

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
WATER AND LAND
and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Friday, March 23, 2018
2:15 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 123/SENATE RESOLUTION 82
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
PROHIBIT INDIVIDUALS FROM APPROACHING WITHIN FIFTY FEET OF A
HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL EXCEPT WHEN PROVIDING AID TO THE HAWAIIAN
MONK SEAL**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 123/Senate Resolution 82 urges the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to prohibit individuals from approaching within fifty feet of a Hawaiian monk seal except when providing aid to the Hawaiian monk seal. **The Department appreciates the intent of these measures.**

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

The Department recommends that these resolutions be directed toward NOAA, the primary agency responsible for establishing regulations and guidelines to protect monk seals and humans from harmful interaction.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

SR-82

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 9:42:31 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/23/2018 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

SR-82

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 9:16:31 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/23/2018 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
nadean	Testifying for Keiko Conservation	Support	Yes

Comments:

Please pass this bill, as these animals are endangered and need protection. It is very vital that the Hawaiian Monk Seals have time to rest on the beach, it is already hard enough for them to find a safe place to rest due to the crowds on the beach. Allowing people to approach them just for a photo needs to be stopped, as this disrupts the seals forcing them to find a new spot.

Mahalo for your time

SR-82

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 11:27:52 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/23/2018 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matt Jisa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support SR82.

SR-82

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 3:45:57 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/23/2018 2:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

SR-82

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 6:51:17 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/23/2018 2:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SR82 and I want you all to know that, as part of an online group supporting our Hawaiian Monk Seals, we see many photos of people and/or dogs approaching close to our seals, even when warned not to do so. Those photos are taken by members of our group and those violations greatly upset us. In addition to having SR82 passed, there should be meaningful CONSEQUENCES for those who violate.

SR-82

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 10:41:20 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/23/2018 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tiffanygurr88	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is long overdue. 10, 20 or even 30ft is not good enough for people to keep their distance. We need people to stay 50ft away not only for the seals safety but for theirs too. This needs to be enforced, everyone needs to respect the seals space & let them forage, sleep & play without being disturbed by people wanting to take selfies or whistling at them to get their attention. This needs to be a law. Maybe spend a week or two observing the monk seals & see what kind of harassment they go through everyday. They need better protection from idiots who can't respect their space.

SR-82

Submitted on: 3/23/2018 3:28:17 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/23/2018 2:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

This is in support of SR82

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO PROHIBIT INDIVIDUALS FROM APPROACHING WITHIN FIFTY FEET OF A HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL EXCEPT WHEN PROVIDING AID TO THE HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL. While living in Hawaii for 35 years, I witnessed the Hawaiian monk seal population being depleted. Now that it is successfully coming back, I believe we need to do everything we can to support and protect them. This is a beautiful and endangered species unique to Hawaii. Unfortunately, I have become increasingly aware of how both residents and visitors have bothered, disrespected, and even injured or killed these endangered animals. The 50-foot law will go a long way toward preventing that, and I ask you to vote SR82 in, to give our Hawaiian monk seals every chance to survive and thrive in their natural habitat.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Alannah B. Farrell