Honolulu, Hawaii

Feh 13, 2008

RE: H.B. No. 2626

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say Speaker, House of Representatives Twenty-Fourth State Legislature Regular Session of 2008 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 2626 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE DESIGNATION OF THE HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL AS THE STATE MAMMAL OF HAWAII,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to increase awareness of the endangered and endemic Hawaiian monk seal by designating the Hawaiian monk seal as the official state mammal of Hawaii.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Team, KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance, and numerous concerned individuals testified in support of this bill.

Your Committee finds that there are only 1,200 Hawaiian monk seals remaining, and that this population is at risk from the threat of habitat loss, entanglement in marine debris, human disturbance, fishery interaction, and infectious disease. Designation as the state mammal of Hawaii may help to raise public awareness and encourage protection efforts of this unique but critically endangered species.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2626 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Tourism & Culture.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian Affairs,

KEN ITO, Chair

HSUR 311-08

## State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Twenty-fourth Legislature

## Record of Votes of the Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian Affairs

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 2626	Committee Referral: WLH, TAC	Date: 3/8/07		
☐ The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to:  Pass, unamended (as is)  Pass, with amendments (HD)  Hold  Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
WLH Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. ITO, Ken (C)				
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2. KARAMATSU, Jon Riki (VC)				
3. CARROLL, Mele				
3. CARROLL, Mele				
4. MAGAOAY, Michael Y.				
5. MORITA, Hermina M.				
6. SAGUM, Roland D., III				
				The second
7. SAIKI, Scott K.				
8. THIELEN, Cynthia				# 420 (1864) 450 2 2 2 3 3 4 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5
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		/A)		***************************************
TOTAL (8)	8	0	0	O
The recommendation is:  Adopted  If joint referral,  committee acronym(s)  Only Adopted  did not support recommendation.				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office				