose	No

Comments:

- The drafted language that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data.
- The importance of access to dolphins in Hawaii’s accredited marine parks for local Hawaiians and school age children. It’s not just for tourists. Locals can go and watch the dolphins, in some cases for free. Add your personal experience and observations of guests experiencing marine life at your zoo or aquarium.
- Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators.
- Educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine parks is safer for the dolphins and people. This is a much better alternative than dozens of boats harassing free ranging spinner dolphins when they’re attempting to rest.
- The marine mammal specialists at accredited marine parks are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals’ behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone. This is a perfect place for you to describe your personal experience of dedication to cetaceans in managed zoological settings.
- There are NO marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii (this is the exception in the Bill). Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community.
- Accredited marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the animals.
- Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. There is no reason to duplicate or ignore the already existing regulatory process!
- If one bans the transport or breeding of dolphins, based on zero scientific data suggesting one should, what is next? Horses? Dogs? Cattle? This is an emotional plea by misinformed animal extremists.

- To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks, thus robbing future generations the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about dolphins in this unrivaled setting.
- If you've been to Dolphin Quest or Sea Life Park, and have seen first-hand that these animals are well cared for by their trainers and veterinarians, please communicate it.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 6:25:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Craig		Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 6:32:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emese Zsille		Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear All,

Please DO NOT support SB3055

We all protect just what we know and what we love. In these days are unfortunately zoological facilities more important than ever before. Our children get addicted to mobile devices, TV, social media from a very young age and these new generations lose more and more the connection with nature. If they don't have the connection and love toward nature they will not protect it. Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean and they provide a oppotunity for our children to fall in love with dolphins and so develop a heart wich cares about our planet.

Emese Zsille, Slovakia

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 6:43:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Hunt		Support	No

Comments:

As a concerned habitant of this planet I strongly support this bill to save the creatures of the sea that are so vital to that ecosystem and ours as well. They were not meant to be captured and put on display for human entertainment.

These are beautiful and intelligent beings that should be revered and respected for their health and the health of the planet.

Thank you.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 6:32:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tamra Erickson		Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support this bill. It is important for educational marine mammal facilities to be able to transport animals to prevent inbreeding and to guarantee the best possible care for them. Organizations like Dolphin Quest, which I have visited, set a standard of excellence in their care and understanding of dolphins. Dolphin Quest is instrumental in supporting and promoting ocean conservation efforts and educating the public.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 6:46:43 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Giskin		Oppose	No

Comments:

I live in Florida where I am fortunate enough to see dolphins both in the wild and in many aquariums. I gained my appreciation for dolphins and other cetaceans by visiting aquariums such as SeaWorld and Clearwater Marine Aquarium which display their dolphins both in an entertaining and educational way. This balance of education and entertainment is necessary for future generations to care about and be aware of cetaceans in our natural world. This measure would eventually result in limited breeding and use of entertainment at cetacean facilities in Hawaii. As someone who loves Hawaii, cetaceans, and aquariums, I will be in no rush to visit Hawaii as a tourist if I cannot see dolphins performing and knowing that breeding is restricted. This measure is completely unnecessary and demonstrates Hawaii's ignorance on this issue - this should have never have even been a possibility. I would be very disappointed to see this passed.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 6:54:31 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald Lauterbach	individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please DO NOT support SB 3055. The dolphin research and education that is occurring now in Hawaii is vital to the species and the public's understanding and appreciation of the species. There are already agencies in place who keep an eye on the safety and approach an organization is taking. Let them do their job. The groups like Dolphin Quest are incredibly responsible in their care of the animals. I have interacted with them as a tourist and hope to again. Their business model is excellent with regard to the protection of the animals. So much research and FREE educational programs happens with the local children. This is so important that it is allowed to continue. SB 3055 is an extremeist's approach to an issue that does not exist. Please Do NOT support SB 3055. People take care of what they understand; without understanding a species, that won't happen. Dolphin facilities are important to children and adults for animal interaction opportunities. They are important to valid science being able to continue.

January 31, 2018

I would like to express my desire to oppose SB 3055.

Zoos and Oceanariums like Dolphin Quest, which is considered one of the best facilities in the world, need to remain open if nothing else for their educational value. Dolphin Quest has been teaching kids in Hawaii as well as around the world, for over 30 years, about the importance of conserving the wild environments.

Most of the people who are opposed to animals in captivity first gained their interest and appreciation for these animals by visiting their local zoo, aquarium, or oceanarium as a child. If not for these facilities, the issues of pollution, overfishing, by catch, etc would not be in anyone's mind, and the problems would escalate to disastrous levels.

The relatively few animals that are housed in these facilities, as long as they are following strict guidelines and standard, certainly have a place, and are there for a greater good.

Thanks for your consideration.

George Berliner



SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 6:56:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mei Ou		Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB3055. Dolphins should continue to be shared with future generations for a better understanding of wildlife conservation. without educational experience such as Sea Life Park's program, the children of tomorrow will not learn to respect our oceans and the creatures living there. Sea Life Park provides hands-on meaningful encounters to connect with marine life.

I am a resident of Hawaii and my son absolutely enjoys his learning at the Sea Life Park. each time when we see the dolphins and other ocean creatures, he tells me that he uses gentle hands with them.

should you have any questions with the testimony, feel free to reach me at 808-387-6161 or mei9231@yahoo.com.

Testimony for Bill 3055

Alejandra Quesada

To whom it may concern,

My name is Alejandra Quesada and I do not support SD 3055. This bill will prohibit marine mammal facilities from educating the public about the important of cetaceans in our ecosystem. Facilities like Dolphin Quest do not merely entertain tourists, but they help to spread awareness about these animals as well as take amazing care of them. DQ has safe facilities for their dolphins and they continuously provide these mammals with everything they need while continuing to do research and educating the community. There are no marine mammal facilities that solely do research and this bill will prevent all facilities from continuing to study these animals. I have visited Dolphin Quest in the past year and can personally testify that this facility is properly managed and well-suited for the life of these mammals. The marine specialists that work there are completely focused on preserving the natural habits of the mammals, making sure they are not sick or undernourished, and study their behaviors as they learn new signals. The more we study these animals, the better we can change our habits and products to ensure the safety of dolphins in the wild. As accredited facilities continue to breed these animals for research and educational purposes, it is important to maintain a broad gene pool and rotate dolphins from place to place. These dolphins are bred in captivity and have no knowledge on how to survive in the wild. If you prevent these facilities from transporting their mammals, you will diminish the amount of research they can do. It is important to continue learning about dolphins and educating the community to ensure that these creatures thrive for generations to come. My experience at Dolphin Quest was nothing but positive and I learned so much from the wonderful staff there. You can really feel the relationships between the dolphins and the marine mammal specialists and it is a personal experience such as this that makes learning about these animals fun and educational for all ages. I learned so much about how to help dolphins in the wild and really understood why it is important to protect these animals. Again, I urge you to please vote no on SB 3055 to continue spreading the educational awareness these cetaceans deserve.

Thank you,

Alejandra Quesada

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 7:05:29 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carlene Paige		Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose a bill that would put restrictions on breeding cetaceans in captivity. I oppose this bill as allowing the cetaceans in captivity to breed freely is one of many ways these animals are well loved and cared for in human care. The ability to breed allows the cetaceans to live enriched lives and that serve to inspire and educate humans to better care for Hawaii's breathtaking islands as well as the homes they return to upon leaving Hawaii. Sincerely, Carlene Paige

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 7:14:11 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronnie Snook		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 7:39:36 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edgar	Dolphin Discovery	Oppose	No

Comments:

We are living in a moment in which a culture of environmental education is what can save our planet.

Definitely most of the dolphinariums have acquired this awareness and the actions that are carried out within them are in favor of this education before the general public. We have set the objective that the people who visit the dolphinariums come out with a great awareness of animal welfare. Many of these visitors can only have the opportunity to have an approach with the marine mammals inside a dolphinarium because the ecosystems are already very compromised.

With regard to the care and welfare of animals within the facilities of the dolphinariums that are part of Associations such as IMATA, we will find high standards of food quality, habitats, enrichment and physical and mental health of the animals.

We can not continue to allow bad information to continue to bombard the general public, especially young people. We can not continue to allow unfounded misinformation to generate laws that go against true animal welfare.

If one bans the transport or breeding of dolphins, based on zero scientific data suggesting one should, what is next? Horses? Dogs? Cattle? This is an emotional plea by misinformed animal extremists.

If you've been to Dolphin Quest or Sea Life Park, and have seen first-hand that these animals are well cared for by their trainers and veterinarians, please communicate it

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 7:42:45 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janessa Kozlowski		Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to oppose Bill SB3055. The thoughts and actions behind this bill are not scientifically accurate and are not based off of the best interests of the animals. When reviewing things like this I implore you to remember that we need to be looking out for the health and wellbeing of the animals.

By banning the transport of cetaceans it is taking away the ability to increase genetic diversity within the facilities in Hawaii. A diverse gene pool is important because it increases the opportunity to prevent inbreeding. As cetaceans are mammals, inbreeding is not something that would be ideal to occur. The transport process allows the facilities to prevent inbreeding which in turn allows the animals to reproduce. The limits this Bill would set would minimize, and essentially in the long run, eliminate a cetacean's ability to reproduce. Taking away their ability to reproduce is nothing less than humane! It also is not healthy for animals to not be able to reproduce, as science has shown many benefits that reproduction has for animals under human care.

The other important thing to remember, is to consider who are we fighting for? Animals under human care act as ambassadors for their species. Millions of people from around the world visit Hawaii and choose to interact with the cetaceans that are under human care. It is these interactions that are touching hearts, inspiring passion, and educating the past, present and future generations about the changes we need to make now to conserve our oceans. For how can we love what we do not know? If you could see some of the joy and inspiration in the eyes of the guests attending these facilities, you would not hesitate to understand that these animals are making a difference. And they are making a difference for the animals that really need our help. Thousands of marine mammals die every year due to pollution, plastic, overfishing, and by catch in our oceans. These are the animals that we should be focusing on. These are the issues that Bills should be passed on. It is scientifically known that cetaceans under human care live almost twice as long as cetaceans out in the ocean. In their facilities they are thriving, receiving 5-star health care, eating better than most people do, and voluntarily participating in all that they do. Most importantly they are required to help their wild counter parts. What they do on a daily basis is inspire someone to make a small change that will lead to a big change for the better of our environment.

Please do not take away the only hope that cetaceans out in the oceans have. Without the ability to transport cetaceans, eventually there will be none left in human care to be ambassadors for them. Then who will inspire? Who will educate? How will we ever learn more about these animals so we can continue to protect them? Be the real animal activist and oppose this bill, so that together we can continue to rescue the animals that really need our help, not the ones that are thriving where they are.

Sincerely,

Janessa

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 7:43:30 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sara Glanz		Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to oppose the passing of SB3055 bill which would restrict the transport of cetaceans in Hawaii. By extension this bill would prevent the breeding of cetaceans in human care, as transport is necessary to promote healthy populations in zoological facilities and prevent inbreeding. Cetaceans in human care in accredited zoological institutions in Hawaii receive excellent care and are ambassadors for their wild cousins by educating the public about the very real need for marine conservation. They are often the first link between children and marine mammals, fostering a love for nature that encourages responsibility for our environment. In addition to their role in education, marine mammal facilities have the knowledge and resources to promote conservation, both by rehabilitating and releasing stranded animals (and treating them with knowledge gained from years of working with animals in human care) and by funding conservation work. Finally, marine mammal facilities serve as centers for research that cannot be performed in the wild. This research directly translates to information that can help marine scientists protect wild populations from the increasing dangers they face in an industrialized ocean. Marine mammal facilities are heavily regulated and accredited institutions must achieve high standards. There is no need for further regulations that prevent their ability to function and contribute to science, education, and conservation. I ask you to oppose the SB3055 bill and allow marine mammal facilities to continue to provide the best care for their animals while helping wild populations with their research.

Sincerely,

Sara Glanz

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 7:51:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jackie Share		Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support SB-3055. There is no scientific data which supports the claims that have been stated as, "dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans." The animals in accredited facilities have an environment they can thrive in. Their wild counterparts are not so lucky, as they have to worry about overfishing, pollution, marine debris and boat strikes. The specialists at accredited marine parks are the experts. The staff puts in a great deal of time learning about each individual animal. I have been in the marine mammal field for over 10 years, and know that accredited facilities go above and beyond to care for their animals. Their mental and physical needs come first, they are met and exceeded. Besides tourists, local Hawaiians visit these accredited marine parks to be educated and inspired from the animals in a safe and up-close setting. I have experienced first-hand the impact to both children and adults that these amazing animals can make. People want to protect the animals they care and know about, which leads to protecting the environment we share. If one bans breeding or transporting dolphins, it's going to affect the future generations of people that would not be able to experience how amazing these animals are.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 7:58:54 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wendy Dunlap		Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose the passage of SB 3055. It would severely limit the movement of dolphins within HI and other states and countries and limit the breeding ability of AZA accredited facilities like Dolphin Quest. I worked for the education department of Dolphin Quest in San Diego for several years and know the owners and have met many of the dedicated employees. They take excellent care of the dolphins and they are not in distress. They have educational programs for the local children in HI and welcome guests from all over the world to learn more about dolphins and have personal interactions. I think this is a petty bill put forth by animal activists who should spend their time worrying about bigger issues impacting dolphin and whale populations around the world, including hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution and Marine debris. The Dolphin Quest facilities are a much better place for people to interact with these wonderful marine mammals than to be out harassing wild spinner dolphins when they are trying to rest.

There are no marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii or anywhere in the US. Dolphin Quest provides critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education to our community. Dolphin Quest brings top scientists to Hawaii who then give free talks to the public and share their knowledge with locals. The Marine Mammal Specialists at Dolphin Quest are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals' behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone. Accredited marine mammal facilities like Dolphin Quest need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding and to best manage and care for the animals. Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Let the expert agencies do their job!

I have worked for several facilities - The Living Seas at EPCOT, Sea World San Diego, Shedd Aquarium and have seen the love and dedication all the trainers and husbandry associates have for the animals and only want the best for them. The ones that are in captivity are ambassadors for the entire marine mammal community and are great spoke-cetacean for the world.

I strongly oppose this bill and hope you will vote no. I am not a resident of Hawaii, but my husband grew up in Hawaii and is also opposed to this bill. We will be visiting Hawaii this summer with our family and planned to visit the Dolphin Quest facility on Oahu. I

know from personal experience and knowledge that Dolphin Quest is well run company and puts the animal care first. To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks and rob future generations of the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about these animals up close. Thank you for reading my testimony.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:05:51 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lillie Garrido Butcher		Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear AEN Committee Members,

I am requesting your help and ask that you VOTE NO on SB 3055. I am unable to testify in person and therefore, I am contacting you and am asking you OPPOSE SB 3055.

This is an orchestrated effort by "animal rights" groups to close down all zoological facilities that have dolphins and whales by chipping away at their ability to do business. This Bill does not help solve any of the serious problems affecting dolphins and whales, such as coastal pollution, marine debris (plastic pollution in the ocean). Our oceans are not only polluted by plastic and other debris, commercial fisherman are destroying it with their fishing operations, entanglement in drifting "ghost nets", increasing human-made noise in the ocean, oil spills, reduced prey, and collisions and harassment by boaters and swimmers in the cetaceans' habitat. Animal rights activists haven't done their homework to educate themselves on the benefits of dolphin research and the safe environment in which these dolphins in Hawaii currently live in educational and research facilities such as Dolphin Quest. Dolphins are treated as members of human families with the love and care similar to what we provide our own children and grandchildren. The Dolphin Quest family ensures their facilities and living learning environments provide the highest of standards and the safety of these dolphins is of utmost importance. Dolphin Quest dolphins live longer than dolphins in the wild. They are protected by humans who devote their lives to ensure their safety. Until we can give them a pollution free natural environment (which is impossible in our current oceans) these dolphins deserve to be protected.

This bill would hurt the good work of fully accredited, fully regulated, responsible and successful zoological facilities. In Hawaii, Dolphin Quest provides exemplary care of its animals while offering residents and visitors safe and inspiring opportunities to meet and learn about dolphins. These interactive educational experiences help to forge emotional connections to dolphins and to the need for a healthy ocean. Dolphin Quest encourages the public nationwide through educating locals, school children, and tourists on the importance of recycling and protecting our oceans. Dolphin Quest is much more than a "swim with the dolphin experience". They are educating the public on the importance of protecting our earth. If you haven't visited a facility you MUST. It is then that you will see how loved and protected these dolphins are. For thirty years, Dolphin Quest has

also engaged in research projects that have had direct benefits to dolphins in the wild. Dolphin Quest is a great resource and neighbor in Hawaii and a leader in the marine mammal global community, a fact that all of Hawaii should celebrate and be proud. Animal Right activists need to focus their efforts on reducing pollution, eliminating C8 chemicals from our waters (C8 is killing us too), and ensuring the safety of animals in natural living habitats. It is there that they are dying and unsafe. Regulate those causing the problems and destroying our earth. The Ocean is no longer safe. Dolphin Quest keeps dolphins safer than any ocean ever can. These dolphins know they are loved-If you don't believe me, go talk to one of them. They can hear you and will show you how happy they are. They are smart and they are happy.

Please support the important work of Dolphin Quest and others fighting to keep our environment pollution free. Your efforts are better served by voting NO on SB 3055 and finding a solution to pollution!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Lillie Garrido Butcher
Hilton Grand Vacation Club Owner*

435-513-0716

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:07:48 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frank Rego		Oppose	No

Comments:

The claims made in the proposition of this bill are blatantly false. Cetaceans in captivity do not have shortened lifespans. In fact, many of them surpass the average expected lifetime of cetaceans in the wild. An immediate relative of mine is the head veterinarian at an institution that works with cetaceans in captivity, and having seen their practices for myself, I can assure you that the animals are cared for with the utmost respect. It is appalling how such blatant misinformation can make its way into proposed legislature.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:20:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimberly Browne		Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello!

I am an experienced animal advocate, passionate in my support of marine mammals. Just a few short years ago, I consider myself very lucky to have had the opportunity to visit Hawaii while I had family stationed there. Right now we are working to plan our next trip to Hawaii and among the things we plan on doing is visiting marine mammal facilities, such as Dolphin Quest.

I am very disappointed and concerned about SB 3055. This bill is not based on good science and is nothing more than an emotional appeal from animal rights extremists. Transport of marine mammals is not something taken lightly by marine mammal facilities. It is something that warrants very careful consideration and is only conducted to actually improve animal welfare. This bill is touted as supporting and increasing animal welfare while it actually inhibits animal welfare. There is a small vocal minority that pushes an agenda that marine mammals in human care environments are stressed. This is also untrue. There is a growing body of peer reviewed and published scientific research that indicates that marine mammals in human care are far less stressed than their wild counterparts.

Dolphin Quest is an amazing facility. Their team does great work to support animal welfare, to encourage marine conservation, to conduct solid marine mammal research, and to educate the public about marine mammals and conservation.

Hawaii has a very diverse and yet sensitive ecology. While ecotourism and seeing these animals in the wild is an amazing opportunity it is also important to consider that: a) not everyone can participate in these types of activities and b) most importantly that the ecosystems may not be able to take the increased load of tourists that would eventually no longer be able to see dolphins in a facility such as Dolphin Quest. The situation with the local spinner dolphins is a perfect example of that.

Local Hawaiians and school children are able to participate in programs and observe the dolphins in these facilities free of charge, which is a phenomenal educational experience, especially for children and families who may not have the physical nor financial means to participate in other programs. Dolphin Quest also has a very gifted outreach team that goes out into the community to teach about marine mammals and

their conservation. In addition to that they are leaders in the marine mammal field. Some of these very same educators present at conferences to share their techniques and best practices with others so that together the whole community can work together to improve marine conservation.

Dolphin Quest is also very active in marine mammal research. Their staff and facility have quite the impressive list of publications that are comprised of solid scientific research and data. They have also invited local stranding groups in to learn about cetacean physiology and care. They were able to see what healthy cetaceans look like, witness and observe what normal cetacean breathing looks/sounds like and feel what a healthy dolphin heart rate is. They seem like small things but now when this group goes out to respond to whales and dolphins in need they are able to perform better diagnostics and provide better care to give those animals a better chance at survival.

By voting to support SB 3055 you are ultimately ending a number of great educational opportunities, stifling the work of professional marine mammal scientists in a time when we need it the most, and could ultimately prevent marine mammal specialists from making animal welfare decisions that are in the best interests of the animals in their care.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:33:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Taylor Dupuis	Gulf World	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Taylor Dupuis and I have dedicated the last 7 years to the health and well being of marine life. Currently, I am working for one of the leaders in marine mammal conservation as a marine mammal specialist. My first introduction to the aquatic world was in 2012 as an aquarist intern at Sea Life Park in Hawaii. I can state with full confidence and first hand experience that Sea Life park not only provides their animals with the best care but also educates thousands of people that visit the facility each week on the importance of preserving marine life and their environment. Accredited facilities such as Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community. To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately lead to the end of marine parks in Hawaii, thus enabling future generations the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about cetaceans up close and personal. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Taylor Dupuis

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:36:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amanda Delsohn		Support	No

Comments:

It is cruel to keep these beautiful wild creatures in captivity just for the entertainment of tourists. Keeping these animals in captivity does not educate us about them, nor bring any value to the establishments that participate. The animals are meant to live in their natural habitat and not be forced to perform while they suffer. Please stop confining animals for entertainment and let them live the lives they were meant to live!

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:41:29 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelsey Richardson		Oppose	No

Comments:

I've personally gone to these facilities and I adored the love and care that has gone into taking care of them. These facilities need to stay alive for the sole purpose of bettering our oceans and our relationship with marine mammals.

I've personally gone to these facilities and I adored the love and care that has gone into taking care of them. These facilities need to stay alive for the sole purpose of bettering our oceans and our relationship with marine mammals.

I've personally gone to these facilities and I adored the love and care that has gone into taking care of them. These facilities need to stay alive for the sole purpose of bettering our oceans and our relationship with marine mammals.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:46:16 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David E Shormann		Oppose	No

Comments:

In Hawaii, we are blessed to see dolphins and whales right outside, all the time. Some people even experience them up close on whale and dolphin swim tours. But not everyone is capable of doing this. Plus, if you really want as many people as possible to care about cetaceans, clean water and air, etc., they need opportunities to get up close and personal with marine life. People can be educated through entertainment. That is how the dolphin encounter parks I've been to in Hawaii currently operate. I oppose SB3055 because I believe the end result of this bill will be to decrease awareness, concern for, and stewardship of our amazing oceans and the creatures that live in them. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

David Shormann, PhD

M.S. Marine Chemistry, Univ. of Texas

PhD Wildlife and Fisheries, Texas A&M

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:46:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Rose		Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is being supported by emotion & mis-guided opinion & is not based on ANY scientific data.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:49:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Mihelcic		Oppose	No

Comments:

After reading the (SB3055) purposed I am reaching out to ask that you oppose this bill as much of the language is not fact based nor supported by scientific data.

There are many benefits to having animals in human care; two of which are Education and the ability to provide opportunities for researchers to work with these controlled population in an effort to protect the population in the wild. Facilities housing these animals have many regulations that they must follow, including protocols on transport. I personally have been involved in several transports of dolphins in the past 18 years and can attest that the care given to these animals is top notch. These regulatory bodies also oversee transports such as moving animals for Olympic games etc. ensuring the medical integrity of each animal.

It is my opinion that this Bill is targeted to negatively impact the livelihood of cetaceans in human care and ultimately phase out Marine Parks thus preventing future generations for learning, respecting and caring for these animals and our environment. I therefore ask that you do not support this bill.

Thank you for taking the time to read this submission.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:54:00 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
M Matthews		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:54:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
chris white		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:54:06 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cristian Milanes		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:54:13 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mika Toor		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:54:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Reina Fukuoka		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:54:34 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Breeze Cruz		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:54:59 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aubrey Skedelecki		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:55:02 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mari Shimabukuro		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:55:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sachi Yamasaki		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:55:31 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
A'Marie Paraso		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:55:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Samantha Jacobs		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:55:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Evelyn Park		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:55:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Malia Butay		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:56:31 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jada Mishima		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:56:34 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erin Nishimura		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:17:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kyle Kittleson		Oppose	No

Comments:

The marine mammal specialists at accredited marine parks are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals' behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone.

As a former animal trainer at Sea Life Park, I can attest, firsthand, at the quality of care and quality of lifestyle these animals enjoy.

Why would I work for \$8/hr and miss Christmas with my family, if I thought these animals were not in the best of care?

We must do what is right for the animals - not what makes PEOPLE feel good.

I urge you, PLEASE do not ruin the lives of these animals and future animals!

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:18:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
clifford carvalho-clarke		Oppose	No

Comments:

The memories I have at sea life park is that it is fun amazing seeing all these kind different sea animals and how they live breathe eat knowing what about them is awesome. My keiki learn how important it is to have these hawaiian sea animals to our home and how special the are to all of us and so much joy and smile that these animals bring. My particular part that I enjoy was seeing how the workers and the animal get along so well . I love this park because just seeing different people for different part of the world coming and showing our local animals care and love and for me just seeing the animals having fun everytime they perform seeing my favorite animals since it's hard to see them in the ocean you can see them here at the park .

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:19:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Adam Kane		Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

The drafted language that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data. The importance of access to dolphins in Hawaii’s accredited marine parks for local Hawaiians and school age children. It’s not just for tourists. Locals can go and watch the dolphins, in some cases for free. The impact that personal experiences have on people can ensure that humans care for these animals for many generations to come. Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators. Educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine park is safer for the dolphins and people. This is a much better alternative than dozens of boats harassing free ranging spinner dolphins when they’re attempting to rest. The marine mammal specialists at accredited marine parks are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals’ behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone. There are NO marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii (this is the exception in the Bill). Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community. Accredited marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the animals. Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. There is no reason to duplicate or ignore the already existing regulatory process! If one bans the transport or breeding of dolphins, based on zero scientific data suggesting one should, what is next? Horses? Dogs? Cattle? This is an emotional plea by misinformed animal extremists. To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks, thus robbing future generations the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about dolphins in this unrivaled setting.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:25:42 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Walley		Oppose	No

Comments:

Dolphin Quest, Sea Life Park and their respective marine mammal specialists do an excellent job at ensuring the conservation of not only cetaceans, but all marine life. I have been personally impacted by visiting Dolphin Quest, in which I met a dolphin, and thus felt absolutely compelled to do everything in my power to care for and conserve our oceans and the planet we all share. The marine mammal specialists are experts in their field and as a result, know what is best for their animals. There have been many research articles presented stating the negative impacts inbreeding has on offspring, thus, the transfer of animals between facilities should be permitted to ensure birth defects as a result of inbreeding, do not occur.

Introducing people, particularly children, to marine life at a personal level in interaction programmes fosters a connection like none other, a connection that cannot be achieved simply through watching these animals on a TV screen or reading about them in a book. Dolphin Quest and the care and presentation of their animals is completely humane, the welfare of the animals is the highest priority.

I highly oppose SB3055 and all it stands for.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:28:50 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pieter Giljam		Oppose	No

Comments:

- Please **do not** support SB 3055.
- The drafted language that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data.
- The importance of access to dolphins in Hawaii’s accredited marine parks for local Hawaiians and school age children. It’s not just for tourists. Locals can go and watch the dolphins, in some cases for free. We give a life long experience for families and children. Through education people care for our planet and the nature. Aquariums are a strong asset due to their reach and experiences given to visitors. I give those experiences every day, people learn and want to protect whats out there.
- Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators.
- Educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine parks is safer for the dolphins and people. This is a much better alternative than dozens of boats harassing free ranging spinner dolphins when they’re attempting to rest.
- The marine mammal specialists at accredited marine parks are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals’ behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone. Because we know every individual with each a special personality we can conduct research with a deeper focus how such animals work. The animals get world class care and through working together their welfare is top class. We understand those animals better than anybody else.
- There are NO marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii (this is the exception in the Bill). Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and

education within the community.

- Accredited marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the animals.
- Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. There is no reason to duplicate or ignore the already existing regulatory process!
- If one bans the transport or breeding of dolphins, based on zero scientific data suggesting one should, what is next? Horses? Dogs? Cattle? This is an emotional plea by misinformed animal extremists.
- To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks, thus robbing future generations the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about dolphins in this unrivaled setting.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:33:59 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jose Can Cen	GULF WORLD	Oppose	No

Comments:

The most important is the healthy of the animals, so before to take any desicion, it must to have an appropriate plan for all of them. We must learn from the last human mistakes and as well to get better in all the aspects to provide them the best quality of life.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:34:45 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rafaella Lobo	Duke University Marine Lab	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose to the language used in section b, that exclude from the prohibition "facilities that use cetaceans **solely** for scientific and educational purposes". Keeping and providing great care to cetaceans in captivity is very costly, facilities that do *only* research and education cannot afford to keep these animals. Allowing the public to interact with these animals in a more relaxed, or "touristy" way, not only provide funding for important research to be conducted, but touches the lives of other people who would normally not bother to go to an "educational" facility, but suddenly find themselves learning about these amazing creatures, and caring about them.

Facilities that do not buy/take animals caught in the wild, as is the case with every US facility (due to the MMPA), do not harm wild populations in any shape or form, but quite the opposite, their animals serve as ambassadors of their counterparts in the wild, providing us with a much deeper understanding of their physiology, cognition, and allow us to develop better methods and techniques to study and help wild populations. All while inspiring generations of kids and adults who would otherwise never have the opportunity to look a dolphin in the eye in such an up-close way, interact and learn about them.

Moving animals to and from different facilities is paramount to keep a healthy genetic pool, and to allow animals to be properly rehabilitated and cared for. Forbidding facilities that have a mix of entertainment and research goals from moving their animals around on breeding loans and the like, will hinder their ability to give these animals the top notch care that they currently receive, and the ability to fund all the research that is currently conducted.

The passing of this bill would be a terrible development on the ever more challenging effort to conserve our marine environment and its habitants. The harassing of resting spinner dolphins or plastic pollution are examples of much more pressing issues that we should be debating instead.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:36:23 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Sadoyama	Koolau Baptist Church	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB3055! I understand the intent of the bill however, I believe it will create more adversity to those who want to maintain facilities for education and protection of sea creatures. We have in place laws to protect species, let the Dept of Ag do their job. More laws will only hinder the advancement of marine science. Thank you for your time.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:40:23 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
QUINTIN J REICH	Entrepreneur	Oppose	No

Comments:

To the State Legislature of Hawaii

RE: SB3055 – Relating to Cetaceans

As a former resident and now regular visitor to your beautiful state, I have had the amazing opportunity to hold a live dolphin in my hands, to swim with live dolphins in a safe and controlled environment, and to build a lifelong connection to these amazing and wonderful creatures. Further, we have passed that love for these animals onto our children, as each of them have been privileged to swim with them as well. Our oldest son was so taken by the experience when he was a mere toddler, that still to this day as a 15 year old, he continues to aspire to becoming a Veterinarian. Our daughter, for her part, is also inspired to commit her adult life to the safety and preservation of these animals. All this because they had the access and ability to make direct contact with live animals from “another world”.

Please do not pass State Bill 3055. The ability for children and lay people to experience these animals up close, is primarily what leads them to become involved in saving our oceans and all the animals in them. These animals are ambassadors for their species. They educate and inspire and build connections between our worlds. Without the ability to make those connections with future generations, the idea of helping their species survive the onslaught of man’s impact on the ocean would remain an abstract concept. Rather than limit and restrict the front line of education in this struggle, perhaps it would be better to create restrictions and limitations on long-line fishing practices, pollution of our oceans, and other manmade disasters that kill thousands of these animals annually.

Please oppose SB3055

Thank you,

Quintin Reich

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:40:48 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Sweeney	sciencewonder.org	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am calling in regard to SB 3055. I urge you to oppose SB 3055

If only looking at medical and reproductive issues that dolphins, and other marine mammals face in our rapidly deteriorating ocean environments, supporting Dolphin Quest would be your top priority.

Dr. Jay Sweeney's work at Dolphin Quest leads the worlds efforts to scientifically understand medical problems that influence successful reproduction of these wonder animals. Being able to transport animals generally, let alone between Dolphin Quest facilities is an essential tool in any medical investigation of reproductive issues confronting these beautiful creatures

On behalf of scientific and medical research related to reproduction of these marine mammals I am asking you to oppose Senate Bill 3055.

Randy Sweeney

Brother of Jay and intimately aware of his scientific and medical work for over 50 years!

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:40:55 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeremiah Storie		Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Hawaii state legislature:

I am writing to you to show my opposition to SB 3055, which limits the transportation and care of cetaceans. As a long term resident of Hawaii Island and a graduate from the University of Hawaii at Hilo with a bachelor's degree in marine science, I understand the critical need to establish marine conservation education for people of all ages. Facilities like Dolphin Quest and Marine Life Park have been pushing the narrative of marine conservation through their interactive programs with dolphins and whales, which has ultimately inspired their patrons to be environmental stewards.

SB 3055 is a bill written with anecdotal evidence, and doesn't include any scientific reasoning to limit the transportation of cetaceans living under human care. Bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) are highly social animals, and their social hierarchies are fluid, meaning that they are always changing and never set in stone. This legislation that is currently proposed does not take this aspect into consideration, and implies that dolphins living under human care are living in hostile anthropogenic social structures.

Please voting against SB3055

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:41:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dennis Fukushima Jr		Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I do not support bill SB055. The bill seems to want to put an end to research facilities that provide excellent health care for cetaceans, as well as provide education opportunities for various schools across the state. Research facilities that allow people, both tourist and local alike, to make a connection with cetaceans in a safe environment is important for wild populations of whales and dolphins in the state.

Recently, there has been a push to ban swimming with wild spinner dolphins in Hawaii. It is well known and documented that spinner dolphins are resting during the day. While many people want to take advantage of the fact that spinners are close to shore and easily accessible for wild dolphin swims, there is evidence that these encounters have a detrimental effect on populations. Other cetaceans, such as pilot whales, false killer whales, and humpbacks are also harassed by the public, with very little enforcement and policies to protect them. False killer whales in particular are endangered in Hawaii, with a declining population due to longline fisheries.

This ban is hypocritical as it focuses on preconceived ideas on research facilities with little to no factual evidence to support it. Our efforts in conservation should be focused on wild populations that need protection on the state and federal level, rather than on animals that receive top quality care by marine mammal specialists and veterinarians.

Mahalo,

Dennis

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:42:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Claire Wellejus		Oppose	No

Comments:

There is a great importance for accessing these marine animals and being able to learn about them and see them in real life in an accredited marine life park. Not only is it important for marine scientists, conservation experts, and researchers to have a place where they can study marine animals up close, it is also important for the general public to have access to these marine parks. Without education and exposure to these marine creatures, the general public will not have a reason to practice conservation techniques to keep the marine animals in the healthy and keep the sea waters clean.

Animals who live in these parks are cared for by professionals who have a passion for making sure these animals live a safe and happy life. These professionals know how to keep the animals safe while they interact with the general public so there is no danger for either the people or the marine animals.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:45:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Bellows	SeaWorld	Oppose	No

Comments:

I urge you **not to** support SB 3055 for the following reasons.

- The drafted language that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data.
- The importance of access to dolphins in Hawaii’s accredited marine parks for local Hawaiians and school age children. It’s not just for tourists. Locals can go and watch the dolphins, in some cases for free. Add your personal experience and observations of guests experiencing marine life at your zoo or aquarium.
- Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators.
- Educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine parks is safer for the dolphins and people. This is a much better alternative than dozens of boats harassing free ranging spinner dolphins when they’re attempting to rest.
- The marine mammal specialists at accredited marine parks are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals’ behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone. This is a perfect place for you to describe your personal experience of dedication to cetaceans in managed zoological settings.
- There are NO marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii (this is the exception in the Bill). Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community.
- Accredited marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the animals.
- Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. There is no reason to duplicate or ignore the already existing regulatory process!
- If one bans the transport or breeding of dolphins, based on zero scientific data suggesting one should, what is next? Horses? Dogs? Cattle? This is an emotional plea by misinformed animal extremists. To discontinue cetacean

transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks, thus robbing future generations the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about dolphins in this unrivaled setting. Please vote no to SB 3055

Respectfully Chris Bellows

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:33:02 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Vierling		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, please do not support SB 3055.

Based upon my firsthand experience as a volunteer docent at this park I know the importance of access to Sea Life Park (SLP) Hawaii for local Hawaiians and school age children. It's not just for tourists. Locals can go and learn about dolphins.

I have witnessed many times the look of wonder and enjoyment on the faces of Hawaii students while watching these great animals and listening to a lecture about their species.

SLP provides a wonderful environment for the dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution and Marine debris.

Educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine life park like SLP is safer for the dolphins and people. This is much better than dozens of boats harassing our wild spinner dolphins when they're trying to rest.

The Marine Mammal Specialists at SLP are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals' behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone.

I also was a volunteer scuba diver at SLP and cleaned the tanks where the dolphins performed and we housed. I have seen first-hand that these animals are absolutely adored and well cared for by their animal caregivers.

There are no marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii or anywhere in the US. SLP provides critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education to our community. SLP brings top scientists to Hawaii who then give free talks to the public and share their knowledge with locals.

Accredited marine mammal facilities like SLP need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding and to best manage and care for the animals.

Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Let the expert agencies do their job!

If a precedent is established by banning the transport of dolphins other animals can then be included such as horses, dogs, cattle.

To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks and rob future generations of the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about these animals up close.

Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony, Paul Vierling.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:12:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Cady		Support	Yes

Comments:

I will never again buy a ticket to a dolphin show or one to swim with captive dolphins. Why? Education is KEY. While I myself have learned fun and interesting facts about dolphins and quickly came to love them while visiting marine parks and marine facilities throughout my lifetime (I even witnessed the birth of a dolphin at a Miami marine park as a little girl), what I was NEVER taught was HOW the resident dolphins were caught and brought there in the first place. The fact is, the transporting of cetaceans (dolphins) to and between marine parks directly and indirectly supports the yearly gruesome and barbaric dolphin slaughter in Japan (going on RIGHT NOW), among other disturbing methods of capture. Video images are widely available, the brutality witnessed, beyond comprehension.

Hawaii is surrounded by the ocean. We, out of all the 50 states, should be leading the way in taking THE best actions toward it and its inhabitants, toward ALL the marginalized and most vulnerable among us. But where there is demand, there will always be supply.

I'm trying to teach my children that doing what is right, isn't always what is easy. May your faith and inherent goodness guide you, as it does me. Please, it's time for Hawaii's ocean-circus to end.

Mahalo Nui for your time and kind attention.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:38:04 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christian Rau	Moanalua High School	Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:05:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mackenna Cady		Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Mackenna Cady. I am 17 years old and I live in Ewa Beach. I am here to testify my support for Bill SB3055 that involves transporting dolphins to Hawaii for captivity and entertainment.

As a kid, my dream job was to become a dolphin trainer. I had a deep love for dolphins and what would be better than spending time with and training them every day, right? I used to go to marine parks any opportunity I had. I loved seeing the dolphins there and I loved learning about them. However, there were many things I never learned inside a marine park.

Although marine parks dedicate a portion of their time to educate its customers, the education they share is selective. I was never told how the dolphins ended up under their care and I was never taught the psychological effects captivity has on cetaceans. Because why would they tell us? They don't want the public to know. I started learning more about captivity and the cruelty that lies behind it. I learned about the dolphin hunt in Japan and how marine parks are associated with it. Briefly put, during the hunt, the cetaceans are aggressively captured—a majority of them slaughtered and the “pretty” ones sold to marine parks to live the rest of their lives forced to entertain the public, never going back home. It's a stressful, traumatic, and cruel process for these dolphins.

I can no longer support marine parks because of this. YES, education is extremely important. But what's the cost? They teach about conservation and protecting dolphins when they are also supporting the suffering of the same animals they want to protect. With the newest technologies, people can learn all they could ever want to know about dolphins! And no animals had to suffer for it. Ultimately, it's about awareness and compassion. What's really the most compassionate choice? We've seen animal circuses shut down due to backlash involving animal cruelty. This is a similar concept. As animal rights issues have come more and more prevalent in society, please understand that compassion isn't extreme. This is an issue that the public cares about deeply.

I used to go watch dolphins in captivity because I wanted to know about dolphins. Now, I refuse to go to see dolphins in captivity....because I now KNOW about dolphins.

Thank you for your time.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:15:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sheena wheeler		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:17:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Ochiai		Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill to prohibit the captivity and confinement of cetaceans in HI.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:19:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
MarÃaGracia GonzÃlez		Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because there is enough evidence that say cetaceans do not do well in captivity. It's time we set aside animal cruelty for entertainment disguised as "marine education". There is nothing educational about seeing cetaceans unnaturally being fed dead fish and forced to perform tricks to awe people and get their money from show tickets. Sea Life Park in Hawaii has an account of **139 cetacean deaths**. And that is only one example of many. If this doesn't tell you enough, then think about the damage we're doing to our society teaching people that keeping cetaceans isolated and reducing significantly their life span is OK just for profits for a few entertainment businesses.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:07:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Madewell		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:29:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Torgrimson		Support	No

Comments:

Good Afternoon,

I want lend my voice for all Crestacians in Hawaii that are held captive at Sea Life Park. I wholeheartedly support any measure that would eliminate the cruel practice of separating animals from their pods, small bathtub sized living pools and animal husbandry.

I personally feel that the majority of people would agree that visiting a theme park ito watch animals preform in a "circus" has lost it's appeal.

Thank you for hearing me out,

Michelle Torgrimson

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:42:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cheyenne		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha! My name is Cheyenne Kanani, I am writing to you in support of SB3055. I believe that the breeding and transfers of captured cetaceans in Hawaii should be stopped. With countless eco tours that responsibly allow humans to view wild cetaceans up close, in their natural habitat it seems inhumane to harm these intelligent beings by holding them prisoner for our own entertainment. By passing this bill we have the opportunity to phase out the barbaric trend of cetaceans in captivity here in the Hawaiian Islands. Mahalo for your time.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 3:20:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jean Chagnon	dolphins rights	Support	No

Comments:

Dolphin specie protection is absolutly fundamental.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 3:18:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
C. Azelski		Support	No

Comments:

Please support this measure and optimally reword it to exclude all exemptions. As is, facilities will simply redefine themselves.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 3:23:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Water Inspired	Water Inspired	Support	No

Comments:

I firmly support SB 3055. Cetacean captivity in Hawaii for entertainment purposes is an outdated, unethical, and cruel practice. While some may argue that there are valuable insights and research opportunities for captive cetaceans, keeping these incredibly intelligent animals in captivity for entertainment purposes is completely unnecessary especially in Hawaii where it is possible to see these animals in the wild. Prohibiting the transfer of cetaceans for facilities that use cetaceans for entertainment purposes would allow these facilities to stay in business while giving them an opportunity to phase out these exploitative practices. The mortality rate for captive cetaceans is higher when compared to wild populations, and captive cetaceans are kept in a closed recirculating environment have a tendency to develop a variety of diseases ailments as a result of confinement and social instability (Waples et al. 2002). The stress caused by being subject to an unnatural environment often manifests itself in illness for a prolonged period of time (Orams 2004) resulting in a higher rate of mortality for cetaceans in captive environments (Marino & Frohoff 2011). Cetaceans in captivity are also known to develop stereotypical behavior as a result of boredom, a lack of stimulation, and inadequately sized enclosures (Cowperthwaite 2013) causing tooth damage and indirect infections (Rose 2011). After seeing these animals both in captivity and the wild, it is very clear cetacean captivity for entertainment purposes has no place here in Hawaii.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:01:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
D.Higa		Support	No

Comments:

I SUPPORT THIS BILL, like other other past trainers that I know who don't agree with how these animals are treated. I used to work at one of the captive dolphin places on the island so I know personally all these places care about getting as many people in as they can to make as much money as they can. People ride these animals like they are at a carnival. The animals get aggressive so they use a different animal until that animal gets aggressive then a different animal gets used. They don't care about the animals, just making money. It is an unnatural way for these animals to live and it is cruel.

Please do what is right for the animals, not big money.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:32:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Cady		Support	Yes

Comments:

Firstly, mahalo for your public service.

I am writing to express my support for the bill to restrict the transportation of marine mammals. As science continues to teach us about the inner lives of marine life, we are learning that there is so more going on than previously thought. The social and psychological lives of marine mammals, such as dolphins, are so much more complex than we knew. The responsibility that comes with this knowledge is to change our behavior based on what we are learning. The long-haul transportation of marine mammals for is tolerated by the public simply because most remain ignorant of physical and psychological trauma that in inflicts on the animals. Transporting these animals supports the capturing dolphins in the wild, killing unwanted dolphins, and making healthy, wild dolphins captives in a very unnatural, unhealthy state.

Please vote to pass the bill.

David Cady, M.S.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 3:30:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
One Ocean Conservation		Support	No

Comments:

I firmly support SB 3055. Cetacean captivity in Hawaii for entertainment purposes is an outdated, unethical, and cruel practice. While some may argue that there are valuable insights and research opportunities for captive cetaceans, keeping these incredibly intelligent animals in captivity for entertainment purposes is completely unnecessary especially in Hawaii where it is possible to see these animals in the wild. Prohibiting the transfer of cetaceans for facilities that use cetaceans for entertainment purposes would allow these facilities to stay in business while giving them an opportunity to phase out these exploitative practices. The mortality rate for captive cetaceans is higher when compared to wild populations, and captive cetaceans are kept in a closed recirculating environment have a tendency to develop a variety of diseases ailments as a result of confinement and social instability (Waples et al. 2002). The stress caused by being subject to an unnatural environment often manifests itself in illness for a prolonged period of time (Orams 2004) resulting in a higher rate of mortality for cetaceans in captive environments (Marino & Frohoff 2011). Cetaceans in captivity are also known to develop stereotypical behavior as a result of boredom, a lack of stimulation, and inadequately sized enclosures (Cowperthwaite 2013) causing tooth damage and indirect infections (Rose 2011). After seeing these animals both in captivity and the wild, it is very clear cetacean captivity for entertainment purposes has no place here in Hawaii.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 4:28:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
George Speros	My Dream for Animals	Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 3:56:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexis Thomas		Support	No

Comments:

I support SB3055 with proposed amendments from Inga Gibson of Pono Advocacy.

SECTION 2. Chapter 150A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§150A- Transfer and Breeding of Captive Cetaceans (1)Transfer of captive cetaceans; issuance of permit prohibited. (a) The department of agriculture shall not issue permits for the interstate, intrastate, and inter-facility transfer of captive cetaceans solely for breeding or entertainment purposes and (2) Breeding of cetaceans for any purpose other than direct enhancement of a species in the wild is prohibited.

(b) This section shall not apply to facilities that use cetaceans solely for scientific and educational purposes, or for the transfer of cetaceans to bona fide sanctuaries

SECTION 3. Section 150A-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new definitions to be appropriately inserted and to read as follows:

"Bona fide sanctuary" means a place of refuge where cetaceans

- (a) live in a setting as close as possible to their natural environment;
- (b) are prioritized individually with respect to well-being and autonomy;
- and
- (c) are not used for profit or bred.

"Breeding" means via natural mating or via artificial insemination

""Cetacean" means a marine mammal of the order cetacea Cetacea and includes but is not limited to a dolphin, porpoise, or whale." SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:20:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matt Jisa		Support	No

Comments:

Marine mammals imprisoned in cement tanks at places like Hawaii's Sea Life Park and Dolphin Quest are denied everything that is normal, natural, and important to them. Just the thought of them being denied their natural impulses to dive deep in the ocean and swim long distances is heartbreaking. This deprivation is uncivilized. We can do better by our Ocean creatures. Please support the proposal to prohibit the department of agriculture from issuing permits for the interstate, intrastate, and inter-facility transfer of captive cetaceans solely for breeding or entertainment purposes. Marine mammal captivity is not family entertainment.

Matt Jisa
jisaloha@hotmail.com



(808)391-9730

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:34:06 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jenna tanner		Support	No

Comments:

I support SB3055.

Cetaceans are highly intelligent mammals that deserve our protection. Transporting cetaceans to facilities to be used for our entertainment is immoral and unethical. Hawaii should be an example for the rest of the world of how to treat these intelligent mammals, we are surrounded by the ocean. We should be responsible stewards of the environment and the animals that live in it.

Aloha my name is Vanessa Zepeda and I have been an Oahu resident for eight years. I am alumni from the University of Hawaii at Manoa where I graduated with a degree in Marine Biology. I am absolutely for the proposed bill SB 3055 RELATING TO CETACEANS that prohibits the facilitation of cetacean capture on the island of Oahu. As a marine biologist I am completely aware that these creatures are extremely intelligent and should not be allowed to be kept in captivity. Hawaii should be against any arrangement with outside organizations that search to capture these animals. I totally understand the value of the education that is implemented through aquariums where people can learn about marine animals and ecosystems, but cetaceans are very social intelligent animals and such restraints could be detrimental to their overall health and happiness. It is best for us to learn by natural observation and not subjecting these animals to training and shows for the pleasure of human amusement. Again, I am strongly for the proposed bill SB3055. Thank you to the committee for taking the time to read my testimony.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:31:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Justice Smith		Support	No

Comments:

Dolphins show incredible intelligence and keeping a clever animal in a non simulating environment is cruel and should be stopped.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:30:50 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emma Song		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:29:48 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marvin Joseph Farinas		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:15:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
mehgan little	Wild Concept Conservation	Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:35:10 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cassidy hollenbeck		Support	No

Comments:

It's long overdue, the cetaceans deserve justice. EMPTY THE TANKS!

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:36:29 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Gau		Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of Bill SB 3055 to end captive breeding and the continued captivity of cetaceans in Hawaii. While captive dolphin entertainment has long been a mainstay of tourist activities, we are now in an era in which the public sentiment no longer supports such industries. At its outset, the marine park industry viewed marine mammals such as dolphins as simple animals, who were highly trainable and had natural appeal to the public with their apparent smiles and natural dexterity to perform tricks. We now know better. Research and observation have shown that these animals possess extraordinary intelligence, live in complex social systems that rival or exceed our own, and are incredibly aware of their surroundings and circumstances. The evidence has also shown that when placed into captive conditions, they exhibit signs of stress and frustration, and suffer from the physical circumstances of their confinement. Dolphins that are required to interact with humans often display physical abrasions or persistent open wounds from rough handling, show signs of sunburn or other negative effects from prolonged sun exposure, ingest foreign objects, and are frequently medicated on a regular basis due to conditions of captivity (such as ulcer medication). Footage and images from marine parks around the world-- including those located on Oahu and the Big Island-- show animals suffering from malnutrition, aggressive behavior, and stereotypic behaviors such as logging or chewing on gates and netting. These indicia are undeniable facts, and the public is no longer blind to them. Modern society is increasingly recognizing that holding dolphins captive fundamentally entails a level of cruelty, and to utilize them for entertainment and profit carries the label of exploitation. In good conscience, we cannot ignore our own internal morals and sense that captivity causes harm to the very animals we claim to cherish. The state of Hawaii is uniquely blessed with natural resources and surroundings that bring hordes of visitors every year. They come to enjoy the scenery, beaches, and pristine waters, as well as the indigenous flora and fauna. Our duty, therefore, should be to protect those natural elements that make the state unique. Just offshore, wild dolphins and other marine life can be observed in their natural state-- that is what makes Hawaii unique, not the captive dolphin encounters that can be had in hundreds of places elsewhere in the country or around the world. The facilities found on Oahu and the Big Island are not owned by Hawaiian residents, but rather outside corporations who are happily profiting from the exploitation of the state's residents, tourists, and reputation. In the long run, the state must look towards its own sense of morals and lead by example, not at the whim of outside corporate interests. I've spoken with many visitors who show disgust at seeing captive dolphins trapped in tanks, so close to the shore they can see the ocean.

This is not our future, and the State of Hawaii has the opportunity to lead in enacting legislation that comports with our modern sensibilities and ethics. Thank you for your consideration.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 4:52:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ocean Ramsey	Water Inspired Conservation Group	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony for SB 3055:

I firmly support SB 3055. Cetacean captivity in Hawaii for entertainment purposes is an outdated, unethical, and cruel practice. While some may argue that there are valuable insights and research opportunities for captive cetaceans, keeping these incredibly intelligent animals in captivity for entertainment purposes is completely unnecessary especially in Hawaii where it is possible to see these animals in the wild. Prohibiting the transfer of cetaceans for facilities that use cetaceans for entertainment purposes would allow these facilities to stay in business while giving them an opportunity to phase out these exploitative practices. The mortality rate for captive cetaceans is higher when compared to wild populations, and captive cetaceans are kept in a closed recirculating environment have a tendency to develop a variety of diseases ailments as a result of confinement and social instability (Waples et al. 2002). The stress caused by being subject to an unnatural environment often manifests itself in illness for a prolonged period of time (Orams 2004) resulting in a higher rate of mortality for cetaceans in captive environments (Marino & Frohoff 2011). Cetaceans in captivity are also known to develop stereotypical behavior as a result of boredom, a lack of stimulation, and inadequately sized enclosures (Cowperthwaite 2013) causing tooth damage and indirect infections (Rose 2011). After seeing these animals both in captivity and the wild, it is very clear cetacean captivity for entertainment purposes has no place here in Hawaii. -Ocean Ramsey

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 5:39:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carrie Trujillo	Maui Island Mermaids LLC	Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 6:09:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angelina M. Campos		Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill, these are not rescue animals that I once believed, they are captive and bred for entertainment and profit. They are under the guise of education and research but where are these findings and how has it positively effected these animals? What I have seen and heard from those who are in the whale and dolphin entertainment is that many of these animals show levels of aggression and loneliness. Perhaps it's time to take a closer look at the effects captivity has on these animals and put that at a higher priority than personal entertainment and profit

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 7:12:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hooman Larimi		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 5:52:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Mason		Support	No

Comments:

This Proposal needs to pass. Dolphins, Whales, and porpoises are important to the health and well being to our oceans. Thousands of people visit Hawaii every year to see these amazing creatures. Captive breeding had shown to be devastating to the health to the new born calves and the parents.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 7:23:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pia Vedova		Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support Bill SB3055. Legislators please support it too. Cetaceans must be free and not captive. Please also amend it to include all captive breeding too. Big "NO" to transfers and imports of captive cetaceans for breeding and entertainment. This MUST STOP

Aloha,

Please accept this as my formal support for Bill SB3055 with the amendments listed below:

- Place a ban on the breeding of captive cetaceans in order to phase out cetacean captivity for exhibition and entertainment purposes.*
- Place a ban on any construction of new captive cetacean facilities in Hawai'i, to phase out cetacean captivity for exhibition and entertainment purposes in Hawai'i.*

As a native Hawaiian and waterman, I find it hard to believe that locals and visitors would have any trouble seeing or learning about marine animals in the wild. The Kingdom of Hawai'i is surrounded by marine mammals, cetaceans, whales, sharks, corals, and fish, that are all accessible through beach visits and responsible eco-tourism.

I was also recently educated on the fact that Sea Life Park is built on a native Hawaiian Heiau and find this information extremely concerning and appalling. A place that has little disregard for Hawaiian culture, Hawaiian people and Hawaiian resources does not belong in Hawai'i.

Please mālama and use your better judgment to phase out cetacean captivity and consider turning this facility into something more useful to the Hawaiian people like a rehabilitation center or a marine mammal care facility. Please stop allowing this business to cater to tourists, and force them to cater to the real needs and wants of the Hawaiian people and our wildlife.

Mahalo nui loa,

Noa Kaiea Berry

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 7:24:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:09:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roberta Cardenas		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:16:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erin Bowling		Support	No

Comments:

This has been a long time coming. Thank you for trying to save other cetaceans the same show pony fate of ones currently in captivity at Sealife. They are improperly cared for at those facilities.

cetaceans belong in a ocean, not being forced to flip for a photo op.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:43:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
PAULA DYER		Support	No

Comments:

Please support SB3055 relating to cetaceans. Thank you.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:08:30 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenzie Deekens		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:08:58 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daizlynn Cabacungan		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:09:07 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
anime_girl		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:09:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
NovaLee Kramer		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:09:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bella Armstrong		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:10:45 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
emma jackson		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:10:10 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Miah		Support	No

Comments:

This bill should be passed.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:12:30 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sean Chung		Support	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:12:04 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
matt		Support	No

Comments:

My teacher made me do this.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:13:53 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erin McKinney	ZooNation.org	Oppose	No

Comments:

The proposed “Cetacean Breeding and Transportation Bill” will unnecessarily limit and prohibit the transfer of cetaceans in the state of Hawaii. The Bill is not based on science and is an attempt by animal extremists to remove dolphins from marine life parks and while robbing future generations of the opportunity to be inspired and educated by dolphins in Hawaii’s accredited zoological institutions.

There is no cause for such a bill, as existing legislation fully protects the zoological marine mammals of Hawaii. There is no history of animal abuse, neglect or mistreatment by any Hawaiian marine zoological institution. This unwarranted and hostile bill is an attack on tourism and business in the state of Hawaii under the auspice of a skewed animal rights agenda.

The drafted language that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data.

The importance of access to dolphins in Hawaii’s accredited marine parks for local Hawaiians and school age children. It’s not just for tourists. Locals can go and watch the dolphins, in some cases for free. Add your personal experience and observations of guests experiencing marine life at your zoo or aquarium.

Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators.

Do what is right for the animals of Hawaii. Do not allow a misguided agenda to sway the vote of the legislation. Take action for the next generation of marine mammals and humans in Hawaii and protect these critical institutions.

Most sincerely,

Erin McKinney

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:18:09 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrew Ferris		Oppose	No

Comments:

I implore you please **do not** support SB3055, this bill is uninformed and is based on false accusations about what facilities with Cetaceans do for the welfare of these animals under human care as well as in the wild and their positive impact on promoting the conservation of these and many other species worldwide.

Thank You,

Andrew Ferris

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:21:34 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anita Shearer		Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to oppose the passing of SB3055 bill which would restrict the transport of cetaceans in Hawaii. By extension this bill would prevent the breeding of cetaceans in human care, as transport is necessary to promote healthy populations in zoological facilities and prevent inbreeding. Cetaceans in human care in accredited zoological institutions in Hawaii receive excellent care and are ambassadors for their wild cousins by educating the public about the very real need for marine conservation. They are often the first link between children and marine mammals, fostering a love for nature that encourages responsibility for our environment. In addition to their role in education, marine mammal facilities have the knowledge and resources to promote conservation, both by rehabilitating and releasing stranded animals (and treating them with knowledge gained from years of working with animals in human care) and by funding conservation work. Finally, marine mammal facilities serve as centers for research that cannot be performed in the wild. This research directly translates to information that can help marine scientists protect wild populations from the increasing dangers they face in an industrialized ocean. Marine mammal facilities are heavily regulated and accredited institutions must achieve high standards. There is no need for further regulations that prevent their ability to function and contribute to science, education, and conservation. I ask you to oppose the SB3055 bill and allow marine mammal facilities to continue to provide the best care for their animals while helping wild populations with their research.

Sincerely,

Anita Shearer

I am writing to oppose the proposed bill SB 3055 that will limit and prohibit the transfer of cetaceans in the state of Hawaii. This Bill is not based on science and is an attempt to rob current and future generations of the opportunity to be inspired and touched by accredited marine life parks, like Dolphin Quest.

I myself have been to Dolphin Quest Hawaii and found it to provide a wonderful environment for the dolphins. While there, the caring staff taught me that we should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales being negatively impacted by humans out in the ocean. Currently these cetaceans are drowning in human byproducts, such as fishing nets, plastics, and marine debris. The educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine life park like Dolphin Quest is safer for the dolphins and people. I personally prefer it to dozens of boats harassing our wild spinner dolphins when they're trying to rest. There are no marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii. Dolphin Quest provides critical support for scientists, research, conservation, and education to our community. Dolphin Quest brings top scientists to Hawaii who then give free talks to the public and share their knowledge with locals.

The Marine Mammal Specialists at Dolphin Quest are experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals' behavior, physiology and mental needs better than anyone. They uphold high standards that put the animals' health and wellbeing as the top priority always. They create detailed and well thought out transport plans for every move. This includes privately hired airplanes, inspectors on site, veterinarians on board, and individually assigned marine mammal specialists attending to each animal flying. Facilities like Dolphin Quest need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding and to best manage and care for the animals. Being able to move animals allows for genetic diversity and population sustainability. These factors are essential to ensure we continue to educate our next generations of responsible ocean stewards for the conservation work to happen well into the future.

Oppose SB 3055 and take a stand against the extremists who distract us all by directing our attention and time away from what matters most, caring for the animals.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:23:07 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mairim Martnez		Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose the passing of this bill. Sea Life Park and Dolphin Quest both are committed to the animals in their care. They connect guests with the animals and inspire them to conserve and protect our world and the animals that live in it. Dolphin Quest has inspired me to conserve and work in a zoological park to care for animals. As an intern there I saw firsthand the amazing care that they provide their animals. I got to help with the ongoing research that they do that helps to protect dolphins and other marine mammals in the wild. During my time there I was fortunate to see a calf born and got to do observations on the calf. Those memories are something that I will never forget. Getting to watch this animal grow and thrive at Dolphin Quest is the reason I have committed my life to caring for animals. The love that the trainers have for the animals and around the clock care that is provided is truly inspiring. Watching dolphins under human care breed and socialize is a very important part of their lives and we cannot pass a bill that would not allow that. We cannot put any sort of ban on the work that these facilities do. They are the experts when it comes to the animals they care for and are insuring that the animals are absolutely in the best welfare state as possible. Please do not pass bill SB3055.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:28:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andres Lopez	Dolphin discovery	Oppose	No

Comments:

Once again we are allowing for people with only opinions and no scientific proof or even experience in a particular field trying to pass legislation on a matter that they know nothing about.

Legislation such as this only cause suffering and stress to the animals it is aimed at protecting because of the lack of fact.

We should take a step back and look at the benefits of animales reproducing under human care provides, especially in the condition in wich humanity finds it self, other wise i might aswell go over to my neighbors ranch and free all his horses for their own well being.

Makes no sense right!!

Sincerely

Andres Lopez

I am writing to oppose the proposed bill SB 3055 that will prohibit the transfer of cetaceans in the state of Hawaii. The bill is not based on science or research and is an attempt to remove cetaceans from marine life parks and take away the opportunity for future generations to learn about marine animals such as dolphins, in an educational and hands on environment. I am a marine mammal specialist working for Dolphin Quest on the Big Island and I am extremely proud to work for an organization that dedicates its self to education and research by providing critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education in our local community. We unconditionally love and care for our animals daily, and strive every day to share that love with the community and tourists alike. The marine mammal specialists at Dolphin Quest are the experts. We are the behavioral psychologists that deeply know our animals behavior and needs better than anyone else. Accredited marine mammal facilities like Dolphin Quest need to be able to transport animals in order to diversify our gene pool and to prevent inbreeding. The transportation of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA as well as the Department of Agriculture. Dolphin Quest works closely with the Hawaii state authorities to ensure we are meeting expectations for all required permitting. The discontinuation of cetaceans' transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks and rob future generations of the opportunity to see and learn about these intelligent animals up close.

Working at Dolphin Quest I know first-hand what incredible care and support these animals get on a daily bases. Working with these animals and sharing my knowledge with others has truly changed my life. I strongly oppose the proposed bill SB 3055 as it would only hinder our ability to continue to educate future keiki generations.

Aloha,

Rachel Greer-Smith
Apprentice Marine Mammal Specialist/Dolphin Quest

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:34:52 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristyn Plancarte		Oppose	No

Comments:

The introduction of this bill would be detrimental to the scientific community. Keeping animals in human care is vital for scientific research as well as conservation purposes. This bill is aimed at ending the practice of keeping cetaceans in a few facilities where they are extremely well cared for and can expect longer lifespans than in the ocean. This is not a science based movement and should instead be recognized for the extremist and emotional but unfounded argument that it is.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:36:04 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Georgia Williams		Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to oppose the passing of SB3055 bill which would restrict the transport of cetaceans in Hawaii. By extension this bill would prevent the breeding of cetaceans in human care, as transport is necessary to promote healthy populations in zoological facilities and prevent inbreeding. Cetaceans in human care in accredited zoological institutions in Hawaii receive excellent care and are ambassadors for their wild cousins by educating the public about the very real need for marine conservation. They are often the first link between children and marine mammals, fostering a love for nature that encourages responsibility for our environment. In addition to their role in education, marine mammal facilities have the knowledge and resources to promote conservation, both by rehabilitating and releasing stranded animals (and treating them with knowledge gained from years of working with animals in human care) and by funding conservation work. Finally, marine mammal facilities serve as centers for research that cannot be performed in the wild. This research directly translates to information that can help marine scientists protect wild populations from the increasing dangers they face in an industrialized ocean. Marine mammal facilities are heavily regulated and accredited institutions must achieve high standards. There is no need for further regulations that prevent their ability to function and contribute to science, education, and conservation. I ask you to oppose the SB3055 bill and allow marine mammal facilities to continue to provide the best care for their animals while helping wild populations with their research.

Sincerely,

Georgia Williams

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:36:20 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
evan		Oppose	No

Comments:

I support the fantastic education, research, and care facilities like DolphinQuest do everyday. This bill would make the work that they do and the quality of life that they offer their dolphins very difficult. They research that they are able to do while simultaneously educating and involving the public (both tourist and local) is a beautiful balance. They cannot do their research without having the business side. The care they offer for their animals is top notch. And part of that care is allowing them to be transported when necessary. This can be for social, physical, or mental health or research purposes or ensuring they have enough space. I have seen this in person. You can walk up to any of their facilities and see their work and their dedication any day at any time. THEY DO NOT HAVE A BACK ROOM OR POOL. Everything is in the public eye. They care deeply for their animals and offer them the top care. Passing this bill would hurt the dolphins and their quality of life. Please understand this and see for yourself. Ask them questions and check out their research. Understand that in this world research does not come for cheap or for free so they have been able to balance a business as well as care for their animals. They are committed to the welfare of the dolphins, both wild and those under human care.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:45:59 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jose Luis	Dolphin Discovery	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello

Good afternoon

I am not in agreement with the law about the prohibition of the reproduction of the cetaceans since the dolphins are highly sociable animals and it is always found in mixed groups, when trying to implement this kind of things it is propitiated to have specimens in an environment not optimal for they, transportation to other locations is important because as I mentioned before are sociable animals so the transfers serve to place them in a social group suitable for their ages whether adults, juveniles or geriatric animals, talk about stress in dolphins that are under human care is something where there are no scientific studies that prove that this is true so this type of comments are normally made by people who do not know about animal welfare, throughout my 9 years of career being a specialist in marine mammals I can say that institutions like Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park have the highest standards of quality for care of marine mammals and this type of laws that they want to implement will only be counterproductive to animals

regards

Jose Luis Dorantes Martinez

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:41:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly		Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha esteemed legislators,

My name is Caitlin Carrington, and I urge you to oppose SB 3055 on the grounds that it is filled with falsities regarding the lives of cetaceans in human care and founded on emotional assumptions rather than peer-reviewed science.

If you go to Dolphin Quest, you will see animals that are thriving and caretakers who love them with their whole hearts. The dolphins live in an enriching lagoon that fits their species-specific needs, eat restaurant-quality and sustainably-sourced fish, and engage in natural behaviors with their social mates.

The dolphins at Dolphin Quest do not have a dysfunctional social structure that causes unnatural aggression and stress, as SB 3055 suggests. It is publicly available knowledge that the social structure at Dolphin Quest mimics the social structure observed from their wild counterparts. To add emphasis to that point, I have spent time watching this specific type of dolphin in the wild, and everything from the behaviors exhibited by the animals to social groupings is replicated perfectly by Dolphin Quest.

One of these social groups is a close-knit, male only group. Males form some of the strongest bonds seen in this species. If there is a ban on transporting cetaceans, you are prohibiting males from engaging in the natural behavior of leaving the nursery group to live with their natural bachelor group. This is an enriching life experience that cannot be ignored. In addition, should a transportation ban be enacted, you are working toward a future where female dolphins are no longer given the opportunity to be a mother; thus, robbing the dolphins of another critically important life experience, and robbing our future generations of being able to appreciate these animals up close.

SB 3055 overlooks the education that Dolphin Quest provides to our local community and visitors from across the globe. By coming close to these animals in a way that is safe, fun, and awe-inspiring, people want to become better stewards of the planet, and develop a passion for an animal that they might not otherwise have the opportunity to see in the wild. Dolphin Quest also hosts scientists from around the world who come to learn from the dolphins. These scientists then give free educational talks to the public on their findings.

I leave you with these two points:

Decisions regarding cetacean transportations should be left to their caretakers – the ones who know the animals and their needs better than anyone else does.

We should focus our energy on protecting wild cetaceans, who have to face pollution, the effects of overfishing, and irresponsible boat tour operators on a daily basis.

Again, I urge you to not support SB 3055.

Thank you for your time.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:52:11 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessie Anstead		Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support SB 3055.

Marine mammals under human care serve as ambassadors for their species. Thousands of guests are able to get up close and personal with the animals to allow a connection. Those same guests are then inspired to care more for the environment and are more likely to attend beach clean-ups, use less plastic, and be more environmentally conscious.

Prohibiting the transfer of marine mammals hinders the animals health and well-being, as animals who are related could potentially breed and decrease the genetic diversity.

The animals are very well cared for by the experts that dedicate their lives toward caring for them.

I do not support SB 3055

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:52:22 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Austin Allen		Oppose	No

Comments:

As a PhD student in Marine Science and Conservation at Duke University, I conduct research at Dolphin Quest Oahu. The physiological data that these trained dolphins allow us to measure (i.e. calories burned at different swimming speeds) allow us to develop tools in this controlled setting that we can apply to the wild. These tools will allow us to better quantify human impacts (e.g. boat disturbance, fishing gear entanglements, acoustic disturbances from seismic testing or vessel traffic) on wild marine mammal populations. This data is necessary to inform effective policy decisions surrounding whether certain marine mammal populations need additional protections.

Much of the current marine mammal knowledge is based on physiological and cognitive research conducted at zoological facilities. You may have heard the argument that “if so much has been learned at these places already, why do we need animals in human care anymore?” I can attest that new frontiers (both applied and academic) are being discovered every year in marine mammal science at zoological facilities. At the biennial conference for the Society for Marine Mammalogy in 2015, the premiere international conference for the field, the opening plenary talk focused on the threat of losing zoos and aquariums poses to the success of marine mammal science. The takeaway to the 2,000 plus researchers and advocates in the room: research conducted with marine mammals in managed facilities is essential to our conservation efforts and a basic understanding of wild marine mammals. Without facilities like Dolphin Quest, the future of science-based policy making to sustain marine resources is in jeopardy.

During my time working with Dolphin Quest, I’ve seen first hand the quality of animal care they provides during transports, with detailed plans, teams of veterinarians, and tight coordination with local NOAA and state authorities. Marine mammal transports have come a long way from their start many decades ago, and globally cetaceans and pinnipeds are moved frequently and successfully for genetic management, stranding response, conservation relocation, and other reasons. Take for example the highly successful transports of Hawaiian monk seals by NOAA. Restricting or preventing the transport of dolphins would harm not only the animals at Dolphin Quest, but also the future of scientific research at Dolphin Quest, and the many field studies supported by Dolphin Quest.

During my time as a researcher, I’ve also witnessed stranding response networks conduct training workshops at Dolphin Quest. For three years they’ve allowed stranding

response officials and volunteers to learn what to do in case of a stranding: how to restrain dolphins safely, take heart rates, call out respiration rates, keep animals shaded and cool, use stretchers, etc. This is just one example of the many educational benefits Dolphin Quest provides, to locals and visitors in the State of Hawaii.

I urge you to oppose SB 3055 for the reasons listed above. The harm the bill would cause to the animals at Dolphin Quest, stranding response capabilities, conservation research, science-based policies, and the education of children and adults alike, are real and cannot be undone.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:52:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
stacey		Oppose	No

Comments:

I personally have worked in facilities in Hawaii with dolphins and disagree with the bill completely.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:52:55 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
michelle robertson		Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB3055, because wording verbiage in this bill has many hidden agendas. It states to stop the transfer of Cetaceans from the wild to captured facilities for the purpose of breeding and entertainment. Most transfers in the state of Hawaii are for the purpose of education and protection of this wildlife. The institutions on Oahu (i.e, Sea Life Park) are providing a valuable service by educating the public on how to conserve our resources and how to safely address our wildlife. The park teaches and educates on how to protect endangered Cetaceans and how to keep our coral, beaches, and oceans clean and safe for the longevity of our Cetaceans. The public is allowed to view and learn up close these precious animals instead of trying to abuse them in their natural environment. Please DO NOT PASS this bill. It will only lead to more destruction of our natural wildlife environment. There needs to be a way to do this without harming the educational aspect of this.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:53:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
brenda layou		Oppose	No

Comments:

We need to pass this law to stop the ill treatment of All cetaceans. Many people think of Hawaii as being a safe haven for these wonderful creatures please do the right thing

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:55:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel Hudon		Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not support SB 3055.

The drafted language that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data.

The importance of access to dolphins in Hawaii’s accredited marine parks for local Hawaiians and school age children. It’s not just for tourists. Locals can go and watch the dolphins, in some cases for free. Add your personal experience and observations of guests experiencing marine life at your zoo or aquarium.

Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators.

Educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine parks is safer for the dolphins and people. This is a much better alternative than dozens of boats harassing free ranging spinner dolphins when they’re attempting to rest.

The marine mammal specialists at accredited marine parks are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals’ behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone. This is a perfect place for you to describe your personal experience of dedication to cetaceans in managed zoological settings.

There are NO marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii (this is the exception in the Bill). Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community.

Accredited marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the animals.

Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii

Department of Agriculture. There is no reason to duplicate or ignore the already existing regulatory process!

If one bans the transport or breeding of dolphins, based on zero scientific data suggesting one should, what is next? Horses? Dogs? Cattle? This is an emotional plea by misinformed animal extremists.

To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks, thus robbing future generations the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about dolphins in this unrivaled setting.

If you've been to Dolphin Quest or Sea Life Park, and have seen first-hand that these animals are well cared for by their trainers and veterinarians, please communicate it.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:55:47 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ayana Longa		Oppose	No

Comments:

- Please **do not** support SB 3055.
- The drafted language that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data.
- The importance of access to dolphins in Hawaii’s accredited marine parks for local Hawaiians and school age children. It’s not just for tourists. Locals can go and watch the dolphins, in some cases for free. Add your personal experience and observations of guests experiencing marine life at your zoo or aquarium.
- Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators.
- Educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine parks is safer for the dolphins and people. This is a much better alternative than dozens of boats harassing free ranging spinner dolphins when they’re attempting to rest.
- The marine mammal specialists at accredited marine parks are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals’ behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone. This is a perfect place for you to describe your personal experience of dedication to cetaceans in managed zoological settings.
- There are NO marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii (this is the exception in the Bill). Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community.
- Accredited marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the

animals.

- Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. There is no reason to duplicate or ignore the already existing regulatory process!
- If one bans the transport or breeding of dolphins, based on zero scientific data suggesting one should, what is next? Horses? Dogs? Cattle? This is an emotional plea by misinformed animal extremists.
- To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks, thus robbing future generations the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about dolphins in this unrivaled setting.
- If you've been to Dolphin Quest or Sea Life Park, and you have seen first-hand that these animals are well cared for by their trainers and veterinarians.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:55:48 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
shelby griffin	gulf world marine park	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not support SB 3055.

The drafted language that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data.

The importance of access to dolphins in Hawaii’s accredited marine parks for local Hawaiians and school age children. It’s not just for tourists. Locals can go and watch the dolphins, in some cases for free. Add your personal experience and observations of guests experiencing marine life at your zoo or aquarium.

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Accredited marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the animals.

Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii

Department of Agriculture. There is no reason to duplicate or ignore the already existing regulatory process!

If one bans the transport or breeding of dolphins, based on zero scientific data suggesting one should, what is next? Horses? Dogs? Cattle? This is an emotional plea by misinformed animal extremists.

To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks, thus robbing future generations the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about dolphins in this unrivaled setting.

If you've been to Dolphin Quest or Sea Life Park, and have seen first-hand that these animals are well cared for by their trainers and veterinarians, please communicate it.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:56:00 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
caroline tyler		Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not support SB 3055.

The drafted language that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data.

The importance of access to dolphins in Hawaii’s accredited marine parks for local Hawaiians and school age children. It’s not just for tourists. Locals can go and watch the dolphins, in some cases for free. Add your personal experience and observations of guests experiencing marine life at your zoo or aquarium.

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SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:56:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenna Giarrusso		Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:56:27 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret		Oppose	No

Comments:

Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. **Let the expert agencies do their job!**

This is a wonderful learning experience for young and old alike!

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:56:47 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brittany Lockwood		Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not support SB 3055.

The drafted language that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data.

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SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:57:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Madeline Blissett	Gulf World Marine Park	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not support SB 3055.

The drafted language that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data.

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Madeline Blissett

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:58:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heather Down		Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not support SB 3055.

The drafted language that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data.

The importance of access to dolphins in Hawaii’s accredited marine parks for local Hawaiians and school age children. It’s not just for tourists. Locals can go and watch the dolphins, in some cases for free. Add your personal experience and observations of guests experiencing marine life at your zoo or aquarium.

Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators.

Educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine parks is safer for the dolphins and people. This is a much better alternative than dozens of boats harassing free ranging spinner dolphins when they’re attempting to rest.

The marine mammal specialists at accredited marine parks are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals’ behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone. This is a perfect place for you to describe your personal experience of dedication to cetaceans in managed zoological settings.

There are NO marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii (this is the exception in the Bill). Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community.

Accredited marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the animals.

Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii

Department of Agriculture. There is no reason to duplicate or ignore the already existing regulatory process!

If one bans the transport or breeding of dolphins, based on zero scientific data suggesting one should, what is next? Horses? Dogs? Cattle? This is an emotional plea by misinformed animal extremists.

To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks, thus robbing future generations the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about dolphins in this unrivaled setting.

If you've been to Dolphin Quest or Sea Life Park, and have seen first-hand that these animals are well cared for by their trainers and veterinarians, please communicate it.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:04:23 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shelby Dailey		Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing to ask for opposition to the proposed bill SB 3055 that will debilitate many facets of marine conservation and proposes a threat to the welfare of wild animals and to the health of our ocean. Through my experiences at Dolphin Quest in particular, I have seen, first-hand, the value that these Accredited Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums bring to the global effort of ocean stewardship.

This bill, which proposes to limit and prohibit the transfer of cetaceans, will create ripple-effect consequences within this community. Without the ability to transfer cetaceans, breeding will become unsustainable and these communities will dissipate. Immediately, critical scientific study and public education will be reduced and eventually eradicated. Without Accredited Marine Mammal Parks and aquariums' contribution to research, the study of wild populations will not receive the funding necessary to ensure the monitoring of their populations and habitat.

This bill is not science-based and is founded on ideologies of animal extremists who do not understand or appreciate the importance of Accredited Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums. Within these facilities are marine mammals who are receiving the best healthcare under the supervision of veterinarians with the highest credentials. Their caretakers love and care for these marine mammals and know each animal's physical, mental, and emotional needs.

With the current legislation that permits the transportation of cetaceans, Accredited Marine Mammal Parks work in conjunction with Hawaii officials to ensure that the transportation is safe for the animals with high attention to animal health and comfortability. The only purpose of this bill is to eradicate communities that have animals in human care and is a direct reflection of animal extremists' views on animal husbandry.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:07:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Leopardi	Gulf World	Oppose	No

Comments:

I work with marine mammals since 4years and the role of conservation and education that marine parks give to the public is very important. If you pass the breeding ban all of this important information about education and conservation will be lost forever and lots of children and people cannot have the chance to learn more about the respect of all our marine life. Education=Respect

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:06:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeffrey Wolk	jeffrey wolk and co	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB3055 because it makes providers such as Dolphin Quest's ability to reach out in furtherance of their mission without providing benefits to the animals greater than the difficulties it imposes. It seems to me to be a poorly drafted, ineffective piece of legislation.

Many years ago my daughter and a friend attended a Dolphin Quest event. That adventure kindled a life long interest and excitement in all things Dolphin and Ocean Ecology. SB3055 would take that priceless adventure away from todays and tomorrows youngsters.

Thank you, Jeffrey Wolk

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:07:52 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristina Aldrich-Ames	Dolphin Research Center	Oppose	No

Comments:

- Please **do not** support SB 3055.
- The drafted language that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data.
- The importance of access to dolphins in Hawaii’s accredited marine parks for local Hawaiians and school age children. It’s not just for tourists. Locals can go and watch the dolphins, in some cases for free. Add your personal experience and observations of guests experiencing marine life at your zoo or aquarium.
- Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators.
- Educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine parks is safer for the dolphins and people. This is a much better alternative than dozens of boats harassing free ranging spinner dolphins when they’re attempting to rest.
- The marine mammal specialists at accredited marine parks are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals’ behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone. This is a perfect place for you to describe your personal experience of dedication to cetaceans in managed zoological settings.
- There are NO marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii (this is the exception in the Bill). Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community.
- Accredited marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the

animals.

- Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. There is no reason to duplicate or ignore the already existing regulatory process!
- If one bans the transport or breeding of dolphins, based on zero scientific data suggesting one should, what is next? Horses? Dogs? Cattle? This is an emotional plea by misinformed animal extremists.
- To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks, thus robbing future generations the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about dolphins in this unrivaled setting.
- If you've been to Dolphin Quest or Sea Life Park, and have seen first-hand that these animals are well cared for by their trainers and veterinarians, please communicate it.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:08:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelsey Fisher	dolphin discovery	Oppose	No

Comments:

Not supported by any sort of scientific research.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:09:05 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tiffany chernoff	gulf world	Oppose	No

Comments:

January 31, 2018

Hawaii Senate

Good Day,

I applaud the Government of Hawaii for listening, being open minded and making informed decisions regarding not only the health & well- being of cetaceans, but also in all forms of conservation and environmental stewardship as seen in the pending bills taxing pesticides and prohibiting foam containers. However, **I implore you to learn more, take time to understand and do the research to obtain scientific studies to help support you in your decisions.**

As citizens of the world, it is important that open dialogue is maintained, so that those requesting the passing this bill have their passion recognized, but at the same time are provided the opportunity for a more informed and educated opinion. As you will see in my attached testimonial speech recently given as a guest lecturer to the Rotary International Club in Bermuda, progress, education, conservation, decision making and actions are our responsibility for future generations - but this must be done properly and with respect to all views - not just those requesting this bill. Some decisions are forever. I hope you have the time to read the attached which shares personal stories of those whose lives have been profoundly touched by their experience at Dolphin Quest.

Thank you again for caring enough to take the time to look at both sides, to remain open minded to learning and acquiring all of the facts ... and if in doubt, go visit and learn first-hand so as you can make an informed, clear conscience decision.

Kind regards

Sundee Faulkner

Ms. Sundee Faulkner
Educator, Ocean Advocate, Mother and "LiveAboard" sailor,
Bermuda

Presentation to the Sandys, Bermuda Chapter of the Rotary International Club Organization

January 17th 2018

Good evening,

My name is Sundee and this is my colleague Lottie.

Lottie is a marine mammal specialist and the Assistant Manager of animals at Dolphin Quest and has been with the company for 7 years.

I am the Sales and Outreach Manager at Dolphin Quest and am a relative newbie having joined in January 2016.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share with you this evening an insight into the mission of Dolphin Quest and our role in the community.

This post fulfills for me a life passion as an educator, conservationist and an advocate for the ocean with a story to tell. So, rather than just talk to you about who Dolphin Quest is and the work that we do – I wish to share with you a few true personal stories that aim to highlight how, as individuals, we **can** be inspired ... and, through our choices, we **can in fact make a difference**.... one person at a time.

In June 2005 I was doing my first ocean crossing on a sailing vessel, the Amistad, from Bermuda to New Haven, Connecticut. Day 4 and after an intense bout of sea sickness that had me sleeping in the scuppers, I was excited to feel alive and eating again. We saw whales in the distance, had dolphins bow riding and did a swim in the middle of the Sargasso Sea in 15,000 feet of water – where the ocean is the kind of deep sapphire blue that an artist dreams of capturing. The phosphorescent trail left in our wake on the 3am watch was the only light other than a canopy of stars. Untouched nature – so clean, so pure. My excitement and serenity turned to disbelief and discouragement when, half way across the Gulf Stream, the large turtle I spotted resting on the surface turned out to be a fully inflated helium balloon. Carried by winds and currents this blemish on perfection was a **profound Aha moment in my awareness that ocean pollution** extended far beyond Bermuda's shores.

I am sure you are all cognizant of the impact of social media over the past few years in taking this issue to the next level of **global** awareness. It has opened our eyes to a world beyond our backyard and at more rapid speeds than television, radio or any other past forms of communication. However, one of the challenges of social media as a platform for sharing is that the information overload we experience can in fact de-sensitize us to real issues and concerns. The relevancy of the recent images of the stranded whale being rescued in Nova Scotia; the video of the straw being pulled from a turtle's nostril or the footage of the sea of plastic off Roatan after the hurricanes can all quickly become lost in the next sensational clip with more shares, likes, tweets, etc. The opportunity to feel a connection, a concern or even to follow a call to action is too fleeting and perhaps not even made as the shareworthy message becomes trumped by other stories and images.

So ... the challenge is If you have a message that you wish to share ... a lesson to teach A passion to inspire ... how can one do that – and know that you **are** making a tangible difference.

“Likes” do not equal “lessons learned” Shares do not equal action taken.

As an educator, and the parent of a dyslexic son who was a kinaesthetic learner, I have always lived by the words of Benjamin Franklin “Tell me and I forget, teach me and I remember, **involve me and I learn**”.

Dolphin Quest was founded and is owned by two internationally recognized marine mammal veterinarians – Dr. Rae Stone and Dr. Jay Sweeney. Over thirty years ago, they became the first to create an alternative to traditional oceanariums and sought out pristine natural ocean habitats in which they could offer interactive opportunities that were engaging and memorable but carried an important understanding of conservation and the impact humans have on the ocean and its inhabitants. They had a desire to share their passion so that school children, families and individuals could connect with marine mammals on a more intimate level and learn through involvement.

When you hold someone’s hand, touch them on the shoulder or look them in the eyes as you engage in conversation – the connection is so much stronger. The same is true with animals.

It is really touching to watch so many of our guests experience that connection when they meet a dolphin close enough to look them in the eyes. One of my dear friends from South Africa had grown up her whole life seeing dolphins ... but as an image in the distance. I had her join me during a challenging period in her life to have an interactive experience with the dolphins – an opportunity to be close to that which she had always admired – a chance to touch their silky skin, learn about their skills and intelligence and to witness them as more than just an iconic image of a silhouette on a t-shirt. She needed to not just see but to understand. It had such a profound effect on her – the connection was instant ... and she wept the whole time.

What I love about Dolphin Quest is that we are all about inclusion and supporting and offering similar opportunities to those with special needs – physical, behavioural, social and emotional - as seen through the annual events and fundraising for Windreach or Big Brothers, Big Sisters and our work with important support organizations such as the Make a Wish Foundation or Harbour Light, to name just a few.

I had one of my many “this is why I do this” moments last summer when I met a young man at the entrance to the National Museum who was visiting with a group on a cruise ship. They had all left him and gone jet skiing. He was in a wheelchair with no arms but did have hands at his shoulders and told me he was on his own but he would love to get close enough to touch a dolphin. The physical logistics of this happening seemed almost impossible ... but with a dynamic team that really cares ... we eventually made it happen. And yes, he was able to get out of his chair and lay on the docks so that the dolphins were able to come up close enough for him to lean over and touch and connect. I think I was smiling more than he was!

More recently at the end of the ship season I had the pleasure of chatting with a family with three 8year olds. Two of them were twins and the older sister was just a few months ahead. I love to chat with children as they lack inhibition at that younger age and carry such a passion for Life. They want to save the world. I love to challenge their critical thinking and to making changes to their choices so they CAN help save the world. Last year’s conversations with many guests often focused on one single change each of us can make that will help - **Say no to single use plastics .. starting with STRAWS**, a great topic

for this family. The older sister chatted incessantly about all the positive actions they take at home – such as, in her words “ like not using plastic bags that can end up in the ocean and be eaten by turtles who think the bags are jellyfish”. What a little conservationist. Her brother was just as keen to keep up in the conversation. The family had come to check out Dolphin Quest because they had struggled to find activities that they could do all together that would include the other sister, the boy’s twin, who was wheelchair bound and with a brain tumour leaving her with almost no mobility of her body – not even able to hold up her head or speak. They wanted to fill the holiday with life long memories for the other two children as they believed this was to be their last family vacation together. Well, we had to make this memory happen – and indeed, our little ocean conservationist, her bubbly brother, extremely loved sister and very grounded, caring parents were able to meet, touch and feed the dolphins, and to learn first -hand, why they don’t use plastic bags at home any more and why they should say no to the straw in their drinks on the cruise ship ... and why experiences such as these are so much more than just a photo opportunity or an educational lesson of a different kind ... they are creating important memories.

How fortunate am I to be able to be part of making profound moments happen?

On a small island like Bermuda, we are all affected by the ocean and are dependent on it. It is our responsibility to work together as a community to help preserve it and its inhabitants. Locally, Dolphin Quest partners and supports like-minded conservation organizations such as the Bermuda Aquarium Museum and Zoo, BIOS, BUEI, Greenrock and KBB in our collective efforts to make a difference. As the Outreach Manager, my role facilitates working with these organizations as well as our Education community - the schools, community centres and Bermuda Education Network. We offer lessons in an alternate learning environment, addressing the various learning styles. These lessons have been designed to complement the Cambridge Curriculum and the Ministry of Education national standards.

Learning continues through the availability of our Jr Apprentice volunteer programme for Bermudians ages 12 – 17 and the internationally recognized and attended Internships. In the 2 years that I have been there we have had interns join us from N. America, Brazil, the UK, Japan and Australia.

Our Education motto “Green Hands, Blue Oceans” speaks to the conservation that is at the core of all that we teach and do. But it isn’t just a hashtag with a purpose. It is the culture of Dolphin Quest. We walk the talk daily at work and in our personal lives. In the past two years we have moved from Keurig to press coffee and have eliminated the sale of all drinks in plastic bottles including water which is now offered in recyclable options only. All of our gift shop retail items are considered sustainable and have a purpose - whether ocean education, locally sourced, reusable or recycled materials, ocean safe or minimal waste packaging such as plastic alternative bamboo toothbrushes and reusable straws.

Living by example is the best way to teach.

At Christmas, over the course of a couple of days I spent a good amount of time hanging over the edge of the dock cleaning the marine debris out of the Sargassum that had gathered around my boat, stalled by the calm waters. My son often questions why I bother as he feels that it is sadly too late. And I always disagree with him stating that’s one less piece of plastic for a fish or turtle to swallow. I don’t need to save the world – just take responsibility and ownership of my own actions, environment and the little changes that I can do to help – but I have challenged other businesses in Dockyard, colleagues, friends and family to follow suit with my 3Cs or 3 Seas – the Conservation Change Challenge.

What can each of us change in our daily habits to support conservation not just for the present, but for the future as guided by the 7th Generation Principle?

This summer as I typed our weekly conservation newsletter for our Bermuda, Oahu and Hawaii locations I decided to turn to our young people for their thoughts as the next generation of conservationists. I invite you to read their nuggets of wisdom in our Conservation Binder – but will share with you Sam’s thoughts when I posed the question – Can one person really make a difference in a world with 7.5 billion people? Sam is age 20 studying film at Westminster University in the UK. The film industry has heightened his conservation conscience so he is considering veganism and was not sure how he felt about animals in human care, until I invited him to join us. He is at that important age of finding one’s own voice. Here is his eco-voice - Quote “I keep getting told by people that my choices to help the environment won’t make a difference because I am just one person. However, something I’ve learnt is how many people are open to change if they open themselves up to **learning** about these things. So, if I could say something, it would be that if you are under the impression that you can’t make a difference just by yourself, you aren’t just **one** individual making a **small** difference, but one individual PART of millions of others who are making a small difference, amounting to something great”. End Quote – thank you Sam. **Never underestimate the Power of One.**

Not only is it okay but it is also important to question the well-being of animals in human care (whether it be at a farm, aquarium or your neighbour’s pet). The way NOT to do this is by believing all that you see or read on social media. One way to learn if an organization is giving the highest standard of care to its animals is to look for their accreditations – usually listed on their websites or brochures. However, my recommendation is if you are able to, then go in person, take the time to visit with an open mind, experience the environment first hand and by all means if in doubt just ask.

Zoos, aquariums and marine mammal facilities have rapidly evolved in our lifetime from places of entertainment to centres for learning, conservation, scientific study support, rescue, rehabilitation and even species survival. The plight of the world’s smallest dolphin – the near extinct Vaquita Porpoise – with only 30 thought to be left in the world is a prime example.

To bring this to an end, all good salts usually have a fishing story - so please indulge me as I share my one with you:

From my Amistad journal: “Trawled the whole week – nothing caught – last day as we approached land .. the line whizzed. Paul helped Leslie wind in the battling beast And suddenly all crew broke into hysterical laughter as the catch came into sight and Paul landed a BIG BLOB of toilet paper.”

This situation may have been funny then, but sadly a sure sign of the health of our oceans and what has now become so common. The ocean should be for fish, turtles, dolphins, whales and other marine mammals ... it is NOT a trash bin for humans. Fortunately, there is hope that change can happen ... after all, when was the last time you had to take a jar of mayonnaise to the beach to remove the tar from your feet!

I hope the stories I have shared have helped to **inspire you** in understanding that we can all make a difference. When one is passionate about a topic, the conversation never ends, so please feel free to chat with Lottie and I afterwards or reach out to us at Dolphin Quest. We would love for you to experience first-hand all that we do. Thank you very much on behalf all of us at Dolphin Quest.

Supportive Notes from DQ Website.

- Touching hearts and minds since 1988 - 30 years DQ started in 1984. First site opened 1988.
- School children taught 97937
- Scientific studies supported 120
- Support for science studies \$3,788,758

Just this past weekend I was on the ferry back to Dockyard when the captain detoured the vessel. He had spotted a whale in the sound off Commissioner's House and the Heritage Wharf cruise ship arm. I immediately called my colleagues at work and within 20 minutes we had coordinated a notification network and a search for the off- course cetacean that included Dolphin Quest, the Aquarium and Andrew Stephenson. On a small island like Bermuda, we are all affected by the ocean and are dependent on it. It is our responsibility to work together as a community to help preserve it and its inhabitants.

Dolphin Quest Bermuda opened over 21 years ago. Our eldest dolphin Cirrus, the matriarch, is a retired navy dolphin and the rest, mostly her children and grandchildren, have all been born in human care with 7 of them born in Bermuda.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:09:19 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon K. Irvine	Dolphin Discovery	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:12:10 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amanda Sweeney	Concerned Citizen	Oppose	No

Comments:

I urge you to oppose SB 3055.

This Bill does not help solve any of the real and serious problems affecting dolphins and whales, such as coastal pollution, marine debris (especially plastic pollution in the ocean), bycatch in fishing operations, entanglement in drifting "ghost nets", increasing human-made noise in the ocean, oil spills, reduced prey, and collisions and harassment by boaters and swimmers in the cetaceans' habitat.

This bill would hurt the good work of fully accredited, fully regulated, responsible and successful zoological facilities. In Hawaii, Dolphin Quest provides exemplary care of its animals while offering residents and visitors safe and inspiring opportunities to meet and learn about dolphins. These interactive educational experiences help to forge emotional connections to dolphins and to the need for a healthy ocean. For thirty years, Dolphin Quest has also engaged in research projects that have had direct benefits to dolphins in the wild. Dolphin Quest is a great resource and neighbor in Hawaii and a leader in the marine mammal global community, a fact that all of Hawaii should celebrate and be proud. Please support their important work by voting NO on SB 3055.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:12:11 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Allison Hinz	Gulf World by Dolphin Discovery	Oppose	No

Comments:

Facilities in Hawaii are impacting thousands of visitors each year due to the up close and personal experience with marine mammals. This is a much safer way for the public to interact with and learn about these animals, rather than harassing them on touring boats . This bill doesn't support the well being and care the animals are already receiving and will cause detriment to the animals by those who aren't educated or professionals in the field.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:13:26 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrew Taylor		Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern Regarding Bill SB3055,

I strongly oppose this bill as it is not based on science and is an attempt by animal extremists to remove dolphins from marine life parks, while robbing future generations of the opportunity to be inspired and educated by dolphins in Hawaii's accredited zoological institutions.

The drafted language that "dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals" is utter nonsense.

Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators.

Accredited marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the animals.

I currently work at such a facility in St. Kitts and have worked for Dolphin Quest in the past. I know firsthand the importance of these facilities and hope you will consider this testimony before making a decision.

Thank you for your consideration,

Andrew Taylor

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:15:22 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jayme Ingram	Gulf World by Dolphin Discovery	Oppose	No

Comments:

I believe this is a terrible bill, and will not benefit the marine mammals. Educating the public is done during shows and encounters.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:15:31 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Xochiquetzal Guerrero	gulf world	Oppose	No

Comments:

As marine mammal specialist, is important to avoid the breeding ban because just with the chance to see closer dolphins and others marine mammals under humane care that are ambassadors for all the animals in the wild, we can protect in a better way what we love.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:16:37 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Giselly Reyes		Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:17:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley Englehart		Oppose	No

Comments:

Do no support SB 3055.

The language used regarding stress in human care is unfounded in science. In fact many recent studies show that animals in human care, including cetaceans, exhibit less stress than their wild counterparts.

Cetaceans in human care provide a valuable resource for education and inspiring conservation to Hawaii locals. Marine life is a vital resource to Hawaii and the importance of its conservation can not be ignored.

All marine mammal facilities that are accredited in Hawaii needs to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding and provide the best possible social structure.

Transport is tightly regulated by USDA and the department of agriculture in Hawaii. There is no need to add further regulation.

Limiting transport will also greatly hinder rescue operations and care of stranded cetaceans in Hawaiian waters.

Please base your decision on science and the knowledge of experts in the field rather than emotion.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:18:10 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Connor Dennis		Oppose	No

Comments:

As a behavioural student, I acknowledge the importance of zoos and aquariums to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding. Furthermore, facilities such as Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park have an important role in the conservation of their animals as well as education to the public. Scientific research from captive dolphins allow researchers and scientists to gain valuable information that can not be gained from their wild counterparts. To discontinue cetacean breeding and transportation would cause marine parks to phase out in the future which would result in future generations being robbed from their opportunity to see a marine mammal up close while learning about that particular species and their conservation. With a increasingly damaging ocean ultimately caused by climate change, human invasion on oceans to showcase wild dolphins would not be beneficial on the animals behalf. Educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine park is safer for the dolphins and the visitors. To me, this is a better alternative than dozens of boats harassing free ranging spinner dolphins in the wild. Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the dangers of the ocean. Wild animals are facing challenges such as fishing nets, overfishing, pollution, marine debris and injuries caused by a collision with a poorly constructed tour. There is no scientific data that proves that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness or death of the animals.”

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:18:04 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elissa Hussey	Dolphin Quest Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha!

I oppose this bill, having Dolphins available for the public to view is vital for the education of the masses. Think of all the people who would never get to see Dolphins, if facilities like Dolphin Quest didn't exist! How many people would then not know that we need to help their wild counterparts. Or think of how many people have gained an interest and passion for the ocean from seeing, and meeting these creatures!

Elissa

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:18:53 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tori		Oppose	No

Comments:

In recent studies, cetaceans have been shown to exhibit less stress and illness in human care, and scientific studies on unnatural aggression is completely unfounded. Zoological facilities are able to provide safe environments for these animals away from predators, and other dangers such as pollution, debris, discarded fishing tools and even being struck by boats. The educational impact of these animals is vital to teaching people about not just the animals themselves, but the state of the ocean their wild counterparts come from.

Marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport these animals to prevent inbreeding, which can lead to many other health problems. They also need to be able to transport them to put them in environments best suited to their needs. To discontinue this would rob guests of having the experience to see these animals in parks where, if you have ever been to one, you can see the animals are clearly well cared for.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:19:07 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Taylor Harris		Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support SB3055 because in recent history research has shown that cetaceans in human care exhibit less stress than their wild counterparts. The wild counterparts have so much danger in the ocean due to fishing nets and debris, that should be the topic of focus since the animals in human care are safe from all those dangers. Cetaceans in accredited marine parks also provide humans with a safe environment to be educated about these animals without going out on boats to free ranging wild dolphins and harassing them. Animals in human care need to be transported between states so they can prevent inbreeding yet allow the animals to display natural animal behavior. Transport is also highly regulated by USDA and Hawaii department of agriculture so why have this bill when there are already tons of restrictions to the process. How is transporting or housing cetaceans any different than other species in human care. What's next horses, dogs, cats??? Leave everything the way it is, please.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:19:13 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Courtney Wise		Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support SB3055 due to the fact that accredited facilities provide an excellent environment for cetaceans in a world where the dangers are drastically increasing in the ocean. Our concerns should be more focused on making these waters safer for both animals and people alike. These accredited facilities should also be able to transport their animals because if they do not there would be inbreeding which would take away from the general welfare of these creatures. Lastly, these facilities provide great educational opportunities for adults and children alike which in turn would help those people to care more for our environment and make our oceans safer for all.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:20:52 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kazuya Ujihara		Oppose	Yes

Comments:

I oppose because dolphins are well cared at Sea Life Park with 24/7 veterinarian and trainers in constant watch for their health. With every day health care, nutritious diet and food dolphins at the park have higher longevity than the wild dolphins.

All the staff of Sea Life Park have great love and affection towards the dolphins establishing a mutual relationship.

The park provides a safe place where visitors and residents can interact with dolphins rather than them jumping in the ocean and harassing the animals in the wild. They also put effort in educating everyone about the conservation and preservation of marine life throughout the park.

As such good intended facilities should be preserved for the benefit of the community and education for the young ones who holds our future.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:20:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barushz Mata		Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:23:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christian De La Mora		Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:22:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hugo Martinez	gulfworld	Oppose	No

Comments:

Like most i do not agree with this bill, animals need to be able to reproduce even if it is under human care, denying them this basic right as living beings is as bad as taking them from the wild.

We should concentrate on keeping the animals still in the wild safe by passing usefull and ethical legislation not providing less stimulation for animales who have already lived their entire lifes alongside humans.

Hugo Martinez.

To whom it may concern,

Do not pass #SB3055. I have been associated with Drs. Jay Sweeney, Rae Stone and their Dolphin Quest organization since its inception. Their husbandry and veterinary care of their dolphins has been exemplary since their beginnings. Over the years they have developed health protocols and standards for their dolphin populations that are the standard of care for many other oceanariums caring for small cetaceans under human care.

From the start of their organization, education of the public, especially school children, in the health of the oceans and the animals that live there has been a priority. Programs were developed to specifically target the school age children and educate them in the oceans and the wonderful creatures that live there. Most of this public education to the school children has been, and continue to be, donated to the local school systems.

They have donated many millions of dollars to promote conservation and to the study of wild dolphin populations. Not only have they donated their monies but as importantly they have donated their valuable time, being involved, on site, in many wild dolphin health assessments over the world. In fact, Dr. Jay Sweeney has been personally on site, annually, to the longest running wild dolphin study in Sarasota Bay Florida for over thirty-five years. Dolphin Quest has been a major contributor to this project over the past many years. This and other like projects study wild dolphin populations to better understand their place in the world's oceans. It was with the understanding of the "normals" of the Sarasota dolphin populations, that we could access the damage cause by the BP Deep Water Horizons oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and the dolphin populations along that coast. This bottlenose dolphin study was a significant reason that BP settled under the National Environmental Resource Damage Assessment paying out over 18 billion dollars in damages.

Understand that the research and development of new techniques and procedures used in our wild dolphin health assessments are initially developed in oceanariums; Dolphin Quest has been a major contributor in these studies. There is much to be learned when these groups, both managed dolphin organizations and the wild dolphin researchers work cooperatively with each other.

Dolphin Quest under the leadership of Drs. Sweeney and Stone, have been at the forefront of husbandry and dolphin health for many decades, from its earliest beginnings, education and conservation were foundations they embraced in their organization. Without the support and contributions from organizations like Dolphin Quest, much of the advances we have made in understanding the health of wild dolphin populations would have not been possible.

So with this said, there are so many contributions this organization has made to the marine mammal community, passing #SB3055 would jeopardize their ability to continue in this good work.

Sincerely,

Dr. Forrest I. Townsend Jr.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Senior Staff Marine Mammal Veterinarian/wild dolphin health assessments

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:27:29 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gustavo Gutierrez		Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:28:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Monika		Oppose	No

Comments:

As a scientist and a marine mammal training intern at Dolphin Quest, I oppose this bill on many fronts. It is a poorly written, short sighted bill based on little to no science and designed without the long term consequences to animal welfare in mind. It also fails to understand the importance of having cetaceans in human care and doesn't understand the facilities it is targeting.

By passing this legislation, accredited facilities such as Dolphin Quest Hawaii would be prevented from making appropriate management decisions regarding the welfare of their dolphins.

Bottlenose dolphins do not live with their families for life. They live in fission-fusion societies. Their social groups change constantly. When they become independant, males leave their mothers in the wild to prevent inbreeding. Places like Dolphin Quest are able to mimic this dispersion behaviour by transporting male dolphins who are independant from their mothers to other facilities that have bachelor pods. In the wild, when male dolphins leave their mothers they will form bachelor pods with other males. These male-male groups lead to some of the most important social relationships for dolphins as they continue to develop (both in the wild and under human care). **Male dolphins cannot stay with their mothers and to force facilities to keep males with their mothers would create social problems and possible inbreeding, all of which would compromise their welfare.** Dispersion is both natural to bottlenose dolphins and essential. ([Source](#))

The other aspect of this bill also appears to wish to phase out cetaceans in human care by preventing breeding. Preventing cetaceans from breeding is unnatural and deprives them of the ability to express natural sexual behaviour. **Also, by phasing out cetaceans in human care, you deprive people the chance to legally and ethically interact with dolphins without causing them stress or harm the way it does to wild dolphins** ([Source](#)) ([Source](#))

Dolphin Quest in Hawaii have two locations in the state that provide their dolphins with natural habitats that they thrive in. They are open to the public to view at any time and are always transparent and open with the public about how the dolphins are cared for. They connect people with dolphins and educate them about their importance and how to protect their ocean home. Being accredited by both the Alliance of Marine Parks

and Aquariums and American Humane also indicates that they adhere to the highest of standards for their dolphins' care and quality of life. Dolphin Quest participates in vital research of dolphins and their studies are helping wild populations. DQ has also contributed over 3.5 million dollars in funding for vital research and conservation efforts across the globe.

As an intern at Dolphin Quest, I am privileged to see first hand the positive values of the company and their dedication to animal welfare. I see guests have their lives changed by the dolphins and the Marine Mammal Specialists that strive to educate and inspire behaviour change for the health of the ocean. I urge senators who are unsure about cetaceans in human care to schedule a visit with Dolphin Quest with an open mind and allow them to show you all the incredible work that they do for their animals.

A bill like this is short-sighted and would negatively impact cetacean welfare long term by preventing facilities from mimicking natural dispersion behaviour and making appropriate management decisions to transport male dolphins ready to leave their mothers to other facilities with all male groups. Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. These experts are perfectly capable of doing their job and ensuring that cetaceans are not being transported unnecessarily. Phasing out cetaceans in human care by preventing breeding would impact the economy and the many jobs that it provides the people of Hawaii.

Now, more than ever, the ocean needs ambassadors to educate the public as human impact continues to destroy its marine life. We should be focusing on the animals that are in genuine distress due to entanglement, boat strikes, noise pollution, plastic consumption ect. And it is places like Dolphin Quest who are raising awareness about these issues through positive interactions between the public and dolphins. They should not be attacked by such a cruel, poorly researched and short-sighted bill.

Please oppose SB3055!

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:29:20 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Levi Theusch		Oppose	No

Comments:

I am testifying as an independent citizen against the passage of SB 3055. SB 3055 would drastically curtail the access of local Hawaiian residence and, most importantly, local school children to amazing marine life. As a parent of two children, I find the educational benefits of these facilities, especially Dolphin Quest, of great value. Interactions with not only the dolphins, but the Marine Mammal Sepcialists and researchers on site, provides a wonderful opportunity to appreciate these amazing animals. Eliminating this opportunity for future generations would be met with great sadness.

I have witnessed nothing but the highest level of care and concern for the well being of these animals from the staffs. The researchers also have the opportunity to conduct critical research in the least intrusive and safest manner because of the facilities. I am in no way worried about the current regulation of these facilities, as I am aware of the rigorous USDA and Hawaii Department of Agriculture standards that are already in place. Thank you for your consideration on this matter, and I once again ask you to not allow the passage of SB 3055.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:29:27 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
christina		Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing to state my professional position of opposition towards Bill NO. 3055. I have worked at a dolphin facility for nearly six years. I have ultimate respect for the care we give our animals, the scientific papers we publish, and strongly believe our animals enjoy the healthy, stress-free, exciting lives they live in our care. After reading the proposal to ban cetacean transportation in Hawaii, I must speak up. I value cetaceans in human care far too much to let this hinder the facilities that care for them. These facilities provide lasting impressions on their visitors that increase their knowledge and appreciation not only for those animals, but the ocean, and planet as a whole. Many of the claims made in this bill about the negative aspects of cetacean facilities are not based in science. In fact, there is strong science suggesting just the opposite for many of the claims. I believe the passing of this bill would be a cruel injustice. Our global community is plagued with the difficulty of finding truths in a world filled with opinions disguised as truths. Such falsities are propelled through and across cultures by the beast that is social media. The statements concerning poor wellbeing of cetaceans in human care were birthed by animal rights extremists, and have spread like a disease through the minds of people only exposed to the cetacean world via the internet. For those of us that are fortunate enough to have relationships with these amazing animals, we know the truth. I am here to speak up for the animals, and that small community of people who know them. Please strongly consider the opinions of professionals that have contacted you when making the final decision on this bill.

My name is Katy Donegan and I am both a lifelong animal welfare advocate as well as a marine mammal professional with approximately eleven years of experience at a research facility. I have participated in several behavioral, cognitive, and acoustic studies, and I observe and interact directly with the dolphins on a regular basis, engaging in training, research, and playtime sessions. Additionally, I am a Co-Investigator on a National Marine Fisheries Service LOC for a study of wild dolphins. I hope that my years of experience observing dolphin behavior, both in human care and in the wild, as well as my experience interacting with dolphins in a safe and enriching environment, will be taken into account when considering my input. Most importantly, I hope that the voices of those of us who dedicate our lives to these animals, who know them as individuals and love them as family, hold more weight than the voices of the ill-informed yet vocal minority.

I write in opposition of S.B. No. 3055, which would limit the transport of cetaceans in the state of Hawaii, ultimately phasing out marine life parks and eliminating the opportunity for future generations to experience and connect with these animals up close in a manner that's both safe and legal for the animals and humans. It is opportunities such as these that have been proven to inspire conservation for the animals and the environment we share. I am lucky enough to witness this on a daily basis, and I know that my colleagues at Dolphin Quest share similar experiences.

The proposed legislation is based not in science, but rather on opinions - many of which originate from misinformation and misguided intentions. Marine mammal professionals at accredited facilities such as Dolphin Quest are experts in their field. They know their animals better than anyone and understand how to best meet all of their needs. These facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to maintain a healthy gene pool and allow these animals to thrive.

For cetaceans to live in human care is not a tragedy. The wild is a harsh place, full of growing dangers and threats caused by humans who do not respect the environment that we co-exist in with these creatures. What *would* be tragic is to limit the ability of experts to give their animals enriching lives and provide them with the best possible care. To take away the opportunity for a dolphin mother to raise a calf, to decide on a very sad fate for the animals living in human care in Hawaii, to eliminate the chance for our future generations to connect with and be inspired by these animals - would be devastating for us all.

Please allow the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture continue to regulate transport of cetaceans.

Thank you,

Katy Donegan

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:30:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alma Valdez		Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:31:34 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karla Villamonte	dolphin discovery	Oppose	No

Comments:

To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks, thus robbing future generations the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about dolphins in this unrivaled setting

Karla Villamonte

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:32:02 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sam Mercer		Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, I am a local resident of Hawaii and I strongly OPPOSE the SB 3055. I believe that this Bill is not based on scientific evidence and does not consider the animals' best interest. Below are my reasons on why I believe that SB 3055 SHOULD NOT be passes.

Facilities, like Dolphin Quest (DQ), provide amazing opportunities for a wide range of people to view, learn about, and connect with animals that people would not interact with. Along with people visiting the islands, DQ offers opportunities to local Hawaiians through school group education and interaction programs. I have personally seen multiple schools participate in DQ School Group programs and have seen how learning about and interacting with the dolphins has inspired the local children, the future generations, to be better ocean conservationists.

The DQ facilities are wonderful environments, which mimic the natural areas common bottlenose dolphins would be found in. These environments are safe from the increasing dangers that are effecting dolphins out in the ocean, such as chemical pollution, entanglement, boat strikes, boat noises, and over fishing.. Recently there has been a lot of talk about the Vaquita porpoise. Currently there are fewer than 30 Vaquitas left in the Gulf of California. These small porpoises get trapped in gill nets and are now on the verge of extinction. We should be focusing more heavily on how to decrease the challenges that ALL ocean-dwelling animals are currently facing so that another species does not go extinct.

The safe DQ environments are not only safe for the animals, but also for the people wishing to learn and interact with the animals. Animal training allows for animals to be comfortable with interacting with people and in turn creates a much safer environment for every party involved. DQ is able to teach people about bottlenose dolphins without interfering with the animals' day and without causing any stress. This is much safer and

less harmful to the animal than the tour boats that often harass and chase the spinner dolphins while they are resting around our coastline.

Animal care facilities, like DQ, are run by hard working staff and Marine Mammal Specialist who dedicate their days to providing the best possible care to the animals. These people are experts. They have received education and training specifically for their jobs. Each individual develops a unique relationship overtime with the animals. They are trained to read each animal's behavior and asses the mental and physical needs better than anyone.

There are no marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house cetaceans in Hawaii or anywhere in the US. Instead, animal care facilities offer excellent opportunities for researchers and scientists to gather vital data. The information gathered at facilities like DQ is used to better understand bottlenose dolphins, how to care for this species, and how to better protect and conserve the ocean population. With dolphins in the ocean facing increased difficulties due to human influence, it is becoming increasingly important that we learn and do everything we can to conserve the ocean habitat. DQ participates in Project Newborn, which is a project that collects data on calves from birth to 1 year old. The data (lengths, widths, blood sample, respirations, and even samples of the mother's milk) provides vital information that DQ and other facilities can use to ensure calf growth and development is following the normal trend. The information gathered from Project Newborn can also be used by stranding network teams to make health assessments on beached calves and used by rescue/rehabilitation facilities to produce the appropriate formula, both of which help save the ocean population of cetaceans.

The ability to transport animals is an important aspect of an animal care facility. Transporting animals provides social and genetic mixing. Banning the transportation of animals would ultimately phase out facilities like DQ, robbing people of the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about these animals up close. As you can see from the reasons listed above, phasing out facilities like DQ would only benefit animal extremist who do not look at facts or science when proposing Bills like this one. If SB 3055 is passed, what animal transports will be passed next. Transporting dogs and cats? Horses and livestock?

I hope that you will read and consider all of the facts and make an informed decision. Transporting cetaceans allows for social and genetic mixing and allows facilities to

continue educating, introducing, and inspiring people, and continue research and conservation efforts to better conserve our ocean habitat.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:33:23 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicola James		Oppose	No

Comments:

There are many accredited facilities that provide excellent and safe environments for Marine Mammals. There are many dangers in the ocean that are harming wild populations of dolphins that we should be more concerned about such as fishing nets, overfishing, overwhelming amounts of marine debris, not to mention injury from poorly driven tour boats taking tourists to see populations of wild marine life. Accredited facilities provide these safe environments for marine mammals and educate the visitors about these wonderful animals, their roles in our world, and the importance of recycling programs that prevent marine debris and these tours boat rides that hurt these animals. The transport of these marine animals is very important for facilities in maintaining a health group of marine mammals. It prevents inbreeding. There is no scientific bases or evidence to support these claims being presented. Let's allow our future generations the opportunity to see these amazing and majestic animals and learn about them in ways that are safe for them and the animals in closely regulated accredited facilities!

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:37:31 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andy Horn		Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Andy Horn and I am writing to OPPOSE bill SB3055. I have worked in a Zoological environment, specializing in cetacean care, for the past 9 years. In my professional opinion, this law would be detrimental to the animals currently held at Hawaiian facilities. It would also be detrimental to the Hawaiian public, and most importantly potentially detrimental to free ranging cetaceans off the Hawaiian coast.

This measure would be detrimental to the animals in the care of the Hawaiian Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums facilities Dolphin Quest Oahu, Dolphin Quest Hawaii, and Sea Life Park for the following reasons...

Eventually, this measure would create an inbreeding situation. Animals, of many species, are often transported among accredited zoological facilities to maintain genetic diversity. This allows for collection of animals from natural environments to be kept to an absolute minimum. This also allows for individual animals to be able to continue to be enriched through natural life processes such as courtship, breeding, pregnancy, birth and the raising of new calves. The introduction of new animals into a population is a natural process for cetacean social groups. Depriving animals of this social opportunity is ultimately diminishing their quality of life. Here is a personal example reflecting how important these social opportunities are: One bottlenose dolphin I have worked with was living at a facility with two female relatives. While he was receiving excellent care, this relational dynamic with his habitat mates was not ideal for him, and didn't mimic a natural social setting (bottlenose dolphins, especially males, rarely stay with their mothers past 3-6 years of age). His transfer to another accredited marine mammal facility allowed for him the opportunity to engage in courtship and breeding behavior with unrelated female dolphins. It also allowed him to exhibit natural behavior with other compatible males. Male dolphins will often work in pairs or groups and exhibit complex mimicry behavior while bonding or courting females. This male dolphin was enriched by being able to engage in these natural behaviors.

This bill would be detrimental to the Hawaiian public, as well. We as humans are a very "out of sight, out of mind" species. We live complex lives with our own survival pressures. This means that we rarely break out of our bubble to understand the world around us, unless we have direct accessibility to something. Direct accessibility to marine mammals has been available to the Hawaiian public through marine mammal facilities since the 1960s. Since then it has been no coincidence how much more the

public has learned about cetaceans from bottlenose dolphins to other marine mammals like the endangered Hawaiian monk seal. But just because over the last 50 years cetaceans have been raised to a higher level of public awareness, it does not mean the jobs of accredited facilities like Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park are over. In fact, these Zoological parks are more important than ever! In the past decade the coastal population of Hawaiian false killer whales was found to be down to only about 150 animals. There has been an effort to get this population under government protection. Hawaiian marine mammal facilities are at the forefront of getting educational messages about wild animals in need, like these false killer whales, to the public. Another common misconception is that the public can have up close encounters with cetaceans in their natural environment, and can have the same learning opportunities that they do with animals in managed care. The truth is that it is difficult to get close to animals in their natural environment without disturbing their natural behavior. This can be seen in Hawaii with Spinner dolphins. This species comes into shallow water bays during the day to rest before going out in the evening to hunt. Dolphin watching tours on boats can disturb this natural rest behavior. While it is exciting to see animals in nature, it is not always in the best interest of the animals. Allowing Hawaiian zoological facilities to maintain healthy and genetic diverse populations is essential to keeping these species at the forefront of awareness for the Hawaiian public.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my comments. I urge you to OPPOSE SB3055.

Sincerely,

Andy Horn

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:40:55 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Geri Lyn Cross		Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a volunteer at Marineland Dolphin Adventure and I urge you **not to** support SB 3055.

- The drafted language that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data.
- The importance of access to dolphins in Hawaii’s accredited marine parks for local Hawaiians and school age children. It’s not just for tourists. Locals can go and watch the dolphins, in some cases for free. Add your personal experience and observations of guests experiencing marine life at your zoo or aquarium.
- Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators.
- Educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine parks is safer for the dolphins and people. This is a much better alternative than dozens of boats harassing free ranging spinner dolphins when they’re attempting to rest.
- The marine mammal specialists at accredited marine parks are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals’ behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone. This is a perfect place for you to describe your personal experience of dedication to cetaceans in managed zoological settings.
- There are NO marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii (this is the exception in the Bill). Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community.
- Accredited marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the animals.
- Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. There is no reason to duplicate or ignore the already existing regulatory process!

- If one bans the transport or breeding of dolphins, based on zero scientific data suggesting one should, what is next? Horses? Dogs? Cattle? This is an emotional plea by misinformed animal extremists.
- To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks, thus robbing future generations the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about dolphins in this unrivaled setting.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:43:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Dobrowolski		Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill on many grounds. First of all it hurts the animals. Second of all if the bill passes they will be tons more death of cetaceans in the Ocean. Third of all it would hurt many business who care for these creatures.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:43:51 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jimena	dolphin discovery	Oppose	No

Comments:

- Dolphins are under excellent care 24/7 by specialists, the number of captive dolphins in the world is minimum compared to that of dolphins in the wild suffering of several threats (boats, pollution, habitat destruction, lack of food, etc).
- There are NO marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii (this is the exception in the Bill). Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community.
- Accredited marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the animals.
- Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. There is no reason to duplicate or ignore the already existing regulatory process!

- Please, reconsider this law.
- Sincerely,
- M. Sc. Jimena Vargas

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:45:43 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
NAHOKO HAYASHI	Gulf World	Oppose	No

Comments:

Prohibiding the reproduction of the animals under human care is against the animals right. The animals born under human care and is getting the best care that humans can provide, and is a healthy animal, that means their life is fullfing. But prohibiding the reproduction will take this away. first we don't know how safe the medicen or any proceddure is. Next, reproduction is not only is to make more babies but it help the social sturcture of the group and they will need it forever. And simply it is the animals right. Just imagine if someone prohibid you to have kids. That is what you will be making the animals suffer from.

Thank you.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:44:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ruben Mendez		Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:45:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bernadette Fantin-Ferguson		Oppose	No

Comments:

Dolphin Quest provides teaches information that helps preserve our ocean wild life. Sb3055 would prevent that.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:47:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jesus Arciniega		Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:47:36 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ireene Phillips		Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am born and raised on this island and have been to Sea Life Park as a child and now take my children there. The dolphins there are used for shows an I understand why people precieve there opinions about the dolphins. But at the same time, Sea Life Park takes care of the animals, resuces the animals, rehabilitates the animals, repopulates the animals and in my opinion eventhough the dolphins do a few jumps here and there for a show, look at all of the positive things they are doing.

I oppose this bill!

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:49:46 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ivan	gulf world	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:51:13 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rafael ubaldo verde bojorquez	golfword	Oppose	No

Comments:

Im be working with marine mammals a round ten years and for the conservación and preservación of the animales. And i gree a bout the reproducción ira something necessary.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:51:28 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Thompson	Gulf World	Oppose	No

Comments:

The SB3055 says that dolphins get stress under social structures. This is so NOT TRUE. Dolphins actually thrive under social structures, families and human enriches this interaction. We as the experts that sees this on a day to day basis knows and have physical evidence to support it.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:53:10 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yareli Arzaba	GulfWorld	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:54:37 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa de Jes�s Avelar Orozco	Gulf world	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:54:38 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ernesto Mendoza	Golf World	Oppose	No

Comments:

people who desnt have experience in the field of animal care shouldnt make decision about the future of animals under human care.

they need to listen the real experts, those who serve dayly animals under human care.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:56:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jaqueline	Gulf world	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support the breeding ban in Hawaii. It would put an end to the education we provide to the local people and also the visiting public. It is crucial part of our jobs to educate the thousands of guests everyday in order to protect the marine life in the wild.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:57:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
martin	gulf world	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:00:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Rhodes		Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not support SB3055. The transportation of cetaceans is necessary to prevent inbreeding and this bill does not address the possible dangers of inbreeding in a captive environment. Marine mammal facilities are important for education and help inspire future generations to love and help protect these animals. There are no marine mammal facilities in Hawaii that are solely for research, but there are facilities that conduct research that can possibly be used to help the wild populations of dolphins and whales. Transportation of cetaceans is sometimes necessary and it is already heavily regulated by the USDA and Hawaii Department of Agriculture, so there is no need to add further regulations.

I am urging you to oppose SB 3055.

Dolphin Quest is a leader in the field of animal health and wellness and gives the animals in their care top quality care.

Dolphin Quest provides a wonderful environment for the dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution and Marine debris. Dolphin Quest educates their visitors about the plight of the ocean and offers ideas as to little things they can do and changes in their lifestyles they can make to try and help make a difference. The dolphins they have in their care are extremely well cared for and the love the marine mammal specialists have for the animals shows in every interaction they have with the animals. The animals in their amazing care create a connection with the guests to their counterparts in the wild and inspire visitors from all over the world to want to make the ocean a better place. Dolphin Quest is a wonderful promoter of education and conservation, and the amazing animals they have in their care are in the best possible hands and deserve to continue to reproduce and thrive.

Thank you,

Lauren

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:04:35 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Jose Levi	Gulf World	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Maria Jose Levi, I am a marine mammal specialist and trainer, under my years of experience the educational impact by meeting dolphins in these kind of facilities helps a lot for making awereness of the importance to take care of the environment and helping not only dolphins in the wild but also all the animals outside. Also most of the facilities that work with dolphins have educational programs with the local community for teaching children from schools about the dolphins and their environment for free.

Thakn you for your attention,

Maria Jose Levi

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:05:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Martin		Oppose	No

Comments:

I worked for SeaWorld San Diego in the Animal Training department and I can honestly say that what these facilities are doing is good. They love these animals. They provide a safe, healthy and fun environment for them. They have amazing health care and diet. And they also help to educate the world. They inspire people to make a change and help the planet. They inform guests on problems and what we can do to save these species. These programs and parks are very important. They also let us research these animals and understand them more. Please don't listen to extremists. They don't know all the good that is being done.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:06:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
RAMON AZCANO	DOLPHIN DISCOVERY	Oppose	No

Comments:

To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks, thus robbing future generations the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about dolphins in this unrivaled setting.

Ramon Azcano

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:08:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
levi samuel melo	dolphin discovery	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello

Good afternoon

Under my experience, the specimens under human care can not say if they suffer from stress or not because it is not proven. and it is inhuman that they can not be reproduced since we are nobody to say who can be reproduced or not. that's why I do not agree to stop the reproduction.

Levi Andrade

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:11:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stacey E Kuhn		Oppose	No

Comments:

As a resident of Hawaii, I STRONGLY oppose SB3055.

The Bill is not based in science. It is an attempt by animal extremists to remove dolphins from marine life parks.

It would take away the opportunity for future generations to be inspired and educated with dolphins in Hawaii's zoological institutions.

The verbiage in this bill has many hidden agendas. It states to stop the transfer of cetaceans from the wild to captured facilities for the purpose of breeding and entertainment. Most transfers in the state of Hawaii are for the purpose of education and protection of this wildlife. The institutions on Oahu (i.e, Sea Life Park, Dolphin Quest) are providing a valuable service by educating the public on how to conserve our resources and how to safely address our wildlife. These facilities teach and educate on how to protect endangered cetaceans and how to keep our coral, beaches, and oceans clean and safe for the longevity of our cetaceans. The public is allowed to view and learn up close these precious animals instead of trying to abuse them in their natural environment. Please DO NOT PASS this bill. It will only lead to more destruction of our natural wildlife environment.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:14:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel G.Lazo	DOLPHIN DISCOVERY	Oppose	No

Comments:

To who it may concern.

Profetionally and personally i know that its an awful idea to ban reproduction, its one of the goals of life, would you agree on a law that forbiden the reproduction of your sons?

Also we would be stealing the oportunity for the next generations to have the oportunity to learn about these magnificent species.

Preserve life!

Sincerly Marine mammal specialist from mexico

Daniel G. Lazo

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:17:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tracey Hagemann		Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB3055. Dolphins should continue to be shared with future generations for a better understanding of wildlife conservation. The children of tomorrow will not learn to respect our oceans and the creatures living there. Sea Life Park provides hands-on meaningful encounters to connect with marine life. Thank you!

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:21:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
luis arc0s	gulf world	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a marine mammal specialist at a well known facility, I respectfully oppose the amendment.

Much of the information in section 1 of the amendment has been scientifically proven to be false. Modern Marine mammal facilities use the best scientific practices to provide the best health care for the animals under their care. Marine mammals under human care can surpass the average age of marine mammals in the wild. They don't face pressures like overfishing, harassment from boats, predation, and habitat contamination. Training is done through positive reinforcement in which it is the animal's choice to participate in the training sessions. Preventing breeding and transport would prevent the animals from living in a natural social dynamic.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:24:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julia	1995	Oppose	No

Comments:

I deeply oppose this bill as it is a tool by animal rights extremists meant only to damage important conservation and education organizations. These extremists will tell the legislators of Hawaii that they are fighting for the wellbeing of captive dolphins and whales - this is a lie. Dolphins in AMMPA facilities have access to the highest quality care of any zoological institution. These animals receive carefully prepared diets, routine health measurements and intricate enrichment programs. Moreover **there is no scientific evidence that cetaceans suffer under human care**. However there are dozens and dozens of published studies showing that the research, education and conservation these facilities propogate are vital to the global community. Please strike down this bill. It is devious, unethical and psuedoscientific. Stand with science, stand with zoological organizations. Thank you for reading my submission.

This bill, SB3055, in an extremists approach at attempting to take away all forms of connection we have to marine life. I encourage you to humanely oppose SB3055. I am a resident of Oahu with a degree in Behavioral Psychology. The bill has brought up false accusations, twisted garbage and created a platform where selfish emotions are laid out. What about the animals? What about the health and well-being of the cetaceans that live their lives in these state of the art facilities? When are we going to stop listening to people rant, and start actually learning from the scientific research world renowned scientists, professors, veterinarians, biologists, and these incredible animals have contributed to over the last twenty years + of science?

There should be no separation of label between “breeding or entertainment” and “scientific and educational purposes”. There are no marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in the United States. In Hawaii we have the gift of one of the most top notch, leaders in the field, Dolphin Quest. I, myself, have first-hand witnessed the amount of world class care and devotion the animal specialists show towards their animals every single day. Not only can locals and tourists visit for no admission fee, but they can create a close connection to their dolphin Ohana. Dolphin Quest invites keiki, locals, and visitors to have an up-close interaction in a safe, humane, and natural environment. The importance of education, especially for our keiki, is tremendous for the future of our global stewards. Dolphin Quest allows for scientists to come from all over the world and be able to explore their studies with the cetacean ambassadors who call these natural lagoons home. This alone, has drastically benefitted their counterparts thus far. Being able to breed and transport in these types of settings allows these animals to continue their natural behaviors, excel their novel and enriching socializations, and continue to educate guests, viewers, AND scientists alike. Dolphin Quest has opened their doors for 30 years to conservation efforts throughout the world for this very reason.

Suggested in bill SB3055, are complete false ideologies on what “causes” death for a cetacean under human care. “Malnutrition, trauma, failure to thrive”: these are all symptoms known through research that wild populations face. There are strandings of thousands each year due to the lack of awareness us humans have when we pollute our waters with oil, chemicals, fishing gear, and plastic. Malnutrition would be experienced when animals experience a loss of resource or issues with finding a safe environment, NOT when they are hand fed pounds of restaurant quality seafood every single day in a non-threatening setting.

“Unnatural aggression or stress” – we are oblivious to think animals such as cetaceans aren’t naturally socializing in playful and disciplinary manners. Every single animal I have witnessed in a wild setting has shown markings of displacement, predation, socialization and aggression. If you ban the transport of dolphins, are we to no longer own dogs and cats? They socialize in the same format.

We need to be spending our time focusing on the welfare and increasing dangers wild populations of cetaceans face. Accredited facilities such as Dolphin Quest need to be able to transport their animals in order to maintain the best interest of each individual animal, and to prevent unhealthy environments of separation or inbreeding. Transportation of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. We *need* to look at the facts, and we *need* to analyze research from experts, for we are only robbing future generations of the opportunity to create a connection to nature when supporting such a bill as SB3005. I would not be where I am, nor have the adoration I do for marine life today, without places like Dolphin Quest. Please oppose Bill SB3005.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:32:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cameron Dabney		Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose SB3055.

This bill is not based on the most recent scientific data and has a biased background. Animal extremist groups should not be able to influence decisions on animal (in this case cetacean) welfare without proper vetting. Those decisions should be made by marine mammal experts, such as Rae Stone and Jay Sweeney, world renown marine mammal veterinarians and owners of Dolphin Quest.

Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park are both accredited by the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (AMMPA) and follow the laws outlined under the **Marine Mammal Protection Act** as **educational** display facilities. They are regulated by the USDA and are upheld to an even greater standard governed by the AMMPA.

I love both Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park and I want to see them thrive – which means they must have the ability to make critical animal-welfare decisions, like transport, on their own. This is about the animals, not about humans. Animal well-being **MUST** come first. Keeping decisions, like transport, in the hands of those dedicated to the animals is essential.

As a resident of Hawaii, a mother, and animal lover, I urge you to oppose SB3055. The Marine Mammal Protection Act of having cetaceans under human care, a federal law, should guide you on your decision above all else.

Thank you,

Cameron Dabney

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:32:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alex Yenney		Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill, like many others before it that have been rejected by this state, is not rooted in science. Based off flawed anecdotal evidence and the pulling of emotional heartstrings, this bill is meant to stifle the education of future generations by denying them to access to see and learn about cetaceans up close and in person.

By no means is this bill rooted in fact or and by no means is it meant to help our communities. It is merely propaganda by extremists aimed only at derailing an industry that has brought so much joy and learning to the people of Hawaii.

I am a Hawaiian resident and I oppose this bill. The state legislature should too.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:32:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Max Casillas Mancilla	Gulf World	Oppose	No

Comments:

Good afternoon i think that law is made with out unknowledgement, the breeding its a normal behavior it will be a bad decision to stop it because there are two ways to do it, the first one is split the group by males and females and the second one is with a contraceptive wich is dangerous because they can get cancer

Max Casillas

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:35:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marco Badillo	Dolphin Discovery	Oppose	No

Comments:

Good afternoon my name is Marco Badillo, I'm a marine mammal specialist in Dolphin Discovery for 4 years, I'm against The law That's prohibits the breeding and transport of cetaceans under human care. In all this time i already learn a lot from this beautiful animals,I believe the educational programs, we give to the people, we can make a really good impact to their minds to take care the species of this planet. And the world will be as one.

We have the opportunity to be face to face with and show them and teach them how to make a better world.

We need to learn about the mistakes of human, and be better to provide them the best quality. The only important is healthy of the animals.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:41:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Omar Rodriguez	Gulf World	Oppose	No

Comments:

- If one bans the transport or breeding of dolphins, based on zero scientific data suggesting one should, what is next? Horses? Dogs? Cattle? This is an emotional plea by misinformed animal extremists.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:41:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
megan mcginnis		Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not support SB 3055. The motivation behind SB 3055 seems to be to do away with marine life parks and facilities like Dolphin Quest. There exists a philosophical divide between people who work each day to care for dolphins and whales in human care and those who believe that such animals are better off in the wild. The truth is that humans have polluted and desecrated the wild and now wild animals and their habitats are in peril. Thousands of cetaceans die each year because of bycatch alone, and thousands more from human pollution. Those who support SB 3055 do not care about those dying animals and they are misdirected and misinformed. Humans who care for the animals in accredited public display facilities do care and try to educate people about the harms caused by humans in the wild. The proponents of SB 3055 do not spend their time, money or resources to educate people about these most important issues.

When deciding which side is right, it is important to acknowledge the facts. Animals in human care are in better health than their counterparts in the wild. They live longer, they have enriched lives, they do not have predators and have high quality diets. The people who care for them are the experts and spend many years preparing and learning about these incredible animals. Transporting the animals is necessary to maintain genetically diverse and healthy populations. The wild environment is not ideal or even healthy for dolphins because of human impacts. Interacting with dolphins in the wild puts those animals in danger and unnecessary risks.

People who support SB 3055 are not experts and do not care for these animals on a daily basis. They do not have any credible research that support their position. They rely on fear and misinformation to push their agenda. If the supporters of SB 3055 got their way, it would rob future generations of humans the opportunity to meet and interact with dolphins in person. It would set back research and the knowledge gathering on these animals by decades. Society would be worse off and we would be less informed about these animals. These are the facts.

I urge you to read the materials from scientists who support Dolphin Quest. Companies like Dolphin Quest are a benefit to Hawaii and Hawaii's keiki. Passing a bill that seeks to do away with them is not in the best interests of Hawaii.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:42:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marcos cancino	Dolphin discovery	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Marcos I am animal care.

I have been talker animals for 18 years ago.

I had been learning a lot of this animals ,and I believe

This environment are very good for them ,because we can

Teach people about them and how talker them as well

We can't talker something that we didn't know and we can't love something that we don't know



Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session 2018
Thursday, February 1, 2018 2:30pm
Hawaii State Capitol Conference Room 016

Re: Opposition to SB 3055 – RELATING TO CETACEANS

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Riviere and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

Dolphin Quest strongly opposes S.B. NO 3055. We appreciate that the sponsors care for the welfare of cetaceans, but the proposed bill misrepresents the quality of care the marine mammals under consideration receive and it ignores the critically important contributions Hawaii's public display facilities contribute to essential marine conservation, research and education.

The language in the bill is based on false and unsubstantiated claims to support an unnecessary prohibition on the transportation of cetaceans under professional human care. Specifically:

Public Support of Marine Parks and Aquariums Remains Strong

- Dolphin Quest continues to experience robust participation from both Hawaii residents and tourists, eager to learn more about our animals and experience them up close in our educational programs.
- Unlike Maui and South Carolina, who have never had a modern marine mammal facility, most communities including the islands of Oahu and Hawaii value their local marine mammal facilities and vigorously support their marine life parks.
- A 2017 public opinion poll conducted by SMS of Hawaii residents registered to vote shows strong support of marine life parks and aquariums, with 84% saying they have visited one of the major marine parks of Hawaii. (See supplemental document for additional details.)
- What has happened is that a vocal minority of individuals who want to close all zoos and aquariums are using misinformation and false claims about the dolphins under our care, disseminated largely through social media, to advance their personal agenda.

Dolphins Exhibit Natural Behaviors Under Professional Human Care

- Those with personal agendas opposing zoos and aquariums spread malicious and fabricated claims that the dolphins under professional human care experience unnatural aggression and stress due to a dysfunctional social structure. Marine mammal scientists who actually study dolphins in both wild and public display environments (including Dolphin Quest sites) report

observing natural behavior and healthy social interactions in modern accredited marine mammal facilities. It is precisely because dolphins are intelligent and social animals that they are ideally suited to thrive in modern marine parks where they form intricate relationships with their caregivers and actively interact with enriching and mentally stimulating environments.

- Dr. Kathleen Dudzinski, has researched and is widely published on the topics of cetacean behavior, acoustics, and cognition in both the wild and in captivity. She explains, "I have studied several groups of wild dolphins as well as those in managed care using exactly the same methods for data collection and analysis. In the more than 26 years that I've researched dolphins, I have seen the same type of social behavior in all groups I have observed. In all the facilities where I've made observations (e.g., Dolphin Quest, Zoo Duisburg, Dolphin Encounters, Roatan Institute for Marine Sciences, etc.) the dolphins exhibit behaviors (gestures, postures, vocalizations) and interactions nearly identically to what I observe among wild dolphins. The fact that dolphin behaviors and social exchanges from all my study sites are often statistically indistinguishable from one another supports my view. The benefits we gain from having these animals in managed care are not just for research but also for conservation and education efforts." (See attached Dudzinski correspondence and published references for more details)

The Median (or typical) Lifespan of Dolphins is Longer in Public Display than in the Wild

- In scientific studies of wild populations, survivorship has been examined either by determining the annual survival rate of a population (excluding calves under 1 year of age), from which median life span can be calculated, or by constructing life tables from which median life span can be read directly. These studies have shown that:
 - Survival rates have been increasing in marine mammal parks and aquariums (Small and DeMaster, 1995; Innes, 2005), with the most recent study showing an annual survival rate of 0.97 (which means 97% of the population is expected to survive from one year to the next) for dolphins in U.S. facilities (Innes, 2005). This corresponds to a median life span of 22.8 years.
 - Survival rates reported for wild populations have varied widely, from .902 to .961, with median life spans between 8.3 and 17.4 years (Wells and Scott, 1990; Stolen and Barlow, 2003; Mattson *et al.*, 2006; Neuenhoff, 2009). These differences may be due to differences in study methodology (i.e., tracking a live population vs determining the age of dead animals that stranded), or may reflect true lifespan variations in different wild populations.
- Maximum Life Span of a species is quite different than its Median or Typical Life Span:
 - The oldest bottlenose dolphin in human care was Nellie, who lived to be 61 years old. She was born February 27, 1953, at Marineland of Florida, now Georgia Aquarium's Marineland Dolphin Adventure in St. Augustine, Florida.
 - The oldest bottlenose dolphin in the wild is Nicklo, who was 66 years old when she was last sighted in 2016 in the Sarasota Bay population. Researchers extracted a tooth from her in 1984 to determine her age.

Misuse of the NMFS Marine Mammal Inventory

- It is impossible to even investigate the claims referencing the NMFS marine mammal inventory. This data base has been plagued with countless inaccuracies, has been taken off line and is not even currently accessible.
- Local detractors inaccurately attribute animals to our collection that are not ours as deceased and reference animals in our current population as deceased when they are in fact alive and thriving. Additionally, it is likely that many of these purported deaths were reported to the NMFS Inventory more than 30 years ago, before Dolphin Quest opened and possibly include deaths that occurred at Hawaii research facilities that have long been closed.

Dolphin Transportation is Safe and Essential

- The ability to transport dolphins is critical to support individual animal welfare and the sustainability of populations at state of the art facilities like Dolphin Quest.
- Dolphin Quest and other marine life parks move animals for a number of reasons, including to create genetic balance in long-term dolphin reproduction programs, to create optimal social and dolphin group dynamics, and to further ocean conservation and education goals.
- Dolphins have been safely moved between marine life parks for decades. Marine mammal specialists including a veterinarian are at their sides throughout the transport. The moves meet rigorous USDA standards and guidelines, are precisely planned in great detail, and every care is taken to keep the dolphins comfortable between locations.
- Dr. Jason Bruck is an internationally recognized and widely published scientist in the field of dolphin behavior and cognition. Dr. Bruck explains, "...to expressly prevent Hawaiian institutions like Dolphin Quest from moving animals between facilities will hinder the expression of natural social dynamics in dolphins. This will lead to an increase in aggression and unnatural behavior." (See attached Bruck correspondence and referenced publications on social behavior)

Public Display Facilities are the Only Remaining Facilities Housing Cetaceans that Conduct Scientific Studies or Provide Educational Programming

- There are NO facilities in the U.S. licensed to house cetaceans "solely for breeding or entertainment purposes". All public display facilities are required by the MMPA to provide educational programming that meets nationally recognized educational standards. Dolphin Quest takes great pride in its educational programming for the public and for Hawaii's school children, which complies with all Hawaii State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards. Dolphin Quest has provided field trips and outreach marine science educational programs for more than 97,000 of Hawaii's school children. Recent surveys of Hawaii teachers who have participated in Dolphin Quest's educational programs reveal:
 - 92% agree that visiting Dolphin Quest can inspire conservation action that can help marine mammals in the wild.

- 93% agree that Dolphin Quest’s on-site informal science classes are valuable educational opportunities for Hawaii students.
 - 98% would recommend Dolphin Quest to other teachers as a way to augment their marine education curriculum.
- Dolphin Quest was conceived by two marine mammal veterinary specialists to provide an essential bridge between ecotourism, scientific study, conservation and education. Without ecotourism dollars to provide funding for critical research, conservation and education, Hawaii would lose its position as a leader in marine mammal research and education.
 - “In short, the studies that we are able to do on managed populations provide vital information that will help wild populations and it is with the support of well managed facilities that manage marine mammals, like Dolphin Quest, that prioritize animal welfare, research and education that these studies can be done”, says Dr. Andreas Fahlman, Research Director for Fundacion Oceanografic. “I have worked around the world in a number of facilities and in my opinion, Dolphin Quest stands out as the best.” (See attached Fahlman letter)
 - Since the proposed bill exempts facilities that provide support for science and education, it appears that the sponsors acknowledge the essential nature of scientific study and education. That being the case, the legislature should know that there are NO remaining facilities anywhere in the U.S. that house cetaceans “solely for scientific or educational purposes”.
 - The following statements are from members of the scientific community: “...Critical research findings have come from studies of dolphins and related species in managed care environments, which have provided the vast majority of what is known about their perception, physiology, and cognition. This includes both basic facts about these animals (e.g., echolocation and how it works, diving physiology, energetics, gestation period, hearing range, signature whistles, and so forth) and applied information such as how they react to environmental stressors and how to diagnose and treat their diseases...The advances that have come from research in marine mammal facilities could not have come from studies of animals in the wild.” (See attached 2016 Statement Supporting Research in Marine Mammal Facilities signed by 82 marine mammal scientists)

About Dolphin Quest

- Dolphin Quest has been a responsible community-focused organization in Hawaii since 1988 and now operates two interactive marine life parks on Oahu and Hawaii’s Big Island. Dolphin Quest is an accredited member of the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums. Both of Dolphin Quest’s Hawaii facilities are licensed and inspected by the USDA and have been rigorously inspected by the independent American Humane Association in order to become Certified Humane facilities. (see attached statement from Dr. Robin Ganzert)
- Our employees are active stewards of Hawaii’s environment and have contributed thousands of hours to projects such as beach and reef clean-ups, marine mammal stranding response efforts, highway clean-ups, Make-A-Wish Foundation, and many other local stewardship efforts.

- “Our wish families absolutely love the Dolphin Quest experience. We’re so grateful for the Aloha spirit that you and your team share with each and every family that comes to visit. Their heart for our mission is what make’s wishes possible.” – Make-A-Wish Hawaii
- “The kind of training we get here at Dolphin Quest is ideal for us, because it allows us the experience of handling live animals. So, here our team members are able to feel what the heart rate is like on a healthy dolphin and go through various scenarios that they may encounter in the water that might pose a danger to the team or public so we can respond more appropriately.” Tom Elliot – Big Island Stranding Response Coordinator
- “The benefit of providing training at Dolphin Quest for volunteers, veterinarians and other response personnel is, it gives our key people that are first responders the opportunity to actually gain hands-on experience with handling live animals. We don’t usually have the opportunity to have them work with animals under the best-case scenario and obtain the experience and the confidence they need to properly respond to wild dolphin strandings throughout the state” - Dr. Kristi West, Stranding Director, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Marine Life Parks Provide Valuable Public Education, Conservation and Science

In closing, we hope that the Hawaii State legislature will recognize the substantial contributions Hawaii’s marine mammal facilities make to marine conservation, research and education and will codify and support the USDA and NMFS federal regulations overseeing the permitting, housing, care and transportation of cetaceans in Hawaii. USDA has a veterinary team which is experienced in the care of cetaceans and in inspecting USDA licensed marine mammal facilities. In conjunction with the USDA inspectors, the Hawaii DOA is more than capable of ensuring that any transportation of cetaceans complies with USDA standards and meets the highest standards of animal care.

Respectfully yours,

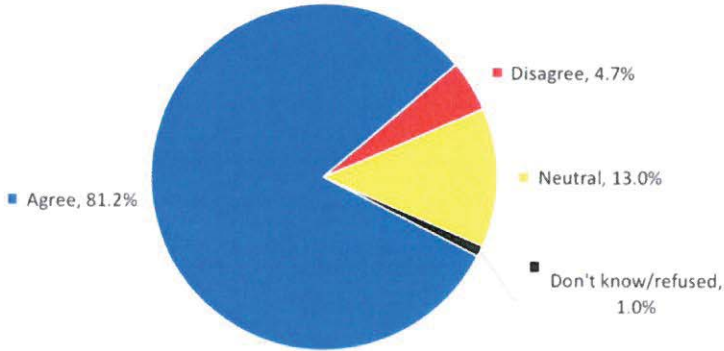


L. Rae Stone, DVM
Dolphin Quest

The following results are from a public opinion poll conducted by SMS of Hawaii registered voters in 2017:

84% have visited one of the major marine parks of Hawai'i

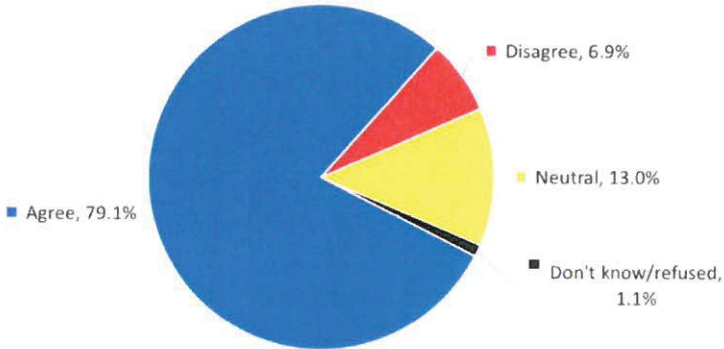
Hawai'i should continue to support accredited marine life parks



➤ 81% of O'ahu residents agreed that Hawai'i should continue to support accredited marine life parks

Registered Voters Only

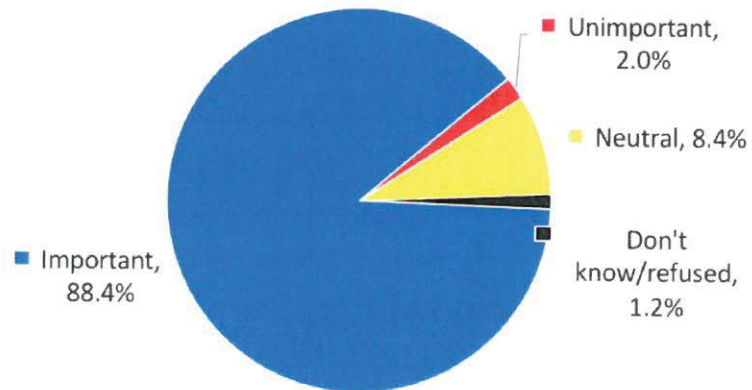
Hawai'i should continue to support accredited marine life parks



➤ 79% of Hawai'i residents agreed that *Hawai'i should continue to support accredited marine life parks*

Registered Voters Only

Educate visitors not to disturb wild marine life in the oceans or in their natural habitats



- 88% of Hawai'i residents felt that it is important for a marine life park or aquarium to *educate visitors not to disturb wild marine life in the oceans or in their natural habitats*
 - 86% O'ahu
 - 96% Hawai'i Island

Registered Voters Only





21 March 2017

To: The Hawaii State Legislature

Re: Dolphin Quest Support

Dear Hawaii State Legislators,

I am writing with concern over the recent resolution (H.R. No. 136) regarding a proposed ban on captive breeding of cetaceans as well as a plan to phase out their public display in Hawaii. Animals at Dolphin Quest on Hawaii and Oahu receive exceptional care, led by world-renowned veterinarians who collaborate with scientists from around the world to share knowledge.

I have 25+ years experience studying behavior, acoustics, and communication of several delphinid species both in the wild and in captivity. I collect my data from the underwater perspective with support during the entirety of my career from eco-tourists. I have spent more than two decades studying wild Atlantic spotted dolphins (Bahamas) and Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins (Japan), and more than a 15 years in systematic comparative studies of three groups of captive bottlenose dolphins (Roatan Institute for Marine Sciences, Honduras; Dolphin Encounters at Blue Lagoon Island, Bahamas; Zoo Duisburg, Germany). I have also had the privilege to observe the dolphins at Dolphin Quest for an extended period of time. Although some claim that research in zoological parks is not relevant to wild populations, I find significantly more similarities in behaviors and vocal cues between individuals in all groups than I do differences. This assertion includes my observations of the dolphins at Dolphin Quest in Hawaii (both islands).

As a brief introduction, the Dolphin Communication Project (DCP) is the only organization to conduct direct comparative behavioral studies on both captive and wild dolphins – collecting our data via a focal follow, all occurrence sampling protocol in **exactly** the same manner at all of our field sites and then analyzing the data from all field sites also in **exactly** the same manner. We find **no statistically significant differences** between how dolphins exchange information – their signals as behaviors, postures, gestures or vocal cues, etc. – whether the dolphins are wild or captive. We have several papers published – see list below.

Specifically, my colleagues and I have examined whether individual dolphins from three wild and two captive groups exchange pectoral fin (aka flipper) contact in the same or different ways. Our results suggest that the messages dolphins share with each other via their pectoral fins (e.g., greetings via flipper to flipper touch, appeasement via flipper to body rubs, etc.) are conserved across dolphin species and study sites. The signals used and messages sent are roughly the same whether dolphins are wild or captive (natural lagoon or man-made pool), tropical or temperate in habitat.

Indeed, we are much closer to understanding dolphin cognitive comprehension precisely because of research with captive dolphins; Dr. Louis Herman and his colleagues at the Kewalo Basin Marine Mammal Laboratory in Hawaii spent several decades enlightening the scientific and public communities to the fact that dolphins can comprehend the

www.dolphincommunicationproject.org

DOLPHIN COMMUNICATION PROJECT

P.O. Box 711, Old Mystic, CT 06372-0711 • Tel: 860 514 4704

components of language (syntax, semantics), that they have body awareness, can understand abstract labels, gestural pointing and human gaze directions. Similarly, the professional teams at Dolphin Quest are at the forefront of best practices in animal care, ocean research and direct action programs. Dolphin Quest is considered one of the top facilities in the world contributing to global knowledge on dolphin and ocean conservation and science. Dolphin Quest contributed more than \$3.5 million dollars in financial and in-the-field support of marine mammal studies that increases our collective knowledge of these animals providing an improved understanding of dolphin health, behavior, cognition and welfare, as well as how to protect them in the wild.

Conservation is a key issue in protecting our planet – both terrestrial and aquatic habitats and species. Presenting charismatic megafauna (e.g., dolphins) allows a facility to capture the attention of millions of people who will never visit the oceans. Facilities like Dolphin Quest allow people to connect to the animals and systems that drive our ocean planet. It is precisely because of these programs that many folks will become passionate about the oceans and protecting them.

Our understanding of dolphin physiology, behavior, and biology has increased dramatically, even exponentially, since the first marine park opened more than 70 years ago. This increased knowledge led to technological innovations that allowed facilities to greatly improve their husbandry practices as well as their enrichment, research, and educational programs. In fact, I believe that our understanding of dolphins would be a mere shadow of our current knowledge and collective expertise if we'd not been able to observe, study, care for, and maintain dolphins in captivity. We would know next to nothing of their physiology nor have any real insight into their mind or cognitive abilities. All of these arguments are relevant for other delphinids. Without a keen understanding of a species at both the group and individual levels, how could we even make informed decisions about conservation or management issues that would also benefit wild populations?

Conversely, there is no peer-reviewed scientific evidence to support the claims in this resolution (H.R. No. 136) that the animals in accredited, U.S. Government regulated facilities like Dolphin Quest are anything but healthy and thriving. Many of these claims are standard message points from animal extremist organizations that seek to break the animal-human bond and close all zoos and aquariums.

Our oceans are in peril. The number of people in cities greatly exceeds those in rural regions. These urbanites rarely get to interact with wild animals on land, much less visit the coastline or oceans. In fact, many residents of cities will only ever experience dolphins as a result of school trips or because of ready access to an aquarium. It would be the rare few who might ever see a wild dolphin or whale. Indeed, we have residents of cities join our eco-tours but we can accommodate 8-10 people per week program – and only are able to run a few programs each year to assist with our data collection field work! Yet, to protect these animals, the majority of the voices will come from cities and these people need a way to connect with these animals. They need an up-close and personal way to connect with our natural world and our oceans. Facilities like Dolphin Quest offer the personal connection to foster the next general of environmental stewards. Learning gained from working closely with cetaceans is used to help rescue, rehabilitate and release marine mammals.

There are multiple layers involved in understanding another species; research results fuel and encourage a greater connection for humans as environmental stewards. All of the captive animals I have studied, including the dolphins at Dolphin Quest, are healthy, happy and enriched. The fact that captive and wild dolphin behaviors that I have studied are often statistically indistinguishable from each other supports my view. The benefits we gain from having these animals in human care, in captivity, are not just for research but also for conservation and education efforts.

In an effort to share what our community has learned from captive dolphins, John Anderson, Terramar Productions, and I produced a film titled *Understanding Dolphins*. Our film presents a fraction of what we have learned from studying captive dolphins. You can view this 26 minute film at the following link: <https://vimeo.com/92797184>

Please, please **do not support** this house resolution (H.R. NO. 136).

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me with questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Kathleen M. Dudzinski, Ph.D.
Director, Dolphin Communication Project

Available Files:

List of Scientific Publications – captive versus wild dolphin comparisons

- Dudzinski, KM, Ribic, CA (2017). Pectoral fin contact as a mechanism for social bonding among dolphins. *Animal Behavior & Cognition* 4(1): 31-49.
- Harvey, BS, Dudzinski, KM, Kuczaj, SA (2017). The Nature of Social Relationships in Bottlenose Dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*): Associations and the Role of Affiliative, Agonistic, and Socio-sexual Behaviors. *Behavioural Processes* 135: 145-156.
- Levengood, AL, Dudzinski, KM. (2015). Is blood thicker than water? The role of kin and non-kin in non-mother-calf associations of captive bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*). *Behavioural Processes* 124: 52-59.
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- Dudzinski, KM, Gregg, JD, Melillo-Sweeting, K, Levengood, A, Seay, B., Kuczaj II, SA. 2012. Tactile contact exchanges between dolphins: self-rubbing versus inter-individual contact in three species from three geographies. *International Journal of Comparative Psychology – Special Symposium Issue* 25: 21-43
- Greene, W, Melillo-Sweeting, K, Dudzinski, KM. 2011. Comparing object play in captive and wild dolphins. *International Journal of Comparative Psychology* 24(3), 292-306
- Dudzinski, KM. 2010. Overlap between information gained from complimentary and comparative studies of captive and wild dolphin communication. *International Journal of Comparative Psychology* 23(4): 566-586.
- Dudzinski, KM, Gregg, JD, Paulos, RD, Kuczaj, SA. 2010. A comparison of pectoral fin contact behaviour for three distinct dolphin populations. *Behavioural Processes* 84: 559-567.
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PDFs available on request, and some are available for free download from the publications page on the DCP web site at: <http://dolphincommunicationproject.org/publications/scientific-publications.html>



Dolphin Communication Project
P.O. Box 711, Old Mystic, CT 06372-0711
www.dolphincommunicationproject.org

March 21, 2017

To the Honorable Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Committee on Agriculture
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street,
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Opposition to HR 136 (hearing date March 22nd 2017, 9:30 am)

In my capacity as an internationally recognized and published scientist in the field of dolphin behavior and social cognition and a Research Fellow at the University of St. Andrews I offer testimony in opposition to HR 136. I have personally observed the animals at Dolphin Quest Hawaii and Dolphin Quest Oahu and found the animals to be in good physical and mental health. The dolphins are not listless or subdued and they engage in species typical behavior including affiliative swimming, play, acoustic communication and exploration, general curiosity with novel stimuli and appropriate parental care. Social groups are well managed and I can report anecdotally that aggression in Dolphin Quest animals seems far less than for the wild populations I have surveyed in Scotland and Costa Rica. I see no signs of injury or deformity and, compared to wild dolphins, Dolphin Quest animals are pristine in body appearance and condition. They have access to natural seawater and, for all intents and purposes, are currently housed in conditions that are no different than proposed seaside sanctuaries.

The statements in HR 136 regarding stereotypic behavior are baseless. We have been successful in mitigating a jaw clap behavior through acoustic enrichment tools, however no credible scientist would ever conclude that a given behavior is necessarily a result of “depression” (as HR 136 claims), especially without accompanying stress and heart-rate data taken on an animal exhibiting the action in question [1]. In cases I have observed relative to animals at Dolphin Quest Oahu, repetitive jaw claps seem to relate more to social facilitation and group cohesion than any form of “depression”. Stereotypy is by definition a seemingly functionless behavior that often lacks variability in response to environmental change [2]. However, these dolphins do the behavior in response to each other, which is contrary to how we think of stereotypy. So, while the behavior is not exactly typical, innovation and behavior sharing are key features of dolphin behavior both in the wild and under human care [3].

I can attest that the information presented to guests at Dolphin Quest is accurate, current and informative. Dolphin Quest staff are clear to guests regarding the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) related to the feeding of wild dolphins. Scientists, like myself, who have collected valuable research data with the animals at Dolphin Quest, are also able to interact with guests giving them first hand information on the study of marine mammals. Furthermore,

scientists like myself give talks hosted by Dolphin Quest to the public at large, further providing educational opportunities for Hawaiians and visitors to the state. The animals perform behaviors that are natural, with the exception of basic target training (as there are no target polls in nature) and training related to cognitive testing which is well within the scope of the research requirements of the MMPA.

I am struck by the degree of scientific and historical inaccuracy present in the preamble of HR 136. The implication that these dolphins are prevented from contributing to natural ecology implies that they were recently caught or that they could be released. However, North American facilities have been very successful in captive breeding and have not taken from the wild in decades. Furthermore dolphins born under human care could never be released under the current provisions of the MMPA. Dolphins exhibit a fission-fusion social structure where individuals will break-up and reform social pairings based on age, social status and ecological need [4]. Yet lines 4-7 of HR 136 would expressly prevent Hawaiian institutions like Dolphin Quest from moving animals between facilities, which will hinder the expression of natural social dynamics in dolphins. This will lead to an **increase** in aggression and unnatural behavior. Furthermore, the call to end breeding would necessitate the use of unnatural mechanisms of birth control including medications and unnatural social pairings between dominant males in sex-segregated groups. This too will lead to an **increase** in stress and aggression especially for mixed-age male groups with juveniles present [5]. Denying the animals the opportunity to express natural breeding and calf-rearing behavior is also a potential source of stress that will be difficult to mitigate.

The idea that animals under human care have shorter lifespans is demonstrably false. Scientists have estimated the average lifespan for wild bottlenose dolphins to be around 20-25 years [6]. The AP recently conducted a survey at a non-Hawaiian facility and found that average lifespans among animals under human care were closer to 45 years [7]. The two Dolphin Quest facilities alone house eight individuals who are at, or beyond average life expectancy for wild bottlenose dolphins. Furthermore, analysis of hormone data shows that wild and captive groups show no appreciable difference in stress cortisol, and that when trained husbandry behaviors are utilized, animals in managed care facilities are less stressed than their wild counterparts [8].

This bill has the rare potential to cause the very problems it outlines in its preamble. Instead of increasing the quality of these animals' lives it will decrease it, as HR 136 will likely lead to shorter lifespans as well as increased stress and aggression. These animals communicate normally [9, 10], socialize normally [11, 12] and these particular dolphins teach us a great deal about their wild counterparts [13-15]. There is no scientific, ethical or moral reason to pursue this legislation and I urge this body to vote no on HR 136.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jason N. Bruck

Marie Curie Research Fellow
University of St. Andrews
Sea Mammal Research Unit
Gatty Marine Laboratory
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KY16 8LB
Scotland, U.K.

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March 8, 2017

To Whom it May Concern

My name is Andreas Fahlman and I am a comparative eco-physiologist, I guess that is just a fancy name for a scientist that is trying to understand the relationship between what animals can do and survive in different environments. I have worked on a wide variety of projects studying a number of different animals around the world, from the Arctic to the SubAntarctic for the last 20 years and what we currently are phasing will require the a collaborative effort to prevent mass extinction of entire species.

Increasing environmental change caused by humans pose a real and imminent threat to many marine animals. Still we know very little about most of the species in the ocean. Marine mammals, and especially cetaceans, are top predators and therefore important sentinel species. What that means is that when their health changes it may provide important clues to changes in the environment or eco system. Our current understanding about the welfare, physiology and veterinary medicine of cetaceans comes from animals under human care. However, we still have a lot to learn and animals under managed care provide an invaluable resource to understand what normal and healthy animals look like. It is true that cetaceans under managed care may not always behave like their wild cousins, but studies that look a behavior and cognition suggest that there are no noticeable differences. Physiologically there may be differences, but without studies on animals in a controlled setting and that participate voluntarily it will be very difficult to understand the physiological limitations that these animals face with an environment that is changing at an alarming pace.

For example, respiratory disease is a major cause of morbidity and mortality in cetaceans both in wild and managed populations. Still, our understanding of the respiratory system in marine mammals in general and in ceteaceans in particular is rudimentary at best. It was recently shown that dolphins that live in close proximity to the Deep water horizon oil spill have a high prevalence of lung disease. However, as we had not historical data on the health of these populations before the accident, we cannot prove that it was the oil spill that caused the lung issues. We therefore need to be better prepared before the next disaster will happen

In recent years, we have developed tools to study respiratory physiology in ceteaceans. The device consists of a flow-meter that measures the amount of air they inhale and exhale, and also measures the concentration of oxygen when they exhale. Together, the flow and gas concentration are used to determine the metabolic rate. In addition to metabolic rate, these measurements can be used to look at other things, like lung health. Human doctors use similar equipment and measurements, in a process called pulmonary function testing, to look at lung health in people. With this device we could study the normal values in different populations of ceteaceans to assess what is normal, and thereby assess if there is problem in the ecosystem. By comparing respiratory health in different populations of cetaceans, we can learn more about the health of those populations, and the marine environment they live in.

We are also using this equipment to study how cetaceans dive to extreme depths and hold their breath for such a long time. This information is crucial to understand how changes in the environment may impact the ability to survive or rear a young. In short, the studies that we are able to do on managed populations provide vital information that will help wild populations and it is with the support of well managed facilities that manage marine mammals, like Dolphin Quest, that prioritize animal welfare, research and education that these studies can be done. I have worked around the world in a number of facilities and in my opinion, Dolphin Quest stands out as the best. I sincerely hope that you take great pride in the conservation efforts that the amazing staff, animals at that Dolphin Quest provide at their Hawaii facilities as their passion and work will help make the wild a better place.

Sincerely,



Andreas Fahlman
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Scientist Statement Supporting Research in Marine Mammal Facilities

April 8, 2016

We, the undersigned members of the scientific community, wish to acknowledge the importance of marine mammals in zoos, aquariums, and marine mammal facilities, and express our support for research conducted at these facilities. We know that critical research findings have come from studies of dolphins and related species in managed care environments, which have provided the vast majority of what is known about their perception, physiology, and cognition. This includes both basic facts about these animals (e.g., echolocation and how it works¹, diving physiology², energetics³, gestation period⁴, hearing range⁵, signature whistles⁶, and so forth) and applied information such as how they react to environmental stressors⁷ and how to diagnose and treat their diseases.⁸

The benefits of such research extend well beyond the animals in zoological facilities. The interpretation of data from field studies is directly informed by what we have learned about the cognition and physiology of these animals in managed care settings. Moreover, because science is inherently a collaborative endeavor, research findings from these animals contribute to our collective understanding across the animal kingdom. Finally, research in managed care settings impacts conservation efforts by: (a) providing the baseline information necessary to inform conservation plans and practices (e.g., typical respiration rates, metabolic rates, gestation length, hearing range and thresholds, etc.), (b) documenting physiological and behavioral responses to environmental stressors such as sound and contaminants⁷ to inform population managers, and (c) developing and testing techniques and tools for assessing animals in the field.⁹

The advances that have come from research in marine mammal facilities could not have come from studies of animals in the wild. Field studies are crucial, however, many research questions are unsuited to discovery at a distance. Studies of pregnancy, birth, and fine-scale calf development require the type of close and consistent observation that is only possible in zoological settings. The hypothesis testing required for questions about cognition, perception, and physiology requires the ability to present animals with specific situations and challenges utilizing the necessary controls, consistency, and repetition that are impossible to achieve in the wild. Indeed, as with research in any discipline, a comprehensive understanding of these animals requires a combination of both in-situ and ex-situ studies; studies based in the wild and in zoological settings. This idea is neither new nor specific to marine mammals, but is critical to the way scientific discovery works.

Sincerely,

Francisco Aboitiz, PhD, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

José Fco. Zamorano Abramson, PhD, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Michael Adkesson, DVM, Dipl ACZM, Chicago Zoological Society / Brookfield Zoo

Javier Almunia, PhD, Loro Parque Fundación

Richard Bates, PhD, University of St. Andrews

Gordon B. Bauer, PhD, New College of Florida

Don R. Bergfelt, PhD, Ross University, School of Veterinary Medicine

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Holli Eskelinen, PhD, Dolphins Plus
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Vanessa Fravel, DVM, Six Flags Discovery Kingdom
Steven J.M. Gans, MD, St. Jansdal Hospital
Joseph Gaspard, PhD, Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium
William G. Gilmartin, President, Hawai`i Wildlife Fund
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Susan Hespos, PhD, Northwestern University
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Clive D. L. Wynne, PhD, Arizona State University
Pamela K. Yochem, DVM, PhD, Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute

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“To earn certification, all three Dolphin Quest locations passed a thorough audit of their facilities and practices. The evaluation verified many dimensions of animal welfare, including excellent animal health and housing; positive social interactions within groups of animals, as well as between animals and handlers; and safe and stimulating living environments.

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Robin R. Ganzert, Ph.D

Reference: Honolulu Star Advertiser article entitled “Dolphin Quest provides highest animal care” posted January 17, 2017

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SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:46:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jade Haughian		Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Gil Riviere, Vice-Chair

Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Twenty-Ninth Legislature

Regular Session 2018

Re: Opposition to SB 3055 – RELATING TO CETACEANS

(Hearing date: Thursday, February 1st at 2:30pm)

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Riviere and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

I strongly urge you to oppose S.B. 3055.

My name is Jade Haughian and I live, work and vote in Hawaii. I am opposed to SB 3055 and feel you should vote no for many reasons.

This particular bill is yet another attempt by animal extremists to remove animals from human care and has no basis in science or other reasonable purpose. I am very dismayed and find it quite unfortunate that members of the Hawaii Legislature have been persuaded by their (no doubt interminable) efforts to give a platform to their radicalized rhetoric.

The bill provides exceptions for cetacean transport between facilities that are “solely for scientific and educational purposes” and it seems the authors are unaware no such facility exists in Hawaii and to me, shows a lack of familiarity with our local community. However, there does appear to be an attempt to show an appreciation of science. You are in possession of written testimony from many current marine mammal

science experts who oppose this bill, who individually, have worked with wild populations and populations under managed care. Collectively, they express that cetaceans under managed care, at facilities like Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park, contribute valuable data to the scientific community and ultimately, a better understanding of wild populations.

There is also an attempt in this bill to show an appreciation for education, yet seems to ignore the educational contributions both Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park have made to the community. Both facilities provide unique and low cost educational outreach to local schools, students, teachers and visitors. It is likely that each legislative member reading this testimony or responding to this bill has either visited one of these facilities themselves or has had a family member who has visited one. Denying future generations of Hawaii's local population to enhance their education with interactive animal experiences would be a disadvantageous to them and our community in general.

Both Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park are long standing businesses in Hawaii that employ hundreds of people. Hundreds of people may not seem like a lot of employees for mainland companies, but we know that in Hawaii, this is quite substantial. I urge you to consider the long term impact on local economies and families- support for this bill will put an end to these facilities and put these people out of jobs.

Humans have a complex relationship with animals. We eat them, we really dislike some of them (think rats and cockroaches) and we love them. Certainly along this continuum, there is a place for well cared for and loved animals to live at responsible facilities like Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park. Hundreds of thousands of residents and visitors have come to Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park and leave feeling inspired by the experience to respect animals in the ocean, to conserve our resources and to practice responsible conservation. Denying the future opportunity for hundreds of thousands of people to visit facilities like these, just to appease the demands of a few (mostly online) animal extremists seems like the ultimate travesty.

I respectfully ask that you oppose SB 3055.

Mahalo,

Jade Haughian

Ewa Beach, Hawaii

As an educator and animal lover, I am writing to oppose the proposed bill SB 3055 that will unnecessarily limit and prohibit the transfer of cetaceans in the state of Hawaii. My opposition is rooted in two main aspects surrounding the creation of this bill:

1. The gross lack of scientific accuracy listed as the reasoning behind the attempted measures.
 - SB 3055 states that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals.” This information is directly in contrast to the Sarasota Dolphin Research Project, which is the longest running (40+ years) and therefore most reliable population study on the ecotype of bottlenose dolphins that reside at Dolphin Quest. These dolphins are a non-migratory species that inhabit shallow, coastal waters and live in a fission/fusion society rather than unchanging genetic pods like other species of whales or dolphins. Dolphin Quest mimics these social structures within their population dynamics at different facilities by having adult male alliance groups, nursery/breeding groups, and juvenile groups. Once weaned and socially independent, these animals will naturally seek out and drift between different social groups. Outlawing the transfer of these animals between social settings goes directly against their natural population structure. SB 3055 also states that “Survivorship of cetaceans is reduced, sometimes drastically, in a captive environment.” This claim is also blatantly inaccurate, as the recorded ages amongst the Dolphin Quest and wild populations range anywhere between 20 and 50 years. The animals housed at Dolphin Quest are free from the natural threats (predation, depleted food supply) and the human induced threats (pollution, entanglement, ingestion of debris, boat strikes) that typically shorten the lives of their wild bottlenose counterparts.
 - (<http://www.sarasotadolphin.org/intro-to-dolphin-conservation/dolphin-life/>).
 - (https://www.mmc.gov/wp-content/uploads/Wells_bottlenose_dolphin-research_fl_0415.pdf)
2. The underlying extremist attempt to eliminate the existence of facilities like Dolphin Quest that would deny future generations of citizens and scientists access to the education, inspiration, and scientific study of these animals.
 - SB 3055 seeks to prohibit the transfer of animals “solely for breeding or entertainment purposes.” If you are like me and feel that science and education are entertaining, then yes one could argue that the dolphins who reside at Dolphin Quest fulfill an entertainment role. The animals are incredible ambassadors for their species - not only from an emotional standpoint for guests who learn about them in an interactive program, but also from a scientific standpoint for the diverse array of groundbreaking studies the Dolphin Quest dolphins have participated in. Those scientific studies are made possible because of the collaboration between the dolphins’ behavioral scientist caretakers and researchers from a variety of different disciplines. That opportunity for collaboration would not be possible if the facility upkeep and animal care expenses were not funded by the interactive programs. Dolphin Quest is one of the only facilities in the world that so seamlessly blends public education with

current, ongoing science. I myself have visited many times and seen everyday members of the public have life changing experiences by meeting a dolphin for the first time as well as the very first ultrasound of a live dolphin heart taking place. It is such an incredible opportunity to not only see an incredible animal up close, but also to have access to a wealth of information about them and their wild counterparts. To see such an institution be ruined by misinformation and sloppy legislation would be beyond shameful to our society – ESPECIALLY in an age where human activity is causing maximum damage to our fragile ocean ecosystems.

The final plea that I would like to make for this and any future legislation regarding the care of these animals is that decisions be made based on the input of the experts and qualified professionals who have dedicated their lives to the daily care and/or scientific study of these animals. Unlike those who are in support of this bill, I am not here to demonize the “other side” with nasty and misleading accusations about their motivations or personal character. As an objective and empathetic person, I have faith that they too care deeply for animals and have their hearts in the right place. However, those in support of this bill completely lack the educational background and professional credentials that would qualify them to appropriately make such grand, sweeping decisions on the animals behalf. Anyone who researches the population dynamics of this species as well as the behavioral science and deep level of LOVE applied to the animals in the care of Dolphin Quest should clearly see that SB 3055 exists purely because of an emotional but uninformed idea. Please oppose SB 3055 and do what is best for these animals and our future ability to understand their species.

Aloha,

Kari Goodbar

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:50:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angel Martinez	Dolphin Discovery	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hi, my name is Angel, and I am a marine mammal specialist on Dolphin Discovery Mexico, I have around 19 months of be part of the adventure to share my life with marine mammals. I want to share my opinion about the Hawaii State Legislature and the marine mammals topic related. The transportation for dolphins, sea lions, seals, walrus, any way, can be used for improve the social structure, for change the environment that they normaly see, and of course for reproduction.

Part of their nature is be related with another ones from the same species. We can not intervene in that, but, the true is that they are living under our care, so we are in charge to improve their lifes day after day, thats the reason why we are here. It's healthier change the environment with a safety transportation with the necessary atention as veterinarians as specialist that spend their whole lifes in the same facility.

Thats my hummble opinion.

To whom it may concern,

Growing up in Hawaii I have spent my life enjoying the many natural wonders our islands hold. As an avid free diver I have seen the effects that humans have had on our aquatic ecosystems and ocean habitats. I have spent years researching native and endangered species using ground breaking techniques in tissue culture to propagate and replant natives in the wild. When I was asked to submit testimony for this bill I spent an entire afternoon researching the topic and using my skills as a scientist to come to a conclusion. I read the bill, reviewed the history of other bills submitted in the past that have failed and tried to find the source of these attacks on those who care for cetaceans in Hawaii.

I must protest this bills egregious use of information against the captivity of these highly developed marine mammals as highly contentious as well as based on a single study 5 years ago that is not freely available to the public without the rigors of a Freedom of Information Act request. In my own research I have not found the claims laid forth in this bill to be factually based and the majority of scientific evidence points to the reduction of stress and increase in life span for cetaceans kept in captivity. To the unscientific mind we see a wild roaming mammal of high intelligence capable of complex social behaviors being trapped, bored and lonely. However, the realities of the wild present many extremely stressful and dysfunctional scenarios that rival those found in captivity.

Issues such as decreasing food supplies due to climate change and human impact on fish populations can cause starvation, ingestion of plastics may lead to serious and painful health problems and abandonment by mothers or familial groups all lead to lower life spans in wild cetaceans. Captivity creates a nurturing and caring environment where the welfare of the animals comes first and their health and mental state is constantly monitored by scientific experts who are trained to not only identify but correct these issues. The constant interaction provided by programs with tourists and locals also helps financially support important research into behavioral and physiological complexities that make these mammals so unique.

No cetaceans have been captured from the wild in over 30 years in the United States and these animals are no longer equipped to survive in the wild. Their captivity is a permanent situation and detracting from their health and the scientific research that they are involved in will detract from saving those wild populations that are under ever increasing threat from human activity within their biospheres. While some animal lovers would love to set them free the sad truth is most if not all would soon die or simply acclimate to highly populated areas and continue to interact closely and rely on humans.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:51:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
heather downing		Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill will do no good for cetaceans in human care. It is extreme and could potentially be harmful for these animals by not allowing them to be moved if necessary for their health or social structure. Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park are reputable facilities with high levels of animal care, are important conservation organizations, and fund/participate in valuable marine animal research. We should not inhibit them from doing their very important job of taking the best care of their resident animals, and also inspiring the public to care about their habitat.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:51:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pamela Rodriguez	dolphin discovery	Oppose	No

Comments:

I have worked with marine mammals for almost 1 year, especially with dolphins, I have tried to understand the behavior of these animals under human care and the extraordinary work we can do with them to improve environmental education. Interactive with these animals create awareness in people who are in contact with them.

I do not understand how we can deprive these species under human care of something natural like reproduction. I do not agree to prohibit an animal from continuing its life cycle.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:52:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noelle	Georgia Aquarium	Oppose	No

Comments:

The marine mammal specialists at accredited marine parks are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals' behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone. Passing this bill would be a huge disappointment to research, conservation, and future generations.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:56:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
santiago	dolphin discovery	Oppose	No

Comments:

hello good afternoon, I do not agree with the law of no transfer and reproduction of marine mammals, since having worked the 5 years with them I am more than convinced that they are social animals which need others to keep good health, the non-reproduction of these specimens can cause cancer in the long term, as well as the transfer of the specimens makes possible the reproduction and variability in the environment of the dolphins or sea lions.

Santiago Morera Rodriguez

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 12:56:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael	Richardson	Oppose	No

Comments:

The experience at Dolphin Quest was a valuable experience in understanding animal behavior with these beautiful animals. The facilities was top notch with the animals being well taken care of and staff were very professional and educated. Understanding these animals and the environment in which we share and continue to learn about should be a continued.

Thank you

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:00:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachael Moore		Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not support bill SB 3055. The lack of scientific evidence to back up this bill concerns me. In addition, eliminating transportation of cetaceans limits these facilities; transportation is necessary to prevent inbreeding, in some cases, it may be necessary in order to ensure optimal health and welfare for the animal(s).

I am applying to vet school, and currently completing my Bachelor of Science. My employment at a marine mammal facility solidified my reason for choosing my career path; without that experience, I may not have thought to pursue a specialty in marine mammal medicine with the intention of focusing on rescue and rehabilitation. My employment at this facility has also allowed me to learn a lot about cetacean care and I have seen first hand the effects captive cetaceans have on their caregivers and the guests who are able to see them up close. The bonds formed by these animals and their caregivers is inexplicable; something I have now experienced personally. I have also had three young children on three different occasions tell me they thought the animal feels "happy" when I asked how the animal felt after their meet and greet session. Many children also tell me they would like to become a trainer, or a marine biologist or a vet while visiting the facility.

Dolphin Quest and SeaLife Park also act as important components of research and education because there are no facilities in Hawaii that focus solely on research and education. Research on captive cetaceans is important for ensuring the health of wild populations, and is easier to carry out in an enclosed environment.

Please reconsider this bill before making a decision.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:00:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dayra Duran	Dolphin Discovery	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello my name is Dayra I am a marine mammal specialist in Dolphin Discovery, I have been working with dolphins for 7 months, and I am in favor of the reproduction of marine mammals, with our interactive programs we can teach to all generations the importance of taking care of animals, its environment, and the role we have in that. I have met people who do not agree with the captivity but when they realize how the things really are their perspective actually changes.

I would like many more generations to learn how important it is to take care of them.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:01:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Juan Luis Lira	Gulf World	Oppose	No

Comments:

My humble opinion it should be accredited marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent or avoid inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the animals.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:03:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Kirste		Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not go through with this bill, this is an extremely poor idea that has not been well thought out. Zoological facilities are the very places that do a lot of good for these animals to educate the public, specially children who might never get the chance to see these animals otherwise and they also do a lot for conservation. Children need to be able to see these animals in a fun way as well to spark interest so they want to learn more. Most kids these days are glued to their electronics. If bills like this keep popping up aimed at zoos and aquariums preventing them from keeping healthy populations of animals that have a right to breed if they choose to do so, then one day we are going to loose these animals in the wild and people are going to be wishing they did not make mistakes like this bill! Please do not end zoological facilities in Hawaii, this would be a very bad move!

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:04:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Scott	DBRI	Oppose	No

Comments:

I urge you to vote No on SB 3055, the proposed ban of permitting the transport of cetaceans under the care of humans. I am not resident of Hawaii, but I have advised the National Marine Fisheries Service on the management of marine mammals in Hawaii for the last 24 years and have conducted field studies of spotted and spinner dolphins off the Big Island over the years, and I have worked with many of Hawaii's marine mammal experts.

I believe that the law, as proposed, will effectively cover no facilities caring for cetaceans in Hawaii. Dolphin Quest, has a strong history of both doing research and funding research, its owners are both marine mammal veterinarians and active researchers, and their support for marine research, some 3.5 million dollars' worth, shows this. They support the Ke Kai Ola Hospital for Hawaiian monk seals, they support Pacific Marine Life Foundation's marine mammal stranding recovery and education programs, and they partner with Sea Life Park in a headstart program for green sea turtles. Their mission statement is also clear about the primacy of education and their commitment to the school children of Hawaii shows this. How can you argue that they are not a dedicated company focused primarily on research, education, and the health of their animals and the environment?

Sea Life Park has a long history of research, extending back to the days of Dr. Ken Norris, the first President of the international Society for Marine Mammalogy. It is his work, and the studies of Dr. Gregory Bateson and Karen Pryor on behavior and communication at the Park that gave us our first inklings of the intelligence and personalities of dolphins and small whales. Every visitor to these facilities takes away more knowledge about dolphins and the marine environment than they came with. Certainly my generation's love of cetaceans came about because of visits to facilities like these. Perhaps Jack Hanna, zookeeper and conservationist stated it best "You have to love something to save something." These facilities taught us to love marine mammals, and, because of that, we have made great strides in conservation.

If you accept my arguments that these facilities are primarily for education and research, and their long histories clearly demonstrate that they are, and if you recognize the conservation benefits of these facilities, then SB 3055 would be a wasted effort. If you don't accept my arguments, it will be a hurtful effort, to Hawaii and Hawaii's marine mammals.

Michael Scott

Dolphin Biology Research Institute

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:07:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Monique Greenberg		Oppose	No

Comments:

Proposed bill SB3055 states:

“The legislature finds that cetaceans, which includes dolphins, porpoises, and whales, are highly intelligent and social animals.”

How does the author of Bill SB3055 know that fact? Before the 1960’s, mankind had limited knowledge about cetaceans. It was cetaceans in captivity that has taught the human race the high functioning intelligence, cognition and social order of these marine mammals. The early studies resulted in the 1972 Marine Mammal Protection Act and enforced today by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA). Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) the federal regulatory entity conducts regular inspections. APHIS recognizes the value of U.S. Marine Mammal Parks and their role in providing education to the public and ensuring that high standards are met for the optimum care of all marine animals.

When you spend time at an accredited marine mammal facility you can observe the tight bonds developed between the dolphins and their marine mammal specialists. I have had the privilege of spending time at Dolphin Quest and have observed the human dolphin interaction dynamics. There is no question that the dolphins residing at Dolphin Quest are loved and cared for so deeply. When the dolphins’ needs are met with top priority, they tend to live longer in captivity. Dolphins can live 30-50+ years when there is a constant food source, no predators and good husbandry practices. Keeping a healthy and diverse pod population is regulated by the SSP standards

Knowledge is the key to enlightenment, experience creates the pathway. If visitors to Hawaii can no longer experience an interaction with these dolphins then their pathway to connect, learn then act to preserve our oceans is diminished. The future of the wild marine mammal population, all marine inhabitants and the environmental balance of our oceans health is directly related to the human connection. Furthermore, consider the economic impact to Hawaiian tourism without the connection to marine mammals in a protected interactive environment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Monique Greenberg

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:09:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lauren mcmanus		Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:10:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Timothy Murphy		Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha –

Please do not support SB 3055. Simply put this is a thinly-veiled attempt by extremists who use emotions, not scientific facts, who are attempting to put an end to accredited marine mammal display facilities like Sea Life Park and Dolphin Quest.

People who support this misguided effort have no credible scientific research to back up their misinformed claims. animals under human care live enriching, longer lives than their counterparts in the wild. transport of dolphins, already regulated and monitored by the USDA, is necessary for accredited facilities to maintain genetic diversification and thus healthy populations. se animals truly are ambassadors for the counterparts in the wild and the connection that our keiki make with them spur future generations to be better stewards for the environment and the ocean.

Please consider and read the facts – the scientific facts – provided by accredited facilities like Dolphin Quest who touch so many hearts and minds. It is certainly not in our best interests to pass SB 3055. Please do not let misguided extremists prey on your emotions. Please do not support this initiative.

Timothy Murphy

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:12:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Quintos		Oppose	No

Comments:

As a former resident born and raised in Honolulu County, and a former employee of the companies who stand to be affected by SB3055, I strongly urge you to NOT support this bill. The quality of care that cetaceans in managed care programs receive is top notch that is supported and provided by experts who devote themselves to these animals.

- Please **do not** support SB 3055.
- The drafted language that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data.
- The importance of access to dolphins in Hawaii’s marine parks for local Hawaiians and school age children. It’s not just for tourists. Locals can go and watch the dolphins, in some cases for free.
- Zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators.
- Educational impact of experiencing dolphins in marine parks is safer for the dolphins and people. This is a much better alternative than dozens of boats harassing free ranging spinner dolphins when they’re attempting to rest.
- The marine mammal specialists at marine parks are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals’ behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone. This is a perfect place for you to describe your personal experience of dedication to cetaceans in managed zoological settings.
- There are NO marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii (this is the exception in the Bill). Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community.
- Marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the animals.
- Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. There is no reason to duplicate or ignore the already existing regulatory process!

- If one bans the transport or breeding of dolphins, based on zero scientific data suggesting one should, what is next? Horses? Dogs? Cattle? This is an emotional plea by misinformed animal extremists.
- To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks, thus robbing future generations the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about dolphins in this unrivaled setting.
- If you've been to Dolphin Quest or Sea Life Park, and have seen first-hand that these animals are well cared for by their trainers and veterinarians, please communicate it.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:08:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
fernando abraham suarez solis	dolphin discovery	Oppose	No

Comments:

I don't like this law because all dolphins under human care receive different motivation all days and the reproduction is natural in wild and human care, all dolphins in human care move all the time because they need a new social structure and rotation all marine mammal animals meet another mammals in the same species like dolphins sea lion manatíes, is berthed for all !!

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:14:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
mauricio	gulf world	Oppose	No

Comments:

This don't have any founded, i am in total disagreement and opposed, every decision have to be done with knowledge and understanding all the real facts,

The only way that we have for understand the cetaceans is true study

we are the real people who interact and care for marine mammals we spend more time with them than other person,

marine mamals are our family, you must listen the members of our family

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:15:44 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel Chamberlain	University of South Alabama	Oppose	No

Comments:

This proposed bill is not based on scientific fact. It will limit facilities that participate heavily in research and conservation and will prevent future generations the opportunities to learn and be inspired to action. As a child, I visited one of the facilities that may potentially be affected by this bill. While there, I gained an understanding and a passion for marine conservation that changed my life. 16 years later, I am now pursuing a career in marine mammal training, research, and marine conservation. Without access to these facilities and the animals they home, I likely would have never been given an opportunity to learn about the importance of protecting our oceans and how to do so. Do not deny future generations these opportunities due to the misguided claims of animal rights extremists. Marine mammal trainers are the only ones who know what is best for marine mammals under human care - so why are their voices not being heard? Do not allow yourselves to be misled by lies and manipulation. Learn the facts. Support scientific research and marine conservation. Reject this legislature.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:17:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ben Haffner		Oppose	Yes

Comments:

I am a Hawaii resident and I urge you do not support SB 3055.

This Bill is not based on any facts and only seeks to harm Hawaii businesses.

Our travel and tourism industry thrives by having a diversity of attractions. Dismantling businesses that create safe, magical Hawaiian experiences with dolphins will force tourists to either visit other destinations or cause an unsustainable increase in wild dolphin tours. Hawaiian oceans and all oceans already have to cope with many pressures from humans. Denying this Bill will directly help protect our wild dolphin populations by allowing an alternative to wild dolphin tours. Please do not let yourselves be know as the senators that did not stand up for science and instead increased pressures on our oceans.

Mahalo

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:21:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Valverde		Oppose	No

Comments:

I am not a resident of Hawaii, but have visited your State many times, alone and with family members, and I implore you not to support SB 3055.

I grew up visiting the San Diego Zoo every week, because my parents could take my sisters and myself at no cost. From the Zoo we learned to love and admire animals that we would never have had the opportunity to see otherwise. We received a special education about wildlife, conservation and caring about our environment from those numerous visits.

Likewise, places like Dolphin Quest provide the children of Hawaii with a wonderful opportunity to learn about dolphins and learning to care about their ocean by visiting and participating in their educational programs for free. I have experienced Dolphin Quest personally and have taken my children to share in that learning also. Those lessons learned at the Zoo and at Dolphin Quest have been passed on by them to others, as they too have taught summer camps at the Zoo for two summers each. They love and respect the ocean and all animal life.

So, I believe that the value of educating children to care and love our environment, to coexist and learn from the dolphins and the marine mammal specialist that lovingly care for them in an accredited marine park, like Dolphin Quest, is safer for them and for the participants than to try to swim in an open ocean in an uncontrolled and potentially dangerous situation.

The transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated at the federal level by the USDA and at the state level by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. I respectfully request that you let the expert agencies do their job.

To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks and rob future generations of the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about these incredible animals up close.

I've been to Dolphin Quest and have seen first-hand that the dolphins are absolutely loved and well care for by their animal caregivers.

Do not take away this learning opportunity from the children of Hawaii, they may be your future marine scientists or teachers.

Maria Valverde

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:31:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Beard	Mr.	Oppose	No

Comments:

As currently written this measure seems intent on ultimately completely eliminating having any cetaceans kept under any circumstance, when really, it should attempt to limit the specific areas of abuse.

Currently programs such as Dolphin Quest treat their animals well, keep them engaged in enrichment behaviors, document and protect their health at every turn and ensure that they live full lives. Any transport these professionals engage in are intended to support the animals health as inbreeding would be a dangerous side effect of not allowing transport.

Animals entrusted with these professionals are often the only real reason the public at large cares about them in the first place. Were it not for the chance for the public to view, learn about, and engage with these animals there would not be the vast concern we currently see for those same animals welfare.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:32:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Holly Holland		Oppose	No

Comments:

I appose SB3055. To not be able to transport animals between Dolphin Quest facilities would be a death sentence. The animals under Dolphin Quests care are treated like Kings and Queens. There is no better place for them to live. It is important to have them under human care to educate the public about their species and inspire people to protect what they love. Protect the ocean and all the inhabitants!!

Holly Holland

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:33:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Speed		Oppose	No

Comments:

Sarah Pugliese
Testimony SB3055

I have always been fascinated with dolphins since I was a young girl. They were always something I was passionate about, even through living in a desert state. Through the years growing up I have encountered many programs and experiences with dolphins. I can say with no doubt in my mind that Dolphin Quest provides an excellent life with top-notch care for these amazing creatures. They are not put under any pressure to perform or socialize with humans, they are fed a balanced diet with a variety of food, and they are given amazing care. I was at one time considering moving to Hawaii to become part of Dolphin Quest because I fell in love with how they treated the dolphins. I've had multiple experiences with DQ and have never once seen any mistreatment or anything questionable. I was able to take part in a program where I saw everything the trainers saw. I was able to get behind the scenes and see how much work and effort goes into caring for each individual dolphin. Each dolphin's diet is watched carefully to make sure they are getting the proper nutrition. These dolphins are also fed the highest quality of seafood available. The food that comes in is hand-sorted, with even slight imperfections being tossed out. I also witnessed a dolphin receiving medical care. The trainers were so tender and careful with the dolphin. It was breathtaking to watch this giant creature being cared for in such a gentle way.

This company also does not let just anyone get close to the dolphins. The staff at DQ are highly-trained intelligent individuals with an innate love and passion for the ocean and these creatures. Dolphin Quest is a dolphin-centered business rather than a money-centered tourist attraction.

As mentioned above, I am extremely passionate about these unique creatures. I would not support any business that put these dolphins in any harm or made their life uncomfortable. I can say with 100% confidence that Dolphin Quest is a prime example of marine care. I would encourage anyone who thinks otherwise to visit their facility and get an in-depth look at this business, to truly get a hands-on experience rather than standing on the sidelines or reading something online. Go behind the scenes and see how genuinely treasured and adored these creatures are. It was an eye-opening experience for me, and it will be for many other people too. DQ is a company that would never put a dolphin's comfort in jeopardy whether it be through transport, diet, environment, etc. Supporting this bill would deprive current and future generations of educational experiences and take away focus from where it should be. Instead of focusing on companies like Dolphin Quest who provide and care for dolphins, the focus should be put on providing care for the dolphins who do not have any—the wild dolphins dealing with fish nets and debris. Do not focus on subtracting care that exists now; instead, focus on adding care where it does not currently exist. Do not support SB3055.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:40:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hayley Leather	Leading Edge Animal Solutions	Oppose	No

Comments:

As an animal behaviorist, trainer, and consultant, I work closely with organizations caring for a variety of animals, including dolphins and other marine mammals. I am familiar with Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park and have worked closely with their trainers, who will be affected by this bill. I am writing to ask you please DO NOT support SB 3055. I wish I could be there in person to testify, and to support the facilities I have come to respect so deeply. Unfortunately I cannot make it on such short notice.

This bill contains factual errors, including false and misleading language that has no scientific backing. For example, the bill states that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals.” In fact, this is extreme anthropomorphizing and there is no legitimate, peer-reviewed scientific evidence supporting such a claim. In fact, preventing transportation of dolphins as the bill suggests would only serve to create a potentially dysfunctional social environment for these animals.

Preventing transportation of marine mammals may seem like a humane way to help reduce stress on cetaceans in human care, but in reality, it will only serve to create population management problems. Transporting dolphins is necessary to prevent inbreeding, but it is also necessary to balance the pod dynamics. While dolphins are highly social animals, it is a common misconception that they always get along. Just like certain people don't get along, the same is true of dolphins. In the wild, bottlenose dolphins (the most common species in Hawaii's marine facilities) have very loose social groups ranging in size from a single dolphin anywhere up to twelve or thirteen animals. These social groups are fluid, and young dolphins will often leave at around three to four years of age to form a new pod or to join a different pod. This is important because it prevents wild dolphins from inbreeding with close relatives. While sometimes different pods of dolphins will comingle for a few hours, days, or sometimes even weeks, these large groups are very loose and will soon fall apart into separate pods again. It is not uncommon, though, for dolphins to join a different pod during these meetings, leaving its old pod members behind forever.

In the wild, dolphin pods are very fluid, changing frequently. The idea that all dolphins live in tight family units comes from observing the Southern Resident Killer Whales, a large species of dolphin that lives in large, close family groupings. They are one of the most thoroughly studied species of dolphin because they are easy to observe—they spend more than half the year living right off the coast of Northern California, making them easy to locate and study by scientist. Other species of killer whales and dolphins live in much smaller groups and travel around more, making them more difficult to study and obtain data on. It was originally assumed that behaviors observed in the southern resident killer whales would be true of other species of dolphins as well, but that has turned out false. In fact, resident killer whales are the ONLY type of dolphins that do live in these large, tight family units—in fact, even most killer whales don't even behave like that. Transient killer whales, offshore killer whales, and Icelandic killer whales, as well as many other species of dolphins, will actually often aggressively drive off their young at a certain age. This is hypothesized to be because of the food they eat—unlike the resident killer whales which live off of a large resident population of salmon that can support a large pod for much of the year, other types of killer whales and other dolphins hunt small traveling pods of fish, sharks, or other marine mammals. These smaller food sources simply cannot support a large pod, so many species of dolphins evolved to have small, fluid social groups to accommodate their prey source. If the pod grows too large, the animals will starve.

The close family unit theory proved to be false not only for the majority of species of dolphins, but also for the majority of killer whales, on which the original theory was based. In the wild, aggression and social conflicts are often resolved by individuals leaving the pod to form their own or join another. In human care, marine mammal caretakers pay close attention to the social interactions between individuals in the pod and will sometimes make the decision that a particular animal no longer fits into the social structure of their facility's pod. In order to maintain a healthy social structure and to keep all animals safe and free of unnecessary stress, it is imperative that marine mammal facilities be able to move individuals into other pods at other facilities as it becomes necessary.

While dolphin transportation was once extremely stressful, this is no longer the case. Accredited facilities now use positive reinforcement training to teach the animals to be comfortable during the process. Many of these dolphins actually voluntarily swim into the stretchers and wait to be lifted and transported. This is done by training in very small steps and rewarding the dolphins with treats such as fish, squid, gelatin, ice, toys, games and play time, rubs and other fun things when the dolphin chooses to cooperate. The proof is in the animals—it is difficult to deny that a dolphin is comfortable with transport when he/she voluntarily swim into a stretcher time and time again, even right after being moved.

Transportation of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Duplicating or ignoring their already-existing regulations is unnecessary and potentially harmful for the dolphins the bill is trying to protect.

Having cetaceans, including dolphins in Hawaii's accredited marine parks is important for education and inspiration for both local Hawaiians as well as tourists. In many facilities, locals can watch and learn about dolphins for free. Additionally, the close personal encounters with cetaceans can help people to develop and passion for the animals, and protecting their ocean habitats. In my experience, many children who have no particular excitement for marine life or the ocean upon their arrival at a zoo or aquarium are so inspired by their up-close encounters that they can't stop bubbling excitedly for the rest of the day, and often weeks afterwards. I cannot count the number of letters from school children I've received thanking me, sometimes weeks after a school visit or encounter, telling me about how now they stop to pick up trash so it doesn't end up in the ocean.

Many misinformed animal rights activists claim that it is better to see marine mammals and dolphins in the wild. The fact is that this can be dangerous for both the dolphins and the people. For a dolphin, sound is critical for hunting and communication. The increased boat traffic, including from whale-watch boats has been shown to affect the whale and dolphins ability to hunt and communicate effectively. There are many companies that make money by following around pods of spinner dolphins, claiming it is more humane than marine parks, but these companies do not realize the negative effects of noise pollution on these delicate mammals.

Dolphins in the wild face many challenges today, including (but certainly not limited to) toxin pollution, noise pollution, ingesting garbage, tangling in fishing nets, and overfishing. It is more important today than ever before that people have the opportunity to become passionate about protecting these animals and preserving their habitat in the wild. The animals in accredited marine mammal facilities live longer, healthier lives than those in the wild because they are free of pollution and toxins, trash, and have access to veterinary care. It is critical that we continue to give the best possible care for these animals—these ambassadors of their species.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I strongly hope you choose to do right by dolphins both in human care as those in the wild and vote **AGAINST** SB3055.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:48:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dora Sam		Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB3055. All people including our children should have the opportunity to learn, connect and experience. Sea Life Park's programs offer those opportunities.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:52:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Nugent		Oppose	No

Comments:

Several years ago, on a visit to the islands, I had the opportunity to visit Dolphin Quest Hawaii, one of the facilities that I believe would be harmed by SB3055. It was an incredibly memorable experience. While it was very entertaining (something that apparently is a bad thing in the mind of some supporters of this bill), what struck me and has stuck with me were the conservation messages that were woven throughout the program. It was very clear that conservation and the need to protect the ocean and its inhabitants, which are so vital to Hawaii's economy, was at the heart of the message sent to guests at Dolphin Quest. And it's a message that was heard not only by those who paid to do the swim program, but everyone else who was able to wander by to watch the dolphins at Dolphin Quest.

Also, please understand that while I had a great time on the scuba diving trip and the whale watching trip I went on during my vacation, neither came close to conveying the conservation message that I heard at Dolphin Quest.

Please oppose SB3055. Don't undermine the good that is done by facilities like Dolphin Quest.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:54:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anastasia Furman		Oppose	No

Comments:

Dolphin Quest is a great organization that has educated me about the dolphins both in their care and love but also in the wild. I do not support this bill.

Michael T. Shearer

2245 Peterson Road
Cave City, Kentucky 42127
(270) 404-0435

January 31, 2018

Re: Oppose SB3055

To Whom It May Concern:

I recently became aware of proposed legislation in Hawaii that would prohibit the transport of cetaceans other than by institutions which are solely for research – which of course don't really exist because there's not enough public funding. For all the reasons below, I am writing to oppose the passing of SB3055 which would restrict the transport of cetaceans in Hawaii.

By extension this bill would prevent the breeding of cetaceans in human care, as transport is necessary to promote healthy populations in zoological facilities and prevent inbreeding. It is well documented that cetaceans in human care in accredited zoological institutions in Hawaii receive excellent care and are ambassadors for their wild cousins by educating the public about the very real need for marine conservation. They are often the first link between children and marine mammals, fostering a love for nature that encourages responsibility for our environment.

In addition to their role in education, marine mammal facilities have the knowledge, concern and resources to promote conservation, both by rehabilitating and releasing stranded animals (treating them with knowledge gained from years of working with animals in human care) and by funding conservation work.

Finally, marine mammal facilities serve as centers for research that cannot be performed in the wild. This research directly translates to information that can help marine scientists protect wild populations from the increasing dangers they face in an industrialized ocean. And importantly, these marine mammal facilities are able to fund critical research without public funding.

Marine mammal facilities are heavily regulated and accredited institutions must achieve and maintain high standards. There is no need for further regulations that prevent their ability to function and contribute to science, education, and conservation. I ask you to oppose SB3055 and allow marine mammal facilities to continue to provide the best care for their animals while helping wild populations with their research.

Sincerely,



Michael Shearer

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:55:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
will elgar	georgia aquarium	Oppose	No

Comments:

- The drafted language that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data.
- The importance of access to dolphins in Hawaii’s accredited marine parks for local Hawaiians and school age children. It’s not just for tourists. Locals can go and watch the dolphins, in some cases for free. Add your personal experience and observations of guests experiencing marine life at your zoo or aquarium.
- Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators.
- Educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine parks is safer for the dolphins and people. This is a much better alternative than dozens of boats harassing free ranging spinner dolphins when they’re attempting to rest.
- The marine mammal specialists at accredited marine parks are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals’ behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone. This is a perfect place for you to describe your personal experience of dedication to cetaceans in managed zoological settings.
- There are NO marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii (this is the exception in the Bill). Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community.
- Accredited marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the animals.
- Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. There is no reason to duplicate or ignore the already existing regulatory process!
- If one bans the transport or breeding of dolphins, based on zero scientific data suggesting one should, what is next? Horses? Dogs? Cattle? This is an emotional plea by misinformed animal extremists.

- To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks, thus robbing future generations the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about dolphins in this unrivaled setting.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:57:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristi West	University of Hawaii	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

My name is Dr. Kristi West and I direct whale and dolphin stranding response at the University of Hawaii where I am an affiliate faculty member with the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology and in the Department of Human Nutrition, Food and Animal Sciences. For the past 12 years, I have led cetacean cause of death investigations throughout the state and lead an active research program to establish threats to Hawaii's wild populations of dolphins and whales. As a scientist dedicated to the conservation of wild populations of dolphins and whales in Hawaiian waters, I oppose SB 3055.

There are no marine mammal facilities that support live cetacean care in the state of Hawaii for the sole purpose of science and education. However, the care of live cetaceans at marine mammal facilities such as Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide unique opportunities related to research, education and training. When research and education are a priority for marine mammal facilities, this furthers our collective efforts as scientists to better understand the biology of wild populations and the threats they face. For example, at Dolphin Quest, trained dolphins are made available free of charge to allow live stranding responders with hands on animal handling experience prior to participating in live animal responses that could otherwise be dangerous to responders. Live dolphins under human care also provide opportunities for biological research, including the development of methodologies that can be tried and tested prior to widespread implementation in studying wild dolphins. Live dolphins at marine mammal facilities are also a powerful educational resource, serving to raise public awareness of threats that result in significant mortality among wild populations of dolphins and whales. The transport of among marine mammal facilities is already closely regulated by the USDA and Hawaii Department of Agriculture and I question if a prohibition on the transfer of animals is in the best interest of dolphins housed at marine mammal facilities in Hawaii. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony opposing SB 3055.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:55:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andy		Oppose	No

Comments:

Please DO NOT support SB 3055. The marine mammal specialists at accredited marine parks are the experts! They devote their life to these animals and spend countless hours caring for them, teaching people about them, and learning everything we know about them. They love the dolphins and know the animals' behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone! This proposal is absolutely insane and based on NO Scientific Evidence!

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:58:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jose carlos navarro ramirez	gulf world	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello, i think you shoud considerate the welfare of these animals, before you take that decision. Our job is to maintane this animal in excelent conditions, and stop the reproduction will create a huge stress in their lifes, and is exactly what we always try to avoid.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 1:59:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anne Parker Kellam	graduate student at University of Miami, RSMAS	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please keep in mind the effects this bill, if passed, will have on cetacean research and education. Many facilities cannot SOLELY focus on research and/or education due to the high costs involved. Having swim with programs and the like, draw visitors to facilities that are able to conduct and fund research and education. Thus, this bill in the long term would fail the scientific community and quite possibly the cetacean species of the world as well. Please oppose this bill.

Chair Gabbard and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

As a longtime animal trainer, I **oppose SB3055**.

It is evident that this measure is targeted at facilities like Sea Life Park. It is unfortunate that the opinions of unreasonable activists and misinformation about the care of dolphins, whales and other sea creatures have continued to be perpetuated. I have worked with dolphins at Sea Life Park for ____ years helping to care for them, learn from them, and share them with many local residents and guests who have a strong desire to get close up to them.

Animals raised under human care at accredited facilities are seen by and treated by trained veterinarians and other professionals on a regular basis, often receiving better care than their human counterparts. These animals also participate in interactive enrichment activities that are often more engaging than those of animals in the wild just as your dogs or cats may. I personally have spent nights at the Park when an animal needs 24 hour care as has our Curator and many of my co-workers. We love these animals as our own.

Our industry is heavily regulated, and rightly so. I am so happy that there has been more progress since the Animal Welfare Act was introduced and welcome the inspections and regulations set forth by the USDA and others to improve the life of these animals under human care. It is important to continue to learn from these animals while providing them with the best care possible.

It feels so great to see the great connection people have with the animals in the Park and how many people can get inspired to do more to help protect them in the wild and to be a more responsible individual in caring for the ocean environment and conservation. Frankly, before there were marine parks and people were able to get close up to dolphins, they just thought of them as big fish. Many people who have a passion for these animals as I do, connected to them in facilities like ours and I hope that the young keiki in years to come will be able to have this same opportunity.

Members of the committee, I strongly urge you to defer SB3055.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Lewis

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:02:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donna		Oppose	No

Comments:

Dolphin Quest educates the public on these amazing animals. They give the public the opportunity to first hand experience and interact with dolphins.

To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks and rob future generations of the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about these animals up close.

I've been to Dolphin Quest and have seen first-hand that these animals are absolutely adored and well care for by their animal caregivers.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:02:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
candice galella		Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:07:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stefani Skrovan	Animal Training and Research Intl	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a marine mammal researcher with Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, I would like to submit that the drafted language that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data. I have seen many very healthy, socially stable cetaceans in captive situations. Captive cetaceans also regularly outlive their wild counterparts due to the excellent care they receive. Captive cetaceans allow us to perform a wealth of research that is not possible in the wild populations, and directly impact the health and management of wild populations and their environments for the better. Without the flexibility to perform the excellent care and movements to help create healthy social groups and breeding, we are losing valuable ground in helping protect the animals everyone loves.

Transferring public viewing to more people harassing wild populations, which is often done without sufficient oversight is impractical and irresponsible. In addition, wild animals are facing increasing pressures from human damaged or altered environments. Given these possibly increasing pressures of pollution, contamination, and increased harassment, captive dolphins will become even more valuable for research on these species and in fact be much better off than their wild counterparts.

sincerely,

Stefani Skrovan

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:08:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Citlaly Campos	Gulf world	Oppose	No

Comments:

Good Afternoon.

Im disapointed whit this mesurment you want to take whit the dolphins, the reproduction is part of the circle of their lives, if you want to stop the reproducction, you will have dolphins whit stress, agressions betwen males, and females whit medical treatments during the whole life. We need to respect their natural needs, natural behaviors, and give them the best cuality in their lifes.

This is why im not agree whit this decision, is not fair for them take this kind of actions. The cosecuences will be really sad.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:09:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Candyce Paparo	Long Island Aquarium	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please Do Not support SB3055. This bill will unnecessarily limit and prohibit the transfer of cetaceans in the state of Hawaii. It is time for you, our political representatives and leaders to listen to the professionals and to science, not to the animal extremists. Accredited and reputable zoological facilities provide an amazing and wonderful environment for dolphins. As the natural ocean becomes more perilous and challenged, these zoological facilities are the sanctuaries for hundreds of species. We should be more concerned with regulations that help wild populations from drowning in discarded fishing nets, from overfishing, pollution, boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators, and marine debris. There are No marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii. Accredited and reputable marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to best manage and care for the best welfare of the animals in their care. The USDA and Hawaii Department of Agriculture already closely regulate the transport of cetaceans , there is no reason to duplicate these existing regulations. Discontinuing cetacean transportation and breeding would harm the parks that house these animals and ultimately harm the animals themselves, not to mention robbing all future generations the opportunity to see, learn about and experience dolphins in a way that most people do not get to experience. Please, for the future of our planet, all the beautiful animals on this planet and for all future generations, Do Not Support This Bill.

Sincerely, a devoted Animal Care Professional,

Candyce



SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:13:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Tully Vega	Tully's Training	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I strongly oppose SB 3055.

Not only have I been to Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park but I was a marine mammal trainer at Sea Life Park for three years. During that time, I was part of an incredibly dedicated team of trainers, volunteers, and veterinarians who provided excellent care to the animals in our charge. Sea Life Park is one of the first parks of its kind. It is a beacon in the local community. While I was there, we had groups of local school children come into the park to experience specially created educational programs. When I was out and about around the island, I was so proud to tell people where I worked and I loved hearing local people tell me their stories of visiting SLP when they were children. They would always make the connection between these trips and their respect and love for the ocean and the creatures who call it home. I was also part of various research projects which help the scientific community further protect the endangered Hawaiian Monk Seal. After leaving Sea Life Park, I went on to spend many more years working at some of the top zoological institutions in the US. I can tell you that the quality of the training and enrichment that the animals receive at Sea Life Park is far superior to any other facility I've worked in or toured. Humble as it may seem from the outside - those animals are given excellent care and they are loved by all who know them and meet them.

Beyond my personal experiences, I have the following objections to SB 3055.

The drafted language that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data.

The importance of access to dolphins in Hawaii’s accredited marine parks for local Hawaiians and school age children. It’s not just for tourists. Locals can go and watch the dolphins, in some cases for free. Add your personal experience and observations of guests experiencing marine life at your zoo or aquarium.

Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators.

Educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine parks is safer for the dolphins and people. This is a much better alternative than dozens of boats harassing free ranging spinner dolphins when they’re attempting to rest.

The marine mammal specialists at accredited marine parks are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals’ behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone. This is a perfect place for you to describe your personal experience of dedication to cetaceans in managed zoological settings.

There are NO marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii (this is the exception in the Bill). Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community.

Accredited marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the animals.

Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. There is no reason to duplicate or ignore the already existing regulatory process!

If one bans the transport or breeding of dolphins, based on zero scientific data suggesting one should, what is next? Horses? Dogs? Cattle? This is an emotional plea by misinformed animal extremists.

To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks, thus robbing future generations the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about dolphins in this unrivaled setting.

If you still aren't convinced, I say this. Take the time and look into the issue from a scientific standpoint. The individuals who are attempting to pass SB 3055 are pushing this legislation and other related legislation based on their feelings. Most of these people have zero experience in the field actually working with these animals. If we pass legislation based on how we feel we are setting a dangerous precedent. Fund a study and let's use the data to make changes if they are needed. Let's first find out if we have an actual problem and IF WE DO I promise you won't find a more dedicated group than that of marine mammal trainers to address it. Head on.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mary Tully Vega

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session 2018
Thursday, February 1, 2018 2:30pm
Hawaii State Capitol Conference Room 016

Re: Opposition to SB 3055 – RELATING TO CETACEANS

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Riviere and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment, w

I grew up and still reside in Kailua and have been a voting Hawaii resident for 25 years. I have a 7-year old son who attends Aikahi Elementary and the love for animals has and continues to run deep in our family. Visiting the Honolulu Zoo, the Waikiki Aquarium, Dolphin Quest, and Sea Life Park have been some of my fondest memories of raising my child.

I strongly oppose S.B. NO 3055 - these are my main reasons:

- **This bill seeks to punish the only 2 marine mammal parks that exist in the state of Hawaii who have been leading the charge for marine life conservation and education, largely through their educational dolphin interaction programs**
 - Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park positively contribute and directly impact marine conservation and education, even without their retail programs.
 - They are education partners with Hawaii's schools and offer educational field trips, have outreach programs, provide valuable and otherwise unobtainable experience handling a live animal by conducting training for stranding response volunteers.
 - Sea Life Park is the only place where a distressed wild animal may be taken to for treatment like the Hawaiian Monk Seal
 - It is because of continued work with true scientists with direct experience and peer reviewed published works in well-known scientific journals, Dolphin Quest continues to partner with researchers so we can know if a stranded animal is a good candidate for treatment and release.
 - Dolphin Quest conducts training workshops for the stranding network volunteers by providing a safe facility and the experience of how to humanely handle a live animal
- **The bill is misleading, contains no scientific data and the wording is emotional and manipulative.**
 - South Carolina doesn't even have a facility that houses dolphins!
 - There are currently zero facilities in the US that fit into the exemptions that are listed in the bill
 - Good social management and allowing animals to have babies is a foundational way to ensure animal wellness. This is not possible without moving animals as needed
 - I cannot help but notice the similarity in the language of the bill to what animal rights extremists say when they are busy shaming people from supporting facilities that are an asset to the communities they reside in

- **There are multiple governmental and third-party entities that already regulate these facilities where animal wellness is a top priority – in other words, its covered already. Our tax dollars and attention should be focused on far more important issues like homelessness, the severe affordable housing issue, and a myriad more.**
 - Facilities must pass rigorous USDA inspections to stay open
 - Facilities also get accredited by third party entities like the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums to go even further with their animal wellness practices because they want to continue to improve how we care for these animals
 - Dolphin Quest is the first marine mammal facility to be certified humane by American Humane who only focuses on animal wellness. This is an example of bringing up the industry via leading by example in hopes that all other facilities will follow suit

In closing, as an animal lover who is a Hawaii resident and also a parent I feel very strongly that children need opportunities to connect with nature. I want my son to be able to take his children and grandchildren to see and learn about magnificent ocean animals like dolphins in the safety of a facility who operate responsibly and with animal welfare as a priority.

The ocean is becoming more dangerous every day: boat tours disturbing the Hawaiian spinner dolphins from resting during the day so they can hunt at night; animals dying as a result of being by-catch for fishing vessels, human pollution; increasing number of people that break the law of keeping their distance from protected animals to at least 150 feet.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:17:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Colleen Peel		Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not support SB 3055. I have personally witnessed the value of having common bottlenose dolphins under human care at accredited marine mammal facilities such as Dolphin Quest. These animals are very well-loved and well-cared for. The educational and conversational impact that is available for local guests as well as visitors from around the world is invaluable. These animals make a strong connection to people, and I have experienced first hand individuals learning how to better take care of our oceans and the animals that inhabit it through their experiences at locations such as Dolphin Quest.

Dolphin Quest is a long standing business in Hawaii. They are committed to helping to make the island and the oceans around the world a cleaner and safer place for all animals. Concerns should not be turned towards the health and well-being of the animals at these facilities. They should however be addressed at the marine debris and pollution that is causing animals in the ocean to have premature deaths.

In conclusion, please do not support SB 3055. Let the experts in animal care and well-being continue to be the experts and educate the public on the most important issues.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:19:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ANNETTE FUMAR		Oppose	No

Comments:

I feel that facilities such as Dolphin Quest play an important role in educating the public in the importance of conservation and care regarding our Marine environment. We are the stewards of our oceans and the animals in it. Dolphin Quest is a wonderful bridge between the human to marine connection. They protect, care and find what is best in the health of the animals in the wild as well as the animals in their care.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:21:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alisha		Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not support SB 3055. The common bottlenose dolphins at Dolphin Quest have a crucially vital purpose! These dolphins allow a safe environment for people to come and connect with them on an extremely intimate level. I personally came to Dolphin Quest to interact with an amazing animal, and left feeling inspired to make a difference for world. Not only did I interact and gain so much knowledge about Dolphins and marine life, but I was also given tools to use in how to become a better steward for the environment. They explained choices that I didn't even realized had an impact on the ocean. Know that I am knowledgeable, I feel so empowered to think of my choices. Dolphin Quest also is a great resource for local families as well. It is free of charge to come interact with the trainers and learn about the dolphins while you observe them. They also offer field trip options for local educational groups. These animals have a much better health care plan than anyone I know, especially their counterparts out in the ocean. Concern should not be focused on animals in human care, but rather the pollution and conservation concerns that are affecting the oceans in a negative way. Dolphin Quest specifically is accredited and is held at an incredibly high standard of care. They only feed their animals restaurant quality fish.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:24:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Germann		Oppose	No

Comments:

I want to thank the Hawaii State Legislature for taking the time to read my comment on SB 3055. I want to start by saying I have been a part of the marine animal field for eleven years. I have dedicated my time to the care of marine animals in human care and I will continue to do so for the rest of my life. I want to include in my comment the immense, groundbreaking impact Dolphin Quest has had on our field. Every accredited marine mammal park I've worked for has utilized the science provided and published by Dolphin Quest and the bill being proposed would have a negative impact on that work and on the animals. As a certified veterinary technician my aim has always been to provide the optimal welfare to every animal in my care. I feel confident in saying that the wonderful accredited marine mammal parks of your great state feel the same way. The science, research, education, outreach, and overall goals of these parks can not be underestimated. Please, please do not allow SB 3055 to pass as it would only hinder the lives of these animals and overall outreach these accredited parks offer to countless guests. If we are to create a world in which our children can harbor a profound love and respect for nature it begins with these accredited parks. I'd ask the Hawaii State Legislature to consider the negative impact this bill would have on marine mammals kept in human care (and since the knowledge gained from these animals is used to help animals in a rescue/rehabilitation context the passing of this bill would also hinder them). Part of caring for marine mammals in human care means providing the best social structure which can involve transport. Preventing an accredited park from forming the best social dynamic for their animals would have a negative impact on the animal. Please consider the importance of these animals and role they play in the development of future generations.

Thank you.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:24:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christian Dietert		Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing in opposition to SB 3055. Facilities like Dolphin Quest are vital to educating future generations about our oceans and it is done in inspiring ways through facilities like this. It inspires conservation in a very special way- through meeting one of their animal ambassadors. The animals at these facilities are loved and well cared for. With out interactions in a controlled environment, there could be an increase in people that try to swim with wild dolphins- something that is not beneficial for the people or the wild dolphin populations around the islands (risk or injury for the people or dolphin, change in natural behavior for the dolphin- just to name a few). To ban transport and breeding of these animals only impedes a facility's ability to best care for their animals- the animal care professionals would be the ones who know what is best for their animals (and a big part of that is proper population management and social management). There are also scientist that rely on facilities like Dolphin Quest to collect data that would be otherwise impossible to get- to lose these animals is to lose valuable knowlage. Again, Please Do not support SB 3055- for the future of our oceans.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:25:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kate McAlister		Oppose	No

Comments:

I **do not** support SB 3055.

The importance of access to dolphins in Hawaii's accredited marine parks for local Hawaiians and school age children is unparalleled. These parks are not just for tourists or revenue. Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators. These are the real issues at hand. I have firsthand seen the consequences of poorly managed tour operations guiding uneducated tourists into approaching wild dolphins, feeding them, and jumping in the water to swim with them. Not only is this illegal per the Marine Mammal Protection Act, but also completely avoidable. Educating our public about these animals and why it is important to respect and not disturb their natural behaviors is a pivotal role that all marine parks hold in our society. In addition, educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine parks is safer for the dolphins and people. This is a much better alternative than, for example, dozens of boats harassing free ranging spinner dolphins when they are attempting to rest.

The marine mammal specialists at accredited marine parks are the experts. I have been in the animal care and training field for 5 years, and I can attest that no one knows the animals' behavior, physiology, and mental needs better than us, the trainers. We are the ones spending weekends, holidays, and night shifts to ensure the best care and well-being for these animals.

Accredited marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the animals. Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. There is no reason to duplicate or ignore the already existing regulatory process! If one makes a suggestion to ban the transport or breeding of dolphins, based on zero scientific data, their opinion is based on nothing but emotion and misinformation. This is the agenda of misinformed animal extremists, and a perfect example of why we need zoos and aquariums: to educate our public!

To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks. This would eliminate the ability of future generations the opportunity to physically see, experience, and learn about dolphins in this unrivaled setting. Such interactions are pivotal in educating our public, making lifelong impressions, and instilling in individuals the need to care about and help conserve all the species that inhabit our world today. The alternative to this is not acceptable. Coming from an animal training and care professional, please do NOT support SB 3055.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:28:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yvette Mendez		Oppose	No

Comments:

- Please **do not** support SB 3055.
- The drafted language that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness, or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data.
- The importance of access to dolphins in Hawaii’s accredited marine parks for local Hawaiians and school age children. It’s not just for tourists. Locals can go and watch the dolphins, in some cases for free. Add your personal experience and observations of guests experiencing marine life at your zoo or aquarium.
- Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators.
- Educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine parks is safer for the dolphins and people. This is a much better alternative than dozens of boats harassing free ranging spinner dolphins when they’re attempting to rest.
- The marine mammal specialists at accredited marine parks are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals’ behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone. This is a perfect place for you to describe your personal experience of dedication to cetaceans in managed zoological settings.
- There are NO marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii (this is the exception in the Bill). Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community.
- Accredited marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the

animals.

- Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. There is no reason to duplicate or ignore the already existing regulatory process!
- If one bans the transport or breeding of dolphins, based on zero scientific data suggesting one should, what is next? Horses? Dogs? Cattle? This is an emotional plea by misinformed animal extremists
- To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks, thus robbing future generations the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about dolphins in this unrivaled setting.
- If you've been to Dolphin Quest or Sea Life Park, and have seen first-hand that these animals are well cared for by their trainers and veterinarians, please communicate it.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:31:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carolyn Meeker		Oppose	No

Comments:

I am not a resident of Hawaii but visit frequently. Sea Life Park is a regular stop of mine during these visits. It is clear what amazing work they do educating their audiences on conservation, the wonderful animals in their care and the planet. The dolphins are healthy, live longer lives than in the wild and bring joy to countless visitors - all allowing the park to donate substantial funding to conservation efforts to preserve and protect marine life. This education is invaluable. Please put a stop to SB 3055 before it progresses any further.

Thank you.

Carolyn Meeker

THE SENATE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, 2018
STATE OF HAWAII
LETTER OF OPPOSITION
SB-No. 3055

January 31, 2018

Senator Mike Gabbard-Chair
Senator Gil Riviere-Vice Chair
State Capitol, Room 4016
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: OPPOSITION TO SB 3055

Dear Senator Gabbard & Committee:

I am writing in opposition to SB 3055 as introduced. This bill seeks to remedy a problem that does not readily exist and is supported by issues outlined in the 2013 Marine Mammal Inventory Report. I strongly believe this bill is an unnecessary regulation that will restrict educational opportunities for our school children, local residents of Hawaii, and the many tourists visiting here. Sea Life Park, here on Oahu host many educational opportunities for the general public, and in many ways the only educational outlet of its kind.

If this bill becomes law, as stated, it will negatively affect our young children, and local residents; the real losers. I have visited Sea Life Park many times in the last three years, and have always walked away with some new fact of marine life, and have watched others do the same. The mammals there appear to be in good health, and always seem to be treated with respect and appropriate care.

I strongly ask the committee to re-consider this bill as written, and perhaps write into the bill more detailed guidelines which may allow both educational and entertainment opportunities, and restrict those practices which may harm the mammals.

I respectfully request that the vote is "No" on SB 3055.

Sincerely yours,

Gerald Lucero

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 3:06:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandra Smokler		Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this measure. I have had personal experience with the work done at Dolphin Quest in educating children and adults about dolphins through hands-on interaction. Any bill that would restrict or interfere with that function is counter-intuitive.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:34:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Greta Schelling		Oppose	No

Comments:

Marine mammals under human care have endless educational qualities when it comes to inspiring the next generation of children. And in order for those children to continue learning from these amazing animals, we must work to protect their animal welfare and continue to care for them in all aspects of their lives.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 3:08:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Beth Kinsala		Oppose	No

Comments:

This would be harmful to the animals in human care. They are well cared for. I 100% disagree with this bill

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 7:29:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Emery		Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not pass this bill because it would end marine mammal zoological programs in the state and that is not right and could hurt the economy.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 3:08:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Holly Loushin		Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB3055. Dolphins should continue to be shared with future generations for a better understanding of wildlife conservation. Without educational experiences such as Sea Life Park and Dolphin Quest's programs, the children of tomorrow will not learn to respect our oceans and the creatures living there. Educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine parks is safer for the dolphins and people. This is a much better alternative than dozens of boats harassing free ranging spinner dolphins when they're attempting to rest. Sea Life Park and Dolphin Quest provide hands-on meaningful encounters to connect with marine life. Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community. Accredited marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the animals.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 3:40:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Cummings		Oppose	No

Comments:

I urge you to oppose SB 3055.

This Bill does not help solve any of the real and serious problems affecting dolphins and whales, such as coastal pollution, marine debris (especially plastic pollution in the ocean), bycatch in fishing operations, entanglement in drifting "ghost nets", increasing human-made noise in the ocean, oil spills, reduced prey, and collisions and harassment by boaters and swimmers in the cetaceans' habitat.

This bill would hurt the good work of fully accredited, fully regulated, responsible and successful zoological facilities. In Hawaii, Dolphin Quest provides exemplary care of its animals while offering residents and visitors safe and inspiring opportunities to meet and learn about dolphins. These interactive educational experiences help to forge emotional connections to dolphins and to the need for a healthy ocean. For thirty years, Dolphin Quest has also engaged in research projects that have had direct benefits to dolphins in the wild. Dolphin Quest is a great resource and neighbor in Hawaii and a leader in the marine mammal global community, a fact that all of Hawaii should celebrate and be proud. Please support their important work by voting NO on SB 3055.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 3:53:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeffrey Olson		Oppose	No

Comments:

- The importance of access to dolphins in Hawaii’s accredited marine parks for local Hawaiians and school age children. It’s not just for tourists. Locals can go and watch the dolphins, in some cases for free. Add your personal experience and observations of guests experiencing marine life at your zoo or aquarium.
- Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 5:39:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wilson Kekoa Ho	Waimanalo Neighborhood Board	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Chair Gabbard and committee members:

I oppose SB3055, which seeks to end the transfer of captive dolphins, whales and other related sea animals to facilities like Sea Life Park and Dolphin Quest.

I am the Chair of the Waimanalo Neighborhood Board, a lifelong resident and active leader in the Waimanalo community. I have personally seen the positive impact Sea Life Park's educational efforts have had on our keiki. While they can read about dolphins and whales in books, many of them don't have an opportunity to see them up close and in person except at the Park. These kids not only learn about the animals, but they are also introduced to the importance of taking care of our land and protecting the oceans.

In addition, Sea Life Park employs a large number of Waimanalo residents and works closely with Job Corps and others in the community to provide training and employment for our young people.

To limit the transfer of dolphins to "facilities that use cetaceans solely for scientific and educational purposes, "will deprive future generations from participating with the unique educational experiences places like Sea Life Park provides.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition of SB3955

Mahalo,

Wilson Ho

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 4:49:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Sweeney		Oppose	No

Comments:

I urge you to oppose SB 3055.

This Bill does not help solve any of the real and serious problems affecting dolphins and whales, such as coastal pollution, marine debris (especially plastic pollution in the ocean), bycatch in fishing operations, entanglement in drifting "ghost nets", increasing human-made noise in the ocean, oil spills, reduced prey, and collisions and harassment by boaters and swimmers in the cetaceans' habitat.

This bill would hurt the good work of fully accredited, fully regulated, responsible and successful zoological facilities. In Hawaii, Dolphin Quest provides exemplary care of its animals while offering residents and visitors safe and inspiring opportunities to meet and learn about dolphins. These interactive educational experiences help to forge emotional connections to dolphins and to the need for a healthy ocean. For thirty years, Dolphin Quest has also engaged in research projects that have had direct benefits to dolphins in the wild. Dolphin Quest is a great resource and neighbor in Hawaii and a leader in the marine mammal global community, a fact that all of Hawaii should celebrate and be proud. Please support their important work by voting NO on SB 3055.

Dear AEN Committee Members,

I am deeply concerned about proposed Bill SB3055 which would prohibit the transfer of cetaceans in Hawaii. Passing such a Bill would hurt the good work of fully accredited, fully regulated, responsible and successful zoological facilities and it sets a dangerous precedent.

Dolphin Quest is an accredited member of the Alliance of Marine Mammal Park and Aquariums. Facilities within this special group are absolutely dedicated to the highest standards of care for marine mammals and to their conservation in the wild through public education and scientific study. Dolphin Quest has inspired and educated tens of thousands of tourist, school groups and Hawaii residents annually and we have contributed over \$4 million dollars in financial and in-kind support of conservation efforts and university level research. This is critically important work that comes at a time when our oceans and its resident species are at great risk and at a time when people are more and more disconnected from the natural environment and nature. Dolphin Quest and other accredited Zoos and Aquariums around the world understand the complete gravity of the potential fate of our oceans. These facilities prioritize re-connecting people to the natural world, educating students young and old, and inspiring all to do more by being conscious with their individual choices as a world citizen. The ability to transfer animals is an essential part of good animal care in order to sustain healthy populations through genetic diversity or to optimize social groupings which, in the case of dolphins, is dynamic and ever changing. Therefore, the transfer of individuals is in the best interest of the animals. To deny transfers would eliminate breeding and ultimately prevent population sustainability, thereby phasing out marine parks.

Accredited zoos and Aquariums are doing important work with an amazing group of animals. And these animals are loved, respected and cared for in the absolute best form possible. Because of this they are living long healthy lives (as long, or in many cases, longer than their counterparts in the wild) and they are true ambassadors of the sea. They are helping people and their ocean counterparts while providing a bit of hope, joy, and inspiration along the way. I respectfully urge you to vote no on SB 3055

Respectfully,

Julie Rocho-Levine

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 4:08:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ULISES CUELLAR	Sea Life Park	Oppose	No

Comments:

We need to enforce existing regulation, creating more regulation do not solve anything it just makes the government grow more stress to budget and hurting good taxpayer money.

Also, the regulation on the SB3055 does not solve anything, if we are going to create regulations we need regulations to solve an issue, we all need to work with our brains no our hearts, there is not scientific or technical justification to base this regulation.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:11:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebecca Doescher	Hawaii Voter	Oppose	No

Comments:

My sister has worked with cetaceans for nearly 30 years. These animals receive the best of care, with MOST living well beyond what they do in the wild. I've been behind the scenes at all of the marine mammal facilities she's worked at and have seen for myself how responsive and affectionate these animals can be with those who care for them. These animals have never appeared depressed or shown any signs of aggression towards other animals outside of what is normal interaction within their species. The facilities here are NOT capturing animals from the wild. At no time, at any of the facilities my sister has worked, did an animal ever leap out of its enclosure to its death! Those who are making decisions should review the facts. Have an expert in the field provide actual statistics and first hand knowledge. I've read bill S.B. 3055 and find it misrepresents the truth with generalizations and 'cherry-picked' facts. There is too little, selectively picked information in this bill to make an informed choice. Obviously, Sea Life Park and Dolphin Quest have commercial aspects to them, however educational and conservation activities are also an important part of their operations. These facilities are not solely for breeding and entertainment purposes as the verbiage in this bill would suggest.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:12:55 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donald K. Young		Oppose	No

Comments:

I speak against SB 3055.

As a docent at the local state aquarium, I see the importance of its mission to promote marine understanding, appreciation and conservation with the State's elementary school children. While their tours are meant to be educational, they are universally excited to visit, and to be "entertained."

The language in SB 3055 seeks to draw distinct boundaries between transfer of cetaceans for entertainment purposes and for scientific and educational purposes. But we all do not willingly learn or study or appreciate that which does not "entertain" us and stimulate us intellectually. The language denigrates entertainment as unimportant—perhaps childish, or crassly commercial, while science and education is serious and adult.

For both children and adults, that distinction is intellectually and emotionally dishonest. We do not willingly learn, or study, or devote ourselves to that which does not "entertain" us or stimulate us intellectually.

SB 3055 will restrict/deprive our citizens from access to a gateway to what should be indeed, the ultimate objective, the appreciation and conservation well-being of cetaceans as well as all marine life--respectfully up close and in person.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:00:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eduardo Cervantes	Gulf World	Oppose	No

Comments:

The SB3055 states that dolphins get stress under social structures, captive social structures. Dolphins are one of the most social species on earth, such thing makes really important to be in social structure, families and the human contact enrich this interaction. It safer for us and them to be in contact in a safe and secure environment, avoiding our own pollution, visual and auditive, many boats harrasing a pond of dolphins it is no the way to enjoy them.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:06:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sheralyn Garcia	DOE	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB3055! The verbiage in this bill has many hidden agendas. It states to stop the transfer of Cetaceans from the wild to captured facilities for the purpose of breeding and entertainment. Most transfers in the state of Hawaii are for the purpose of education and protection of this wildlife. The institutions on Oahu (i.e, Sea Life Park) are providing a valuable service by educating the public on how to conserve our resources and how to safely address our wildlife. The park teaches and educates on how to protect endangered Cetaceans and how to keep our coral, beaches, and oceans clean and safe for the longevity of our Cetaceans. The public is allowed to view and learn up close these precious animals instead of trying to abuse them in their natural environment. Please DO NOT PASS this bill. It will only lead to more destruction of our natural wildlife environment.

I am a first grade teacher and we use Sea Life park every year to teach our students about animals and their adaptations and survival techniques. Sea Life park's education department is a great source for our students to learn.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:04:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Manuel		Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing in opposition of bill SB3055. Ending the transport of cetaceans to facilities in Hawaii is not a good thing. Facilities such as Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park not only serve to further research and conservation in their field, but also give people an opportunity to connect to these animals which fosters an understanding and respect for the conservation of animals in the wild.

I have visited both of these wonderful facilities several times throughout my life and more recently have brought my 2 year old son to experience these amazing animals. I love seeing the wonder and amazement in his eyes as he sees an animal for the first time. I enjoy witnessing the priceless knowledge he gains and newfound love for each species he encounters. I'd hope we would be able to preserve these important experiences for future generations to come.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:04:00 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emily Guarino		Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB 3055, and ask you to vote against it. This bill is crafted on false premises, designed to evoke emotion, but not based on scientific fact. I am writing as a person with over 4 years of experience conducting research on wild dolphins, and over 15 years of conducting research, observing behavior, training and caring for dolphins in a marine mammal facility.

1. The claim that "dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress..." is completely false. Scientific data shows that: mortality data in US facilities = 3% (Innes, 2005) , whereas wild mortality data = 3.9 to 9.8% (Wells & Scott, 1990; Stolen and Barlow, 2003; Mattson et al., 2006; Neuenhoff, 2009).
2. Scientific studies have demonstrated that zoos and aquariums positively impact visitors' conservation-related attitudes, knowledge, and behavior (e.g. Miller et al., 2013; Moss et al., 2014; Skibins & Powell, 2013). To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks, thus robbing future generations the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about dolphins in this unrivaled setting.
3. The Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture and the USDA already tightly regulate transportation of marine mammals. There is no need to usurp their role.
4. Marine mammal facilities (accredited) need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the animals.
5. Accredited marine mammal facilities provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community. Please don't make it harder - or impossible - for them to carry out these vital roles.

Thank you,

Emily Guarino

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Moss, A., Jensen, E., & Gusset, M. (2014). Evaluating the contribution of zoos and aquariums to Aichi Biodiversity Target 1. *Conservation Biology*, 29, 537-544.

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SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 10:00:23 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Czeiszperger		Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha!

The drafted language in SB 3055 that “dysfunctional social structure of captive cetaceans is known to cause unnatural aggression and stress, resulting in injury, illness or death to the animals” is completely unfounded and is not supported by scientific data.

Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators that have no respect for the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The educational impact of experiencing dolphins in accredited marine parks is safer for the dolphins and people. This is a much better alternative than dozens of boats harassing free ranging spinner dolphins when they’re attempting to rest.

There are currently NO marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii (this is the exception in the Bill). Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park Hawaii provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community.

Addressing the portion of the bill that wishes to ban the transportation of cetaceans: accredited marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding and maintain a healthy social setting should two animals dislike each other. Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. There is no reason to duplicate or ignore the already existing regulatory process!

For the safety of the animals, do the right thing and protect them. Do not support SB 3055.

Respectfully,

Megan Czeiszperger

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:58:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Powell		Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a resident of the state of Hawai'i (I live in Ewa Beach, 96706), and I oppose SB3055!

I work with Special Needs Children (primarily individuals with Autism) here on O'ahu, and both Sea Life Park and Dolphin Quest have provided our clients with extremely valuable experiences and knowledge regarding marine life and marine conservation which would be extremely difficult for these children to get anywhere else.

The institutions on Oahu (i.e, Sea Life Park and Dolphin Quest) are providing a valuable service by educating the public on how to conserve our resources and how to safely address our wildlife. The parks teach and educate us on how to protect endangered Cetaceans and how to keep our coral, beaches, and oceans clean and safe for the longevity of our Cetaceans. The public is allowed to view and learn up close about these precious animals instead of trying to abuse them in their natural environment. Please **DO NOT PASS** this bill. It will only lead to more destruction of our natural wildlife environment.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:14:28 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Muniz		Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am against the proposed SB3055 bill and urge you to also be against it. This bill is unfounded and inaccurate. The educational impact that the accredited facilities in Hawaii have is incredibly important not only for learning but for protection of wild cetaceans as well. Being able to enter these facilities and learn about these animals in a safe and legal way is so important. As the Marine Mammal Protection act states it is illegal to harass and approach animals such as dolphins in the wild, many supporting this bill claim that you can swim with them in the wild which is fact illegal. People love dolphins, for many people this love began with the movie Flipper. However many people don't know that before this movie animals such as dolphins were often viewed as dumb, a nuisance, and used as target practice. People then began to love and care for dolphins which prompted the protections that marine mammals have today. This bill would prevent the transportation of cetaceans to prevent inbreeding which will eventually cause the die off of animals in human care, this would result in a huge addition of people harassing wild dolphins which causes added stresses to them and causes them to be unhealthy and in some cases can lead to death. This has already been witnessed in the Hawaiian Spinner dolphins who are now protected from this even though this is extremely poorly regulated and still occurs. These animals in human care inspire people to care and in turn promote conservation. Instead of focusing on a handful of healthy, well cared for, loved, and happy animals in human care the focus should be turned on ways to help marine animals in the wild. The marine environment is no longer a healthy and thriving one due to humans. The oceans have been overfished and scientists estimate that by 2040 we will witness the mass extinction of many fish species. Also pollution and marine debris, 43% of marine mammals with either ingest or become entangled in marine debris within this next year. Animals such as the southern resident killer whale population and belugas found in the areas are going extinct and when either of these animals die and stand they are viewed as toxic waste due to the amount of toxic pollutants that are not found within their system. Within this generation we are also witnessing the extinction of many marine animals such as the vaquita, Baiji dolphin, and polar bears. These facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of the hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from

poorly managed tourist boat operations. So I urge you to consider the benefits and the good that these facilities are doing and not support this bill



January 30, 2018

To the Honorable Sen. Mike Gabbard
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street,
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: Opposition to S.B. NO. 3055 (02-01-18 at 2:30PM in conference room 016
(State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Oahu, Hawaii))**

In my capacity as a published scientist in the field of dolphin behavior and social cognition and as a faculty member in the Department of Integrative Biology of Oklahoma State University I offer first-hand and scientific testimony in opposition to SB 3055. I have personally observed the animals at Dolphin Quest Hawaii and Dolphin Quest Oahu and found the animals to be in good physical and mental health. The dolphins are not listless or subdued and they engage in species typical behavior including affiliative swimming, play, acoustic communication and exploration, general curiosity with novel stimuli and appropriate parental care. Social groups are well managed and I can report anecdotally that aggression in Dolphin Quest animals seems far less than for the wild populations I have surveyed in Scotland and Costa Rica. I see no signs of injury or deformity and, compared to wild dolphins, Dolphin Quest animals are pristine in body appearance and condition. They have access to natural seawater and, for all intents and purposes, are currently housed in conditions that are no different than proposed seaside sanctuaries championed by opponents of cetacean captivity.

I am struck by the degree of scientific and historical inaccuracy present in SB 3055. Dolphins exhibit a fission-fusion social structure where individuals will break-up and reform social pairings based on age, social status and ecological need (Connor, Wells, Mann, & Read, 2000). Yet this bill would expressly prevent Hawaiian institutions like Dolphin Quest from moving animals between facilities, which will hinder the expression of natural social dynamics in dolphins. This will lead to an **increase** in undesired behavior. This will cause unnatural social pairings between dominant males in groups and will likely lead to an **increase** in stress and aggression especially for mixed-age male groups with juveniles present (Stanton

& Mann, 2012). Males at the age of three and older often do move off on their own into bachelor pods (Connor et al., 2000). Hence these moves aren't about "tricks" or improper breeding. They are about ensuring the safety of animals such that the young males especially are not attacked by dominant males.

The statements in section 1 of the bill regarding cause of death do not apply in these cases. No cetacean has been taken from the wild in North America in decades. Therefore, no cetacean was killed in 2013 because of "capture-related incidents". Furthermore, I see no evidence of anything at either Dolphin Quest location to support the idea that the 2013 USMMIR represents current data. Without accompanying stress and heart-rate measures taken on animals in captive facilities it is spurious to claim that the animals are stressed (Pomerantz, Terkel, Suomi, & Paukner, 2012). Furthermore, data collected under advisement by Drs. N. Rose and L. Marino (opponents of marine mammals in captivity) show no systemic differences in stress cortisol amongst captive and wild groups (Proie, 2013). The idea that animals under human care have shorter lifespans is demonstrably false. Scientists have estimated the average lifespan for wild bottlenose dolphins to be around 20-25 years by using the .961 survival rate to back-calculate longevity (Wells & Scott, 1990). The AP recently conducted a survey at a non-Hawaiian facility and found that average lifespans among animals under human care were closer to 45 years (Schneider, 2014). The two Dolphin Quest facilities alone house eight individuals who are at, or beyond average life expectancy for wild bottlenose dolphins.

I can attest that the educational information presented to guests at Dolphin Quest is accurate, current and informative. Dolphin Quest staff are clear to guests regarding the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) related to the feeding of wild dolphins. Scientists, like myself, who have collected valuable research data with the animals at Dolphin Quest, are also able to interact with guests giving them first hand information on the study of marine mammals. Furthermore, we give talks hosted by Dolphin Quest to the public at large, providing educational opportunities for Hawaiians and visitors to the state. The animals perform behaviors that are natural, with the exception of basic target training (as there are no target polls in nature) and training related to cognitive testing which is well within the scope of the research requirements of the MMPA. With the loss of research funding there are no more research-only facilities. Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park are marine mammal research centers for Hawaii. Researchers work with groups like Dolphin Quest to conduct ground breaking science that improves captive and wild welfare in cetaceans. I, along with colleagues, have just submitted a large NSF research proposal to use technology to non-invasively monitor stress hormones in wild dolphins. The methods we will use will be tested at Dolphin Quest facilities to ensure the safe collection of data both in the wild and with animals under human care. We cannot collect data with

animals that are stressed because the stipulations proposed by this bill are leading to chronically high glucocorticoid readings.

This bill has the rare potential to cause the very problems it outlines in its preamble. Instead of increasing the quality of these animals' lives it will decrease it, as SB 3055 will likely lead to shorter lifespans as well as increased stress and aggression. These animals communicate normally (King & Janik, 2013; King, Sayigh, Wells, Fellner, & Janik, 2013), socialize normally (Bruck, 2013; Samuels & Gifford, 1997) and these particular dolphins teach us a great deal about their wild counterparts (Bruck & Janik, 2018a; Bruck & Janik, 2018b; Samuels & Tyack, 2000). There is no scientific, ethical or moral reason to pursue this legislation and I urge this body to vote no on SB 3055.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jason N. Bruck
Teaching Assistant Professor
Curatorial Associate: Collection of Vertebrates
Oklahoma State University
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Stillwater OK, 74074. Room 514D

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SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 2:08:04 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Yeates	International marine animal trainersâ€™™ association	Oppose	No

Comments:

- Accredited zoological facilities provide a wonderful environment for dolphins, safe from the increasing dangers in the ocean. We should be more concerned about the welfare of hundreds of thousands of dolphins and whales drowning in discarded fishing nets and impacted from overfishing, pollution, marine debris, and boat strikes from poorly managed tour operators.
- Educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine parks is safer for the dolphins and people. This is a much better alternative than dozens of boats harassing free ranging spinner dolphins when they're attempting to rest.
- The marine mammal specialists at accredited marine parks are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals' behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone. This is a perfect place for you to describe your personal experience of dedication to cetaceans in managed zoological settings.
- There are NO marine mammal facilities solely for research and education that house dolphins in Hawaii (this is the exception in the Bill). Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park provide critical support for scientists, research, conservation and education within the community.
- Accredited marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the animals.
- Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. There is no reason to duplicate or ignore the already existing regulatory process!

DO NOT PASS SB 3055.

Laura C. Yeates, Ph.D.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:45:42 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary M.		Oppose	No

Comments:

The educational impact of experiencing dolphins in an accredited marine parks is safer for the dolphins and people. This is a much better alternative than dozens of boats harassing free ranging spinner dolphins when they're attempting to rest.

The marine mammal specialists at accredited marine parks are the experts. They love the dolphins and know the animals' behavior physiology and mental needs better than anyone. This is a perfect place for you to describe your personal experience of dedication to cetaceans in managed zoological settings.

To discontinue cetacean transportation and breeding would ultimately phase out marine life parks, thus robbing future generations the opportunity to see, experience, and learn about dolphins and whales in this unrivaled setting. Accredited marine mammal facilities need to be able to transport animals in order to prevent inbreeding, and to best manage and care for the well-being of the animals.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 8:52:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 9:18:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amanda Mathieu		Support	No

Comments:

The high level of intelligence and social abilities cetaceans possess justifies their freedom from captivity, especially for entertainment and profiting purposes. In Hawaii, many cetaceans have died while in captive care, most notably at Sea Life Park. Further, their import and trafficking supports the mass slaughter of cetaceans in Japan. Let's end cetacean captivity and only impact their lives in beneficial ways by helping them - whether it's continuing to focus efforts on assisting stranded animals, through rehabilitation and disentanglement, or by protecting their natural environment to ensure they thrive in the wild as they deserve.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:31:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tyler Jones		Oppose	Yes

Comments:

I am testifying to express my opposition to SB3055 as it relates to transport of cetaceans. The proposed bill will negatively impact the ability for genetic conservation efforts to form private-public partnerships to achieve longterm conservation goals. Such partnerships have a proven track record for effective conservation of plant and animal species as they leverage the resources of private enterprise to serve a public good. Genetic conservation of species in areas outside of their traditional habitat is increasingly becoming a priority for international conservation efforts. Many species are at risk from large scale ecosystem change brought on by human impact and climate change. There is an entire field, known as "ex-situ genetic conservation" dedicated to this approach and involves many of the worlds top scientists. While the bill does exempt research/education facilities, it would severe this longstanding partnership at a time when it is needed most. Local governments, universities and non-gonvernment organizations do not have the resources to independtly operate genetic conservation programs and therefore rely heavily on these partnerships with private enterprise. I urge you to consider these negative consequences and oppose the bill.

Tyler Jones

Hawaii Agriculture Research Center

SB-3055

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:59:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Josh Gonda		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please accept this testimony as my support for Bill SB3055, with recommended amendments below for reference:

- Place an additional ban on captive cetacean breeding in order to phase out cetacean captivity for entertainment and exhibition purposes.
- Place a ban on any construction of new captive cetacean facilities in Hawai'i, in an effort to phase out cetacean captivity for entertainment and exhibition purposes.

Dear Sir or Madame,

I am writing to give testimony on SB 3055 regarding the bill "Relating to Cetaceans."

During the past year, the Government of Mexico and numerous marine mammal conservation groups have raced in an eleventh hour attempt to capture several remaining Vaquita porpoises in the Gulf of Mexico. The purpose of this effort was to secure a captive breeding colony before the Vaquita become extinct. Unless drastic measures are taken, extinction is all but assured as less than 30 Vaquita remain in the wild. <https://www.vaquitacpr.org/>

I work for a nonprofit that is directly involved in this rescue effort. Veterinarians, scientists, conservation and animal care experts have volunteered countless hours in this Hail Mary attempt.

My hope is that my testimony widens your perspectives on breeding programs. This is for all the Vaquitas, California Condors, Northern White Rhinos and other endangered species left in this world.

Mahalo, Brian Matsuyama.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 12:13:13 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janelle Van Ruiten		Support	No

Comments:

I am in full support of SB3055.

I am hoping the legislatures of this bill, will take into account that cetaceans are highly developed, intelligent, aware, and social beings. For breeding to occur, Sea Life Park and Dolphin Quest are frequently transporting individuals between the Islands and parks. During transportation dolphins exhibit amounts of stress that effect them to a cellular level, which has negative effects on their immune system. Based on a study found in the Journal of Veterinary Medical Science, dolphins tested during the transportation process indicated that handling and transportation are stressful events for dolphins. The amount of stress exhibited during the transportation affected their polymorphonuclear cell functions, thereby leading to the impairment of the immune system (Katsura NODA, et. all., 2017). Coincidentally, a high percent of the 139 cetaceans that have died at Sea Life Park and Dolphin Quest have died due to deteriorating immune systems, including the most recent death of a wild caught dolphin, Mikioi, who died of heart failure on June 22, 2017.

This being only one of the many factors that effects the lifespan and health of each individual cetacean. I once again urge the legislation to look further into the effects captivity has on cetaceans, and why many popular captive facilities are shutting down around the world. Research has proved that cetaceans can not adapt to a captive lifestyle, and it is no longer necessary or ethical for them to be kept in captive facilities for human purposes.

For futher information on the the number and causes of deaths for Cetaceans at SLP and DQ please reference:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/19HEuINKEmqi988DdZWnwiqtsIHLJInAKL3wb3YeROck/edit#gid=2013008871>

Relationship between Transportation Stress and Polymorphonuclear Cell Functions of Bottlenose Dolphins, Tursiops truncatus Katsura NODA-Hideo AKIYOSHI-Mica AOKI-Terumasa SHIMADA-Fumihito OHASHI -

https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/article/jvms/69/4/69_4_379/_article/-char/ja/

SB-3055

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 6:29:20 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Friedman	Big Island Vegans	Support	No

Comments:

All zoos and aquariums are Animal Prisons and places like Dolphin Quest and Sea World must be SHUTDOWN!

These tourist attractions do not care about the animals being tortured and confined in their facilities. They only care about profits. When an animal dies there, they get insurance money to cover it.

If Dolphin Quest even remotely cared about their animals, then they would not even try to sell these beloved dolphins in cramped shipping crates to other aquarium prisons via FedEx!

#BlackFish #SB3055 #BoycottDolphinQuest #BoycottSeaLifePark

SB-3055

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 8:04:36 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole Young		Support	No

Comments:

I am writing this in support of SB3055. Cetacean captivity has become a worldwide controversy in the past few years. The public is actively opposing captive cetacean facilities and is demanding a phase out of captivity, including the once popular SeaWorld. At least 14 countries have banned and restricted the exhibition and trade of cetaceans, including our neighbor Island of Maui in 2002. Maui is still rated the #1 Island in the WORLD via trip advisor and that is without any captive facilities on island.

With current research showing the mental, and physical damages captivity causes to cetaceans, we now know that captive cetaceans have no correlation with the lifestyle of their wild counterparts, as they do not share the same natural lifestyle and cannot be compared. Facilities such as Sea Life Park, and Dolphin Quest cause constant stress on the highly evolved animals, which results in stereotypical behaviors. During a visit to Sea Life Park, there were constant unnatural behaviors witnessed, including aggression between the animals that are forced into close proximity and most notable the visible cataracts developed on nearly every dolphin's eyes. Cataracts develop from the constant exposure to sun rays that the dolphins at Sea Life Park experience due to their lack of shade that the park has failed to give their animals. The park has been cited by APHIS (the Animal and Health Inspection Service) several times stating that the exposure to sunlight without shade would have a direct affect their animals. These citations also include concerns with the amount of people the dolphins were forced to interact. Everyday dolphins can be forced to swim with nearly 48 people, 3-4 times a day a day. This happens in a singular pool with four different bottlenose dolphins. The citation by APHIS also stated that these types of interactions can lead to increased stress on the

animals and medical issues including, head pressing, aggression, stomach ulcers, regurgitation, and weight loss. These symptoms are correlated with the cause of death for nearly all 124 dolphins that have died in Sea Life Parks facility.

Another cause for concern at both captive facilities on the Island of Oahu is the condition of the water within the tanks that these dolphins are living in. As an environmental scientist who specializes in water quality monitoring, I am aware of what unhealthy and unlivable water conditions look like. In both captive facilities on island, anyone can observe the distinctive layer of green film present on the top of the water in most of the tanks. Through the research I have done, and according to the EPA

website, this green film usually indicates a buildup of nitrogen levels within the water. Nitrogen build up in water systems predominantly comes from a lack of proper filtration. This is far from the conditions that cetaceans experience in the wild, as both parks claim. Most dolphins swim more than 100 km per day and are not faced with the problem of a poor filtration system while sitting in a small pool of non-flowing water.

Lastly, I am in support of this bill because I feel a phase out of the captive breeding program is extremely necessary. At Sea Life Park, a high percentage of the forced artificial insemination of dolphins have ended negatively. Juvenile dolphins have died due to stillborn, heart failure, malnutrition, pneumonia, debilitation, sudden death, organ failure, abnormal growths, trauma from acute pancreatitis, complications with pregnancies, intestinal distortion, trauma, rejections from their mothers, and cases that were not identified. (CETABASE.org). While many of these deaths can certainly occur in the wild, dolphins that are in captivity are constantly monitored and cared for by curators and veterinarians. This largely demonstrates why a highly intelligent, self-aware, cognitive, and emotional being should not be subject to captivity.

Nicole Young

Environmental Scientist

nicole@geochemist.net

916-626-9623

SB-3055

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 8:49:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorraine Garnier		Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill with the new changes/amendments introduced at hearing.

Also in regards to breeding - The sentence should be changed to read: Breeding of cetaceans for any purpose other than enhancement of a species in the wild is prohibited.

thank you,

SB-3055

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 12:59:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donna Beckett		Oppose	No

Comments:

It is urgent we let you, the Hawaiian legislature, know how important marine zoological parks are to the public and to the planet. This bill is hostile, unneeded, unscientific and based in an anti-zoological agenda with no interest in education or conservation for the next generations.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 7:04:27 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melanie Gardner		Oppose	No

Comments:

As a marine mammal trainer with nine years of experience in the zoological field I have a strong opposition to limiting the facilities which breed cetaceans and have entertainment based activities with these animals. Breeding is a primary reinforcer for these animals which means it is just as important to them as water, air, and food. To deny them the right to breed and have offspring is CRUELTY. Please consider the science behind marine mammal facilities and not solely personal feelings on the matter. Breeding and being able to move these animals to find compatible partners is a right that these animals cannot be denied. As for cetaceans participating in things humans find entertaining, this is very enriching for these animals and has been shown by numerous studies that participating in things like shows and interactions, cetaceans lives are enriched. Obviously too much of these activities can become saturating to these animals, which is why experts like myself study for years to be able to manage these animals properly so that they have a fulfilling life free of predators, pollution, starvation, and boredom. These are luxuries wild dolphins do not have. All marine mammal facilities participate in the sharing of the scientific findings with the rest of the marine mammal community. This bill therefore does not make sense because it's not really possible to say one facility is more science based or educational based over another. They all do these things for the benefit of humans and cetaceans all over the world! Please oppose this bill!

SB-3055

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 7:51:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Price		Oppose	No

Comments:

I'm writing to urge you not to support SB 3055 which seeks to impose unnecessary and unwarranted restrictions and bans on cetacean transportation and breeding in the state of Hawaii for marine life parks. This bill will be a detriment to accredited, humane certified, and fully-regulated zoological facilities like Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park. Having the ability to move animals under the existing government oversight and permitting process is critical for the care of the animals and the long-term animal reproductive strategy. The bill includes statements about animal care and dysfunctional behavior that is simply not supported by any legitimate, peer reviewed science.

I've seen first-hand the incredible animal care, public education opportunities, stranded marine mammal support and contributions to vital marine mammal science that Dolphin Quest, in particular, has provided. Accredited and Humane Certified organizations like Dolphin Quest take great care of their animals and provide valuable public education opportunities and scientific support. Many of the studies conducted at locations like Dolphin Quest by University-level scientists would be impossible to conduct in the wild. Dolphin Quest provides safe environments where the dolphins voluntarily participate in this data collection that is helping scientists find real solutions the most important issues facing dolphins in the wild.

Please do not support SB 3055 and help ensure that future generations in Hawaii will have the ability to experience these amazing animals up close and be inspired to protect them in the wild.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 8:16:16 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Regina		Oppose	No

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB3055!

Facilities like Dolphin Quest are accredited and are following strict regulations. The trainers are not only educated in the health and welfare of the marine life they work with, but they also passionately care for them as members of their own family. Having places like Dolphin Quest give some children and adults the only chance they will ever have to see marine life up close and be educated on them. If people don't learn they don't have a reason to care. Also, research done because of places like Dolphin Quest helps preserve the species. **Please STOP this bill from passing and allow these already regulated facilities to give them the BEST CARE possible based on the research and knowledge already gleaned from years of working with marine life**, not to mention their passion for their welfare.

SB-3055

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 9:53:59 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/1/2018 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jeremy strubel		Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

I am supporting this due to the belief that these animals show such devastating emotional and physical effects after being held in captivity. As well as the way in which the groups that are capturing these animals that sell to, aquariums, and theme parks across the world are the same groups of people that slaughter them and sell for meat in a non-legal manner. With all of the ramifications of what happens to these animals that we use solely for our entertainment it is clear to me that it should not be allowed.

Thank you

Jeremy

From: [Simona Ylaite Russell](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: SB3055
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 9:34:46 AM

I believe that both sides are correct. Friends of Marine Education is half way right they should not keep dolphins and whales in pools at a marine park, but they should find a gigantic coast just for dolphins and whales to thrive in. If hurt or for educational reasons but the children of Hawaii have the choice to stop it if this goes to far. Cause I know people will take advantage over this. This coast would have a net around it so they can't get out but until they are cured then they can go out to the ocean. The most time allowed in their for dolphins and whales is one year. The people who will own this is not allowed to make them do tricks for food. The last rule would be they are not allowed to eat frozen food or caned food.they catch their own food so you put a lot of alive fish in the coast so the dolphins and whales can catch them on their own. This will help injured dolphins and whales so that when they go back in the ocean they will be ready. This coast would be 200,000 feet out of the coast and the with of the coast would have to be190,000 feet wide. This coast will help both sides equally. That is what my opinion of this bill is. -[Simona Ylaite](#) Russell

From: [Colette Mira](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Opposition for SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 9:51:53 AM

I oppose as I am from the Hawaiian islands and feel that this company has definitely made an impact on my life. I love how the trainers care a lot for the dolphin and do a lot for their well-being. They have made such a strong and loving connections to the dolphins and other mammals with care and support.

Sincerely,
Colette Mira-Naeole

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Danielle Meeker](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Opposition for SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 10:43:34 AM

Dear Senator Gabbard and the Agriculture and Environment Committee,

I am writing in regards to SB3055, the bill related to banning cetaceans in Hawaii. I oppose this bill wholeheartedly. I have seen firsthand how positive having marine mammals, including dolphins, under human care can be, with regard to education, conservation, and inspiring future generations to care for the ocean, and everything in it.

As a marine mammal trainer at Sea Life Park for the past three years, I am able to witness on a daily basis how exciting guests get when they see a dolphin for the first time. I am able to answer questions, and educate little boys and girls, who want to be trainers when they grow up. I hear about how they want to tell everyone they know how amazing these animals are. I am able to see their eyes light up when a dolphin swims right in front of them.

Sea Life Park and Dolphin Quest strive to provide educational programs to all ages, and to support many conservation efforts. Dolphin Quest has been living up to its mission statement, to touch hearts and minds through fun, innovative experiences, that create a connection to nature, and a passion to learn more, since 1988. To date, Dolphin Quest has donated \$4,149,611 to scientific studies, supported 128 different scientific studies, and taught 97,937 school children through dolphin interactive programs, educational programs, and educational camps.

Sea Life Park, open since 1964, works hard to provide educational experiences to guests through many different avenues. The park's education department provides field trips and lecture based programs for school groups, provides overnight educational programs and fun filled camps during summer and winter school breaks. Throughout the day, guests are able to attend talks provided by the training staff to learn about the variety of marine life at the park, including dolphins, turtles, Hawaiian monk seals, sharks and sea lions.

Sea Life Park also provides and supports many conservation efforts to protect and preserve marine life. A portion of all purchases made at Sea Life Park, from admission to interactive programs, supports marine animal conservation efforts. This includes the park's Hawaiian green sea turtle breeding and release program and sea bird rehabilitation center, as well as supporting critical marine mammal research.

Without the help of marine mammal facilities like Sea Life Park and Dolphin Quest, providing these education and conservation efforts, the future of marine life and the future of our oceans hangs in the balance. Marine mammal facilities help get future generations excited about marine life. They inspire change, and they spark a fire in people to care about the world around them.

Senators of the Agriculture and Environment Committee, please do not support SB3055. I am a resident of Hawaii, and I oppose this proposed bill. Thank you very much for taking the time to read this testimony.

Sincerely,
Danielle Meeker
Honolulu, Hawaii

From: [Demetrius Brandon](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Opposition
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 7:14:58 PM

I Demetrius do NOT agree with at all Opposition SB3055 Relating to cetaceans, i am please asking that the animals will be allowed to live and multiply and grow... For the peaceful and relaxing enjoyable environment they bring to Sea Life Park, it is a good safe peaceful enjoyable environment for Tourists and for people who live here... Sea Life Park and the ANIMALS there are a good ACTIVITY for children, teenagers and adults, it is good for stress and depression, the animals can be therapeutic to the Soul and Mind bringing peace and healing, it can help to mentally refresh the mind... Please reconsider...

From: [Camilleri, Jennifer Patricia](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Cc: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: SB3055 testimony
Date: Thursday, February 1, 2018 7:13:40 AM

- Please DO NOT support the ban of transport and breeding of cetaceans in Hawaii.
- Accredited zoological facilities provide a safe and enriching environment for dolphins.
- Interaction with dolphins in an accredited marine facility is safer for the dolphins and people. This is because of the strong relationships formed between the animals and their caregivers. Dolphins in this environment demonstrate that human interaction is rewarding and reinforcing. Animals in the wild do not have this reinforcement history with humans and interactions between humans and dolphins in this context can be stressful and harassing.
- The marine mammal specialists at accredited marine parks are indeed specialists. They have been trained to understand the subtle behavioural nuances of a species that can neither speak nor form appreciable facial expression to communicate. This again allows for safe and rewarding human-animal interactions. The animals are also, most importantly, given the opportunity to choose whether or not to participate in such interactions. They are never punished or neglected for choosing not to participate, and are given ample time throughout the day and night to interact with each other away from humans.
- Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park are indeed facilities that support scientific research. The nature and breadth of the research that is able to be performed relating to animals in human care would be next to impossible to replicate on wild conspecifics. These research efforts are critical to expanding our knowledge about dolphins and other marine species. Dolphins are a sentinel species for the status of our oceans and the more we can understand about them the more chance we have of being able to conserve and protect their wild counterparts and the oceans themselves. Dolphin Quest and Sea Life Park, by supporting such research, in fact makes them exempt from any transport or breeding ban.
- Transport and breeding are fundamental to supporting a healthy and genetically diverse population. Dolphins naturally separate themselves in the wild based on genetics and social hierarchy, and without any way to replicate this, animals under human care would be subjected to unnatural social groupings and unnecessary stress. Transport of cetaceans is already closely regulated by the USDA and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.
- I am a veterinarian, and having been to Dolphin Quest I can attest that the animals under their care live in a dynamic and enriching environment that closely approximates the conditions they would experience out in the wild. In fact, the quality of life of the animals at facilities like Dolphin Quest is often far superior to that of their wild counterparts. The animals are bright, alert, and responsive; they interact with each other and their environment in an inquisitive and natural way. They demonstrate natural behaviours, including natural reproductive behaviours, and live according to the animal welfare 'five freedoms.' As a veterinarian it is my professional opinion that the animals at Dolphin Quest are in excellent health and do not display any signs of social, environmental, or human-related stress.
- I have experienced Dolphin Quest first hand and can attest that the nature of their human-animal interactions is entirely educational. This would also make it exempt from any transport or breeding ban. Many people, myself included, are 'hands-on

learners', and Dolphin Quest delivers a wide range of information to its guests during its programs, from anatomy to natural history to conservation messages and most importantly, ways in which the guests themselves can incorporate conservation efforts into their everyday lives. Having an experience with a dolphin that is fun and educational helps to solidify these messages with the guest. In an 'information age' where people scroll through tweets they instantly forget, having a tangible and memorable encounter with a dolphin is something that ignites a passion to learn more. Guests are more likely to share their new knowledge and with others and pass the conservation message on. It is precisely facilities like Dolphin Quest that provide hope that there is a positive future for our oceans beyond their current dismal state.

- I appreciate your consideration of this information and feel that banning of cetacean transport and breeding in Hawaii could be severely detrimental to the facilities that are making the most effort to promote species and environmental conservation efforts.

Dr. Jennifer Camilleri, BSc(Hons), BVetMed(Hons), MRCVS

From: [Lillie Garrido](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Vote NO on SB 3055--PLEASE!
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 7:47:00 AM

Dear AEN Committee Members,

I was unable to submit my important testimony online as I never received an email to confirm my registration. In the interest of time, (I know today is the deadline to submit my testimony) I am emailing you in hopes that you will consider what I have to say.

I am requesting your help and ask that you VOTE NO on SB 3055.

This is an orchestrated effort by “animal rights” groups to close down all zoological facilities that have dolphins and whales by chipping away at their ability to do business. This Bill does not help solve any of the serious problems affecting dolphins and whales, such as coastal pollution, marine debris (plastic pollution in the ocean). Our oceans are not only polluted by plastic and other debris, commercial fisherman are destroying it with their fishing operations, entanglement in drifting "ghost nets", increasing human-made noise in the ocean, oil spills, reduced prey, and collisions and harassment by boaters and swimmers in the cetaceans' habitat. Animal rights activists haven't done their homework to educate themselves on the benefits of dolphin research and the safe environment in which these dolphins in Hawaii currently live in educational and research facilities such as Dolphin Quest. Dolphins are treated as members of human families with the love and care similar to what we provide our own children and grandchildren. The Dolphin Quest family ensures their facilities and living learning environments provide the highest of standards and the safety of these dolphins is of utmost importance. Dolphin Quest dolphins live longer than dolphins in the wild. They are protected by humans who devote their lives to ensure their safety. Until we can give them a pollution free natural environment (which is impossible in our current oceans) these dolphins deserve to be protected.

This bill would hurt the good work of fully accredited, fully regulated, responsible and successful zoological facilities. In Hawaii, Dolphin Quest provides exemplary care of its animals while offering residents and visitors safe and inspiring opportunities to meet and learn about dolphins. These interactive educational experiences help to forge emotional connections to dolphins and to the need for a healthy ocean. Dolphin Quest encourages the public nationwide through educating locals, school children, and tourists on the importance of recycling and protecting our oceans. Dolphin Quest is much more than a "swim with the dolphin experience". They are educating the public on the

importance of protecting our earth. If you haven't visited a facility you MUST. It is then that you will see how loved and protected these dolphins are. For thirty years, Dolphin Quest has also engaged in research projects that have had direct benefits to dolphins in the wild. Dolphin Quest is a great resource and neighbor in Hawaii and a leader in the marine mammal global community, a fact that all of Hawaii should celebrate and be proud. Animal Right activists need to focus their efforts on reducing pollution, eliminating C8 chemicals from our waters (C8 is killing us too), and ensuring the safety of animals in natural living habitats. It is there that they are dying and unsafe. Regulate those causing the problems and destroying our earth. The Ocean is no longer safe. Dolphin Quest keeps dolphins safer than any ocean ever can. These dolphins know they are loved-If you don't believe me, go talk to one of them. They can hear you and will show you how happy they are. They are smart and they are happy.

*Please support the important work of Dolphin Quest and others fighting to keep our environment pollution free. **Your efforts are better served by voting NO on SB 3055 and finding a solution to pollution!** Thank you for your consideration.*

Sincerely,

*Lillie Garrido Butcher
Hilton Grand Vacation Club Owner
435-513-0716*

From: [Mert Meeker](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Opposition for SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 11:40:48 AM
Importance: High

Dear Senator Gabbard and the Agriculture and Environment Committee:

I am writing in regard to SB3055, the bill related to banning cetaceans in Hawaii. I oppose this bill wholeheartedly. I have witnessed firsthand how enriching having marine mammals, including dolphins, under human care can be, with regard to education, conservation, and inspiring future generations to care for the ocean.

Our daughter, Danielle Meeker, has been a marine mammal trainer at Sea Life Park for more than three years and we have visited her and the facility a number of times including "behind the scenes" areas to observe the exceptional care of these animals and their value to the community.

Sea Life Park and Dolphin Quest strive to provide educational programs to all ages, and to support numerous conservation efforts. Dolphin Quest has been living up to its mission statement, to touch hearts and minds through fun, innovative experiences, that create a connection to nature, and a passion to learn more, since 1988. To date, Dolphin Quest has donated \$4,149,611 to scientific studies, supported 128 different scientific studies, and taught 97,937 school children through dolphin interactive programs, educational programs, and educational camps.

Sea Life Park, open since 1964, works hard to provide educational experiences to generations of residents and guests through many different avenues. The park's education department provides field trips and lecture based programs for school groups, provides overnight educational programs and fun filled camps during summer and winter school breaks. Throughout the day, guests are able to attend talks provided by the training staff to learn about the variety of marine life at the park, including dolphins, turtles, Hawaiian monk seals, sharks and sea lions.

Sea Life Park also provides and supports many conservation efforts to protect and preserve marine life. A portion of all purchases made at Sea Life Park, from admission to interactive programs, supports marine animal conservation efforts. This includes the park's Hawaiian green sea turtle breeding and release program and sea bird rehabilitation center, as well as supporting critical marine mammal research.

Without the help of marine mammal facilities like Sea Life Park and Dolphin Quest, providing these education and conservation efforts, the future of marine life and the future of our oceans hangs in the balance. Marine mammal facilities help excite future generations about marine life. They inspire change, and they spark a fire in people to care about the world around them.

Senators of the Agriculture and Environment Committee, **please do not support SB3055**. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Sincerely,

Merton B. Meeker

From: [P.Mike Pollara](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Opposition for SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 8:19:13 AM

As a long established institution of O'ahu, dedicated to marine conservation and marine animal education, Sea Life Park has provided a wonderful resource for learning and community. Having personally experienced the park and the value it brings to the community, I am writing to OPPOSE SB 3055 as a concerned resident and voter.

Mahalo for your consideration.

P.Mike Pollara pollara808@yahoo.com 808-679-2027



From: [Sharon Naeole](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Opposition for SB3055 to Cetaceans
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 9:57:34 AM

Aloha,

I oppose this bill. I have been working for Sea Life Park for 50 yrs, am a local resident and registered voter. I know that the training staff takes very good care of the dolphins and all the animals at the park. The people of Hawaii love the dolphins. Many of our local visitors say they came to Sea Life Park on a school excursion and enjoyed it. Now they want their children to enjoy the park and learn about the dolphins. Sea Life Park throughout the years has helped with caring for dolphins that have needed help and did not belong to Sea Life Park. Sea Life Park is committed to providing top care for the dolphin and all the animal at the park.

Mahalo,
Sharon Naeole

From: [Tanja Nikolic](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I oppose SB3055
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 6:59:21 PM

I oppose this bill. It will bring even more destruction to our environment!

I am Hawaii resident for more than 15 years. I work in many of our public schools around Oahu in the Special Education department. I take my students twice a year to the Sea Life Park for the field trips. This event is the crucial part of my student's lives! They look forward to this experience since they are able to experience our ocean life hands on, and up close and personal. We love the Sea Life Park!

Thank you for your time!

Tanja Nikolic

Get organized with Yahoo Mail

~~post~~ Aloha,

to oppose bill SB3055,

meta mateo

Rosie Rosanne Kloeg is active now.

 [Home](#) **Kona Vegan Sis...** >



I support #SB3055 prohibiting the transport of live cetaceans like captive dolphins and whales from animal prisons like Dolphin Quest in Hawaii and I support adding an amendment to also include a ban on further captive breeding.

Subject:

Support for SB 3055
Relating to Cetaceans

Email:

aentestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov



Aa



From: [Aizley Lakalaka](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 9:33:47 AM

Hello, I am a 6th grader from Maui, Hawaii. And I think that we shouldn't keep dolphins and whales captive in Hawaii. Because we can see these animals in the wild in our oceans. It would be best to let these animals come free

From: [Alexandra Luisdottir](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 9:43:39 AM

Re: SB3055
2/1/18
2:30
Room 016

Aloha, I am a 6th grader on the island of Maui where it is illegal and I have seen dolphins in the wild. I learn more about dolphins and marine life when I see them behave naturally and when dolphins are in captivity they act completely than they do in their natural habitat. I believe that in Hawai'i we should not capture our sea life and force them to entertain us for frozen fish, not even FRESH fish! We need to let our sea life remain in their natural home. Imagine if you were taken from your home, then forced to entertain thousands of people for poor food and you have hardly any room at all and you see the same place daily. Please take student voices into consideration, we have opinions too. I support this.

Mahalo Nui Loa,
Alexandra Luisdottir Perez
Lokelani Intermediate School
Kihei, Maui, Hawai'i, USA

--

~Alexandra Luisdottir Perez~

From: [Alicia Underwater](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support For SB 3055 Relating To Cetaceans
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 5:49:33 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Alicia Ward and I am a naturalist and photographer in Hawai'i. I specialize in photographing marine life and have worked with organizations such as Cascadia Research Collective, National Geographic, and the United States Government, in efforts to aid research, participate in field studies, and highlight the significance of protecting Hawai'i's marine environment.

Having worked with wild cetaceans for the past thirteen years, I feel it is imperative that I submit my testimonial in support of SB 3055. I believe it is in Hawai'i's best interest to halt transfer / import of all cetaceans including but not limited to Bottlenose Dolphins, Pilot Whales, False Killer Whales and all other odontocete subspecies. I also support the movement to ban captive breeding of such animals.

I realize the irony in the fact that organizations like Dolphin Quest supply researchers (such as Cascadia) with the majority of their funds. That said, I stand by my assessment that cetacean captivity is wrong and have faith that scientists will locate other avenues of funding, should organizations like Dolphin Quest revoke their monetary support.

Cetaceans are highly intelligent, remarkably social and fantastically complex creatures (much akin to humans) and it baffles me that we would look at the famous kidnapping of Elizabeth Smart and say, "What happened to her is wrong," yet, we would allow the very same events to continuously be re-enacted upon cetaceans.

Whether they be human or animal, taking living beings from their environment, where they can execute their own free will, and confining them to a single space where they are required to obey the command of another entity is kidnapping and imprisonment. Forcing intercourse is rape. Believing that dolphins and whales should be used for pool tricks, entertainment and pseudo-science is wrong and capturing cetaceans for genuine laboratory research is equally unnecessary and unethical.

The notion that the public will not get exposure to dolphins if they are not in captivity is farcical. Hawai'i has a vast diversity of aquatic wildlife and a handful of educational and ecologically responsible tour operators that allow their clients to view cetaceans in their natural environment. These days, witnessing dolphins and whales responsibly is as simple as a google search.

Please know that I carefully came to this conclusion after spending over a decade working alongside Hawai'i's odontocetes. These species command respect and admiration and should be left in the ocean, where they may live their lives to the fullest potential.

Mahalo for your time,
Alicia Ward

From: [Andrea Pérez](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support For SB3055 Relating To Cetaceans
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 9:20:52 PM

From: [Ann Marie Walker](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: support for SB3055 relating to cetaceans
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 3:55:54 PM

Please pass the same law that protects cetaceans in Maui County. I cry each day that I watch the slaughters in taiji Japan. Here on Maui, when a dolphin has been spotted, people melt with joy. I do not understand how anyone could slaughter one. Or eat one. I will be the voice for the voiceless until i die. they are the most Godlike animals and we need to treat them with the respect they deserve. Humans are their biggest threat and their only hope. Please stop supporting the hunts by allowing the captives on our Hawaiian islands. THEY ARE NOT FOR ENTERTAINMENT!!!

my computer was down, so I pray this email goes through!!!

I will never go to Japan or the Faroe islands until this barbaric holocausts stop. they are draining out oceans, and they do not belong to us. they belong in ht ocean.

From: [Antoinette Sharfin](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 3055 relating to cetaceans
Date: Thursday, February 1, 2018 6:31:04 AM

Aloha,

I would like to see an end to the exploitation of our dolphin ohana.

Keeping them in captivity is cruel and inhumane. All animals deserve to enjoy their lives in their wild and natural environments. It is not our right to decide how they should live their lives.

Please put an end to this injustice and may we move forward to a more compassionate and just reality for all species. Human and non human.

Mahalo,

Antonette Sharfin

Kailua Kona, Hawaii

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ashmin naseer](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 relating to cetaceans
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 10:01:52 PM

dear sir,

i do support for this campaign. it is unfare to keep them locked and use for our benefits.
ket them enjoy wild.

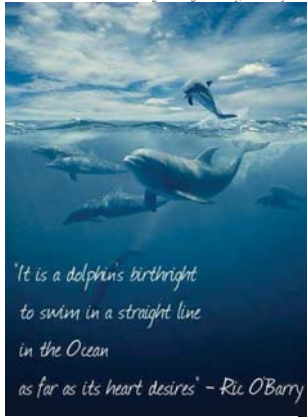
From: [Avery Ardoin](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 relating to Cetaceans
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 9:39:22 AM

We need to STOP having dolphins in captive environments. It is not natural for dolphins to be in a captive play and entertain people. I am in 6th grade my classmates and I signed a petition about dolphins and releasing them. We need to stop big companies like SeaWorld, etc. They do not treat animals kindly it needs to stop. Please take this into consideration and be ther to halo save the dolphins.



From: Bianca Beyer
To: SEN.Legislators
Subject: Support for SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 11:20:54 PM

I Bianca Beyer citizen of the U.S.A support Bill SB3055 Captivity funds the Taiji Dolphin Slaughter. I support Ric O'Barrys The Cove and Blackfish. Plastic , pollution "Fukushima" oil spills and fishing nets are killing our oceans. No sentient being belongs in captivity. It is cruel and done purely for human profit. Put them in seaside sanctuaries and end this madness. Enough is Enough. Sincerely, Bianca Beyer



**when you support
marine mammal
parks,
you support
the murder
of thousands of
dolphins in taiji**



Sent from my iPad

×



From: [Caleb Deane](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 Relating to Ceteceans
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 1:24:06 PM

Yeah this would be great. Go for it.

From: [Cassie Paumard](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support For SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 7:01:53 AM

Aloha,

In this modern day in age, there is no need for the captivity/transfer of cetaceans. Where ecotourism has been proven to be a successful and plentiful source of income for the economy, it is time to amend all captive breeding, captivity, and transfer of cetaceans.

India has deemed orcas (part of the dolphin family) "non human persons". Why can't the state of Hawaii see and understand that? For a culture that's for the respect of animals, people, and the Earth, you owe it to your people to follow those early traditions and be compassionate towards every living thing, especially those that are deemed to be very similar to us in cognitive thinking.

Mahalo nui loa and I hope you make the right choice.

Much gratitude,
Cassie Paumard

From: [Christina Burress](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 Relating to Cestaceans
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 7:55:33 PM

Please pass SB3055 to prohibit any transfers or imports of captive cetaceans for breeding and entertainment!

christina burress
california
long time visitor to Hawaii

From: [Christine Wolken](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 6:59:55 PM

Thank you in advance for reading this email. I am in support of SB 3055 as dolphins in captivity has shown to shorten their life span, cause distress and really just isn't in the interest of what the modern public wants to see anymore.

Animals in captivity is archaic and we don't need to see them performing in captivity for our entertainment.

I wish I knew exactly what to write to make a difference here for the dolphins. I've swam with them in the ocean and I've seen them in captivity. Captive, it's sad and I don't want to support it. Neither do the younger generations of kids who see captivity of dolphins as outdated and just depressing.

I hope this bill is passed. I hope you vote for the dolphin's freedom.

Thanks again for your time and consideration.

Christine Wolken
ZionZen LLC
Sent from my iPhone

I support #SB3055 prohibiting the transport of live cetaceans like captive dolphins and whales from animal prisons like Dolphin Quest in Hawaii and I support adding an amendment to also include a ban on further captive breeding.

Subject:
Support for SB 3055
Relating to Cetaceans

Email:
aentestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov



Aa



From: [Eline van der Kloos](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 3055 Relating To Cetaceans
Date: Thursday, February 1, 2018 7:34:53 AM

Aloha,

I want this bill to pass. This is the State of Aloha, which should give an example: ceteaceans should not be kept in captivity!

Places like Sea World and Dolphin Quest should be shut down. It's a disgrace.

They only care about their profits, not about the animals. Dolhin Quest is even selling & transporting in shipping crates via FedEx!!! How can that be?!

I support SB3055 and urge for this bill to pass!

Mahalo!

Eline van der Kloos


Verstuurd vanaf mijn iPad

From: [Emile Elliott](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 3055 Relating To Cetaceans
Date: Thursday, February 1, 2018 8:22:25 AM

I support # SB 3055 prohibiting the transport of live cetaceans like captive dolphins and whales from animal prisons like Dolphin Quest in Hawaii and I support adding an amendment to also include a ban on further captive breeding.

Emile Elliott
PO Box 601
Captain Cook
HI 96704

Sent from my iPad

From: [Erika Maurice](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 7:43:16 AM

To Whom It Concerns,

I write to you from Arizona where Dolphinaris Arizona opened it's doors last year. Many of us are involved in protest. Dolphins do not belong in captivity. Dolphins are highly intelligent beings who suffer greatly in captivity, held for human entertainment and profit. The world is becoming aware that this is wrong.

Change takes time, but Hawaii can lead the way by voting today to ban captive breeding and transfers of dolphins for exhibition. **I urge you to do what is right by supporting SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans.**

"No aquarium, no tank in a marine land, however spacious it may be, can begin to duplicate the conditions of the sea. And no dolphin who inhabits one of those marine lands can be considered normal."

Jacques Yves Cousteau

Please act and vote responsibly Hawaii...**BE the wave of the future...END dolphin breeding and captivity!**

Thank you,

Erika Maurice

From: [Glen Bearian](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Thursday, February 1, 2018 6:58:06 AM

I support #SB3055 prohibiting the transport of live cetaceans like captive dolphins and whales from animal prisons like Dolphin Quest in Hawaii and I support adding an amendment to also include a ban on further captive breeding.

Subject:
Support for SB 3055 Relating to Cetaceans

Email:
aentestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: [Hannah Deane](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 12:22:37 PM

I strongly support bill SB3055. These animals do not belong in captivity, they belong in the oceans with their Ohana.

From: [Jhanesty Bautista](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Put an End to the captivity of Dolphins and Whales
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 10:05:31 AM

RE: SB3055
2/1/18
2:30 pm
Room 016

Hello, my name is Jhanesty Bautista. I am a 6th grade student at Lokelani Intermediate school, and I want to support the cause of ending captivity of the dolphins and whales. It is unesscary to isolate them from their marine environment and make them perform abnormal behaviors that ultimately provide inaccurate education. I have gone on field trips going on a Whale Watch, and I think just seeing the dolphins and whales in their natural habitat acting like themselves is enough education for us. Also isolating dolphins and whales is like locking someone in their room and just feeding them a can of beans each day! In this situation it would be fish. But, putting them in captivity is like suicide. We're not going to gain anything from it. Please, take my opinion into consideration because I think us students, the future, should be able to have our opinions valued and thought about. Thank you for your time.

Mahalo!

From: [Jordan Waltz](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 3:32:07 PM

**RELATING TO CETACEANS
Public Hearing on Senate Bill 3055
February 1, 2018**

Good afternoon. My name is Jordan Waltz. I am a researcher and writer for the non-profit Ric O'Barry's Dolphin Project, and in the past, was archivist and head researcher for the documentaries "Blackfish" and "Vancouver Aquarium: Uncovered."

I would like to thank the Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment for giving me this opportunity to submit my testimony.

I am writing to voice my support for SB 3055, pertaining to the prohibiting cetacean transports in the state of Hawaii.

Transporting cetaceans is a stressful ordeal for the animals. The process includes being removed from their tank, being flown and trucked in to their destination (with the possibility of suffering from sun damage, cracked skin and pressure sores), and then having to acclimate in a new hierarchy at their new 'home.'

Most transports go smoothly when the animal is familiar with the procedure and operation is conducted by experienced staff. However, animals unfamiliar and new to the process have been injured during their first transport. With the number of transports each animal experiences in their lifetime, especially at facilities in Hawaii, the odds of accidents or complications are phenomenally high.

Sea Life Park and Dolphin Quest Hawaii and Oahu frequently swap animals to keep the genetic diversity between parks. However, some dolphins have been shuttled between parks more than four instances in their lifetimes. Consider Lono, a male bottlenose that currently resides at Dolphin Quest Oahu, who has been in captivity since early 1988. According to CetaBase, a non-profit that keeps a detailed inventory of captive cetaceans around the world, his travel history is a lengthy one:

1. Captured in Gulf of Mexico and kept in an unknown holding facility (Feb-17-1988)
2. Transferred to Dolphin Quest Hawai'i (Aug-20-1988)
3. Transported to Dolphin Quest Oahu (Early 2002)
4. Transported back to Dolphin Quest Hawai'i (Oct-5-2002)
5. Transported to Dolphin Quest Oahu (Jan-11-2004)
6. Transported back to Dolphin Quest Hawai'i (Oct-31-2005)
7. Transported to Dolphin Quest Oahu (Dec-10-2009 to present)

The practice of using artificial insemination (A.I.), especially with bottlenose, is not a novel method. It was first used on dolphins at Ocean Park Hong Kong in 2001, and other facilities in the United States, such as SeaWorld and the Dolphin Research Center, have used it since. Despite the procedure's past success and potential to reduce the need to transport animals, A.I. has only been used at Dolphin Quest's

facilities a total of four times since 2007.

Why Dolphin Quest still continues to shuffle dolphins between parks, islands apart, when they have this method at their disposal, is not entirely known. In fact, the most recent transport was in September 2016, when a dolphin was flown from the Hawai'i facility to Oahu, which could have only happened for the sake of captive-breeding.

Since 2010 years, Dolphin Quest has begun loaning their excess dolphins to Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta, AZ, and in 2016, to Dolphinaris Arizona in Streetsboro, AZ as well. While this frees up space at their parks, this only invites incentive to breed more dolphins to fill them up once more, and then ship them to other marine parks in the United States mainland. It should be noted that not a single captive-born bottlenose has ever been raised and released into nature; thus all dolphins born in captivity are bred purely for entertainment purposes.

I urge the Senate to pass Senate Bill 3055.

Thank you very much for your time.

Jordan Waltz



From: [Kirsten Petty](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 10:50:27 AM

Aloha my name is Kirsten Ramirez and I am submitting testimony on strongly supporting SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans. In 2015 I volunteered on a campaign called Cove Guardians and traveled to Taiji, Japan to help document the captivity and slaughter of dolphins so others could understand how dolphins ended up in captivity. The process was brutal and eye opening on the suffering of what dolphins go through and the struggles then endure what they are forced to submit to a life in captivity without their family members whom they rely on so much within the wild. A pod works as a team such as our families on land do. To further my research I documented photos of dolphins in captivity in such places as Sea Life Park and Dolphin Quest and saw for myself the boredom they endure, the lack of stimulation and the poor hygiene their bodies endure in a non natural environment. Taiji is the center stone of where dolphins are stolen from the ocean to be forced to be stripped of their natural behaviors in order to entertain our species and Sea Life Park and Dolphin Quest are tied directly to this place that has killed and taken thousands and thousands of dolphins for over the past 40+ years. Many will say they are not but that is a lie and very irresponsible to say as every dolphin in captivity is directly linked to what is happening in Taiji, Japan as this is why the slaughter happens each year. Profit of captivity is what profits these hunters. If captivity didn't exist the slaughter would end. The marine park industry is creating a false image of the "happiness" a dolphin expresses with the smile on its face. Its criminal behavior in my eyes being allowed to falsely create a picture that this is a good environment for any cetacean to the public eye as people actually believe dolphins are thriving in these types of environments. This smile is false they are suffering and its time to do what is best for cetaceans all over the world they need to be free from entertaining us humans and to be able to retire and live as most natural life as possible. We took them out of their home in the first place which was wrong. They are not on this planet to entertain us. Its time we make our wrong right and help pass a bill that will protect them. Hawaii has an opportunity to be a leader in making this change and I hope to see them make the right choice. We are surrounded by water and Hawaiian culture is tied to the oceans we need to respect that culture and be a leader on respecting all that live should be living in the ocean by ending transferring of cetaceans and ending the marine park industry. Every cetacean living in a tank should be able to live a life that is free from abuse and that is what they are enduring living in a tank every day. Please do the right thing and be a voice for all cetaceans by ending further breeding and transfers to and from other facilities. Put their needs first and help empty the tanks and help them live as most natural life as this is what is best for them. Retire them and help them be free.

Mahalo for your time,

Kirsten Ramirez

From: [Lendy Leslie](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: In Support of SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Thursday, February 1, 2018 9:05:57 AM

Testimony for Public Hearing

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

February 1, 2018, 2:30PM

Room 016

Lendy Leslie

Kihei, HI 96753

SB3055 – RELATING TO CETACEANS

Thank you for reviewing my testimony. I write in SUPPORT of SB3055 to prohibit the Department of Agriculture from issuing permits for the transfer of captive cetaceans solely for breeding or entertainment purposes. Furthermore, I recommend amending this measure to include **prohibiting the transfer of gametes, embryos, or any other body or non-body product or part that would be used for the cause of artificial insemination in cetaceans. Breeding within facilities should also be prohibited.**

As a State of Hawaii Department of Education schoolteacher with a Master's degree in Science Education and multiple years spent as a Marine Education Specialist, I testify on behalf of 111,236 people who have signed a petition I authored to end dolphin captivity in Hawaii through a phase out process that would cease the breeding and transport of cetaceans held for entertainment purposes.

It is essential that Hawaii end this unjust practice based on the below principles:

Ethical- Cetaceans do not fare well in captivity. Dolphins are highly intelligent and generally social animals. Paradoxically, the attributes that have made them so attractive to captors are also the characteristics that should disqualify them as captives. According to the National Inventory of Marine Mammals (November 2013), causes of death for cetaceans in Hawaii facilities have included, “food poisoning, capture related, died at capture, killed by another dolphin, drowning, jumped out, trauma, and failure to thrive.”

Ecological- Dolphins are predatory hunters and most participate in cooperative hunting. Evidence from sampling stomach contents suggests bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) may even dive depths of 1600 ft/ 500 m (Folkens et al., 2002). A life in captivity denies them of deep dives, natural hunting behaviors, and attaining fresh food.

Educational- Captivity not only affects the lives of cetaceans, but it deceives us in how to properly care for these animals. For example, federal law protects wild dolphins from "harassment," yet theme parks offer daily performances where animals must engage in staged behaviors and theatrical tricks. Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, regulations also forbid feeding or attempting to feed any marine mammal species, but theme parks incorporate feeding the animals as a part of the "encounter" experience. Additionally, the staged and stereotypical behaviors of a captive cetacean do not accurately reflect the behaviors of their wild counterparts.

It is unnecessary and irresponsible to isolate these animals from the marine environment to perform abnormal behaviors that ultimately provides inaccurate education. Cetaceans play a critical role in their ecosystem and to disconnect them from such is a misrepresentation of their importance and Hawaii's values.

Cetacean captivity was not Hawaii's idea; its introduction has manipulated Hawaiian culture and regard of marine life. As Hawaii's state motto "Ua Mau ke Ea o ka 'ina i ka Pono" declares, the life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness. Restoring this imbalance in our ecosystem, education, and ethics is essential for this generation and those to come.

Thank you for reading my testimony and considering my words.

Deepest aloha,

Lendy Leslie, MSMSE

th

6 grade teacher
Kihei, HI

References and Citations

Folkens, Pieter A., Randall R. Reeves, Brent S. Stewart, Phillip J. Clapham, and James A. Powell. Guide to Marine Mammals of the World. 1st ed. New York: A.A. Knopf, 2002. Print.

Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, Pub. L. 107-314; 16 U.S.C. 1362 Sec. 3. (18)
(A) (ii)

Maui, Haw., Ordinance 3109 (Dec. 23, 2002).

National Marine Fisheries Service. National Inventory of Marine Mammals. Nov. 2013.

From: [Leslie Glazer](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 for Cetaceans
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 3:54:49 PM

Please halt further transfers and imports of captive cetaceans in the state of Hawaii. So many have died. This is animal cruelty. It is also so sad and heartbreaking.

Leslie Glazer

From: [Lisa I](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Cc: [Sen. Mike Gabbard](#); [Sen. Gil Riviere](#); [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#); [Sen. Clarence Nishihara](#); [Sen. Russell Ruderman](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 8:18:59 PM

Good evening.

I am a Hawaii resident and am writing in support of Senate Bill 3055 which would prohibit the transport of cetaceans for breeding and entertainment purposes in Hawaii. We are blessed with a wonderful natural environment in which people who wish to view dolphins can see them out in the open ocean where they belong. We certainly should not imprison these intelligent creatures for our entertainment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Lisa Imai

From: [Maia Motley](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support the for SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 9:22:46 AM

We need to release the whales and dolphins in the wild. I live in Hawai'i and I see whales and dolphins all the time striving in their own habitat. We are keeping them in captivity, in small spaces where they cannot thrive. Whales and dolphins are actually killing themselves, being unhappy with their life. Save the whales and dolphins.

Sincerely,
Maia Motley

From: [Makeda Wilmeth](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support For SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 9:49:57 AM

Aloha,

My name is Makeda Wilmeth and I am a sixth grader in Maui, Hawai'i and I am in support of the SB3055 bill. Dolphins and whales are being held in captivity and being tortured in wildlife parks. These animals are getting injured and killed every day. I have seen dolphins and whales thrive out of captivity, in their natural environments firsthand. These creatures deserve to live a happy life in the ocean. That is why I am in support of SB3055.

I hope you will take what I said into consideration.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Makeda Wilmeth

--

Makeda Wilmeth
6th grade
Ohia team

From: [Mark Roper](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 7:27:01 PM

Dear Sir,

Dolphins, Whales and Porpoises are highly intelligent cetaceans and should not be held in captivity for breeding ETC.

The more information that constantly comes through from studies supports this.

Thank you,

Mark Roper

Counselling
psychotherapist

From: [Matthew Deane](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 1:03:11 PM

That would be dopeeeee.

Sent from the moon.

From: [Maximilian Volk](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Relating to Cetaceans Support SB3055
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 9:52:47 AM

I am Maximilian Volk From Lokelani Intermediate School on Maui. I think we should stop transporting and breeding cetaceans. It is inhumane and it is against their rights to perform like this. They are living in cruel environments in essentially solitary confinement. This causes them to lose their social skills and under some circumstances commit suicide. The argument is whether or not it is worth not using them for educational purposes. I think it is much better of an education to see them in their natural environment. I think our voices as United States Citizens should be heard and accounted for. Thank you

Sincerely,
Maximilian Volk

Student at Lokelani Intermediate school

From: [Michael - meandmybucket](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 3:35:16 AM

Dear all,

Although I'm living far away in Austria, it's my duty being an animal lover to let you know:
I SUPPORT SB3055 RELATING TO CETACEANS

I'm sure you'll make the right decision.

Kindest regards from Vienna,
Michael Posch

From: [Michelle Waters](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 10:27:38 AM

Hello,

I am writing in support of SB3055, which would prohibit the dept. of agriculture from issuing permits for the interstate, intrastate and inter-facility transfer of captive cetaceans solely for breeding or entertainment purposes. Captivity is highly stressful for dolphins and whales. These are intelligent, feeling beings that we are imprisoning so they can entertain us. Please do the humane thing and vote yes on SB3055. Hawaii has so much natural beauty and people can go out and see cetaceans in their natural habitat - a much more positive way to enjoy them than seeing depressed and anxious animals in captivity.

Thank you,
Michelle Waters
Animal and Environmental Artist

www.michellewatersart.com
[instagram.com/michellewatersart](https://www.instagram.com/michellewatersart)
[facebook.com/michellesanimalart](https://www.facebook.com/michellesanimalart)

From: [mike_d](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 12:49:16 PM

SUPPORT SB3055 RELATING TO CETACEANS Please...many thanks

Respectfully,
mike Downs

From: [Molly Ancona](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 6:20:45 PM

I support the prohibition of transfers of captive cetaceans to or from the Hawaiian islands. Please support this bill.
Thank you.

Molly B. Ancona

From: [Oliver Turbin](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for Sb3055 relating to cetacians
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 7:03:48 PM

Please you have the peer to put an end to the cruel and disgusting behaviour that these intelligent animals endure
please help our natural world that you and I rely on 100% to survive

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Paola Ruiz](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 4:12:05 AM

Dear Sir or Madam,

I support the phasing out dolphin captivity in the State of Hawaii. Dolphins do poorly in captivity and their life span is decreased by about 50% when captive. These incredible animals can swim around 80 miles a day in the wild. In captivity they are not supplied with adequate space for their needs. I support the prohibition of any transfers or imports of captive cetaceans for breeding and entertainment. I hope you will do the right thing.

Thank you.

Paol Ruiz

From: [Roshan Gurmeet Singh](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: "Support For SB3055 Relating To Cetaceans"
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 10:52:30 PM

Dear Sir/Madam,

There's nothing on this Earth quite like a dolphin. From orcas to bottle-nose, the entire family is regarded as being some of the most playful animals in the world.

Perhaps it's their intelligence and advanced social abilities that make them such a loved and timeless aquatic creature. Stories of them courageously saving humans from natural dangers in the water are shared around the world. These beautiful celestial beings belong in the ocean, wild and free, NOT in tanks.

Please amend the bill to prohibit all captive breeding as well.

Thank you.

R

From: rosierosanneblossoms@yahoo.com
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 relating to Cetaeceans
Date: Thursday, February 1, 2018 8:19:19 AM

Goodmorning!

I support #SB3055 prohibiting the trnsport of live cetaeceans like captive dolphins and whales from animal prisons like Dolphin Quest in Hawai'i and I support adding amendtment to also includea ban on further captive breeding.

Rosie Rosanne Kloeg
Captain Cook, Hawai'i

From: [Sarah YesPDX](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Thursday, February 1, 2018 6:55:10 AM

I support #SB3055 prohibiting the transport of live cetaceans like captive dolphins and whales from animal prisons like Dolphin Quest in Hawaii and I support adding an amendment to also include a ban on further captive breeding.

Support for SB 3055 Relating to Cetaceans

aentestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: [Sarah Samadhi](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Thursday, February 1, 2018 7:00:15 AM

I support #SB3055 prohibiting the transport of live cetaceans like captive dolphins and whales from animal prisons like Dolphin Quest in Hawaii and I support adding an amendment to also include a ban on further captive breeding.

Subject:
Support for SB 3055 Relating to Cetaceans

Email:
aentestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: [shana kelly](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3055 Relating to Cetaceans
Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 7:46:07 PM

Please support SB3055 relating to a possible ban from further breeding and transfers for exhibition.

Thank you,

Shana Kelly
Rethink Captivity
www.rethinkcaptivity.org
(206) 371-9133

From: [Sofia Garcia](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT FOR SB3055 RELATING TO CETACEANS
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 12:40:13 PM

Exploiting animals it's in humane, we need to act together and gain forces to stop this situation. Dolphins aren't an entertainment, they are species who need their own private space, they deserve free space. HUMANS ARE DESTROYING THE ENVIRONMENT FOR STUPID ACTIONS LIKE THIS, I will always fight for the animal rights.

Sofia garcia, Dominican Republic

From: [sclerk](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Cc: [Rock Riggs](#)
Subject: FW: Bill SB 3055
Date: Thursday, February 1, 2018 8:03:30 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Sydney Noffke [<mailto:sydneykn@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 3:09 AM

To: sclerk <sclerk@capitol.hawaii.gov>; House Clerk's Office <hclerk@capitol.hawaii.gov>

Subject: Bill SB 3055

Hello,

I am writing to show that I support this bill and think that Hawaii would greatly benefit by ending the war on cetaceans. They are living, feeling beings that do not belong in tanks or to be shipped for breeding or entertainment. Please take this opportunity to show the world that we can be better than this. Animals do not need to suffer to please humans. We share this world and everything in it. Please treat animals with kindness and consideration. Please pass Bill SB3055.

Sincerely,
Sydney Noffke

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Tara Allen](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: SB3055 relating to Cetaceans
Date: Thursday, February 1, 2018 7:27:51 AM

Aloha,

I support #SB3055 prohibiting the transport of live cetaceans like captive dolphins and whales from animal prisons like Dolphin Quest in Hawaii and I support adding an amendment to also include a ban on further captive breeding.
Tara Allen

Sent from my iPad

From: [Valentina Gambino](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support For SB3055 Relating To Cetaceans
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 1:52:52 PM

Time To Phase out the Dolphin Captivity in the State of Hawaii and everywhere
Pls Ban the further breeding and transfers of Dolphins for exhibition
Pls Stop Stealing Dolphins from the sea and their families for human entertainment and profit

Captivity Kills Blackfish Set Them Free

~

Animals Have Hearts That Feel,
Eyes That See
And Families To Care For,
Just Like You and Me

~ A.D. Williams

From: [Willow Roback](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 3055 relating to cetaceans
Date: Thursday, February 1, 2018 9:01:15 AM

I support #SB3055 prohibiting the transport of live cetaceans like captive dolphins and whales from animal prisons like Dolphin Quest in Hawaii and I support adding an amendment to also include a ban on further captive breeding.

Thank you,
Willow Roback

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Yvonne M Hanato-Wells](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I SUPPORT SB 2565.
Date: Monday, January 29, 2018 10:10:39 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 2565, which exempts sales of farm equipment and machinery to certain producers of agricultural products from the general excise tax.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers find it difficult to purchase farm equipment due to high retail prices. This measure will alleviate equipment and machinery expenses, while increasing productivity and introducing new business opportunities.

I request your SUPPORT of SB 2565, which will alleviate cost used to purchase farm equipment and machinery.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo!

From: [Gina Zanarini](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Re: Support For SB 3055 Relating To Cetaceans
Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 2:05:59 PM

Gina Zanarini
B.S. Wildlife Science, Virginia Tech '13
Bat Field Technician, Bat Conservation International
McAllen, Tx

On Jan 31, 2018 5:57 PM, "Gina Zanarini" <zana7289@vt.edu> wrote:

Hello,

I am writing to support legislation SB 3055 and hope for its being passed as science has shown time and again that cetaceans not only do not thrive in captivity but are not treated humanely and sometimes even die. This practice should not be aided by the capture and shipping of Hawaii's native fauna. Thanks.

Gina Zanarini
B.S. Wildlife Science, Virginia Tech '13
Bat Field Technician, Bat Conservation International
McAllen, Tx