



## RESOLUTION

### SUPPORTING THE RECOVERY OF THE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED ENDEMIC HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL.

WHEREAS, the Hawaiian monk seal, *Monachus schauinslandi*, is a critically endangered seal that is endemic to the waters off the Hawaiian Islands and was known to the native Hawaiians as '*Ilio-holo-i-ka-uaua*, or "dog that runs in rough waters"; and

WHEREAS, to raise awareness of the species' plight, Act 72, designating the Hawaiian monk seal as the official state mammal, was signed into law by Lieutenant Governor James Aiona on May 14, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaiian monk seal is one of the most endangered species of seal, the Mediterranean monk seal is even less common, and the Caribbean monk seal was officially declared extinct in June 2008; and

WHEREAS, the population of the Hawaiian monk seal continues to decline and it is estimated that only 1,200 remain throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, human and environmental factors such as habitat loss, competition for food supply, marine debris entanglement, disease, shark predation, and climate change have contributed to the species decline; and

WHEREAS, Hawaiian monk seals are protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act ("MMPA") and the Endangered Species Act ("ESA"), which listed the Hawaiian monk seal endangered in 1976; and

WHEREAS, the MMPA and ESA protect the species and the ecosystems upon which they depend, and individuals harming, harassing, taking or killing these animals are subject to fines of up to \$50,000; and

WHEREAS, these laws require that governmental agencies recover and prevent this species from going extinct; and

WHEREAS, most of the Hawaiian monk seal population exists in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands where the seals are declining rapidly; and

WHEREAS, there are fewer than 150 seals found in the main Hawaiian islands and this subpopulation is increasing, with approximately 25 seals on Oahu; and



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WHEREAS, there are daily sightings of monk seals on Oahu and its surrounding waters, and the island remains an important part of monk seal habitat, including important molting and birthing by seals on Manana (Rabbit) Island; and

WHEREAS, Oahu's large population necessitates the importance of successful cohabitation of the marine and shoreline environment by humans and seals, and presents a unique opportunity to educate residents of the importance of saving the Hawaiian monk seal; and

WHEREAS, saving the Hawaiian monk seal from extinction requires developing government and private partnerships to raise public and visitor awareness about response and recovery programs; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Plan, signed by the National Marine Fisheries Service NOAA Administrator in August 2007, requires a budget of approximately \$7 million to adequately fund the recovery programs in this plan; and

WHEREAS, the 2008 federal budget approved for the recovery plan was approximately \$2.1 million; and

WHEREAS, the MMPA and ESA require the State of Hawaii to write an Incidental Take Plan for mammals taken in commercial and recreational fisheries; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges the federal administration and Congress to adequately fund the Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Plan with a budget of \$7 million in 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Hawaii is urged to adequately fund the Main Hawaiian Island Monk Seal Response and the Incidental Take Plan programs, administered by the State Department of Land and Natural Resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all the counties of Hawaii are urged to partner with the appropriate federal and state agencies to develop public awareness of the Hawaiian monk seal and develop a program for regulating human-seal interactions at state and county beaches and parks that monk seals frequent; and



RESOLUTION

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of Commerce; the Under Secretary of Commerce and NOAA Administrator; the Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA; the Hawaii congressional delegation; the Governor; the President of the State Senate; Speaker of the State House of Representatives; the mayor; Kauai county mayor; Maui county mayor; Hawaii county mayor; and county council chairs.

INTRODUCED BY:

*H. K. Bana*

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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

OCT 14 2008

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII  
CERTIFICATE

**RESOLUTION 08-236**

Introduced: 10/14/08 By: NESTOR GARCIA

Committee: INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
AFFAIRS

Title: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RECOVERY OF THE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED ENDEMIC HAWAIIAN  
MONK SEAL.

Links: [RES08-236](#)


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INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS	10/29/08	CR-326 – RESOLUTION REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE FOR ADOPTION.				
COUNCIL	11/12/08	CR-326 AND RESOLUTION 08-236 WERE ADOPTED.				
	APO Y	CACHOLA Y	DELA CRUZ Y	DJOU Y	GARCIA Y	
	KOBAYASHI Y	MARSHALL E	OKINO Y	TAM Y		

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I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.

  
DENISE C. DE COSTA, CITY CLERK

  
TODD APO, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER