
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES MILITARY TO DETECT AND AVOID HARM TO
ANIMALS AND MARINE LIFE NEAR THE PACIFIC MISSILE RANGE
FACILITY.

1 WHEREAS, in December 2016, the 86 Fighter Weapons Squadron,
2 a Florida-based Air Force squadron, requested a permit that
3 would allow five years of long-range missile testing with the
4 Long Range Strike Weapon Systems Evaluation Program; and
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6 WHEREAS, the permit requested permission to launch nearly
7 100 missiles each year, and the weapons testing would occur for
8 five continuous days every summer and is expected to impact an
9 area roughly 44 nautical miles off the shore of Kauai, at a
10 water depth of about 15,240 feet; and
11

12 WHEREAS, the explosions from the testing are documented to
13 have debilitating effects on dolphins and whales; and
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15 WHEREAS, underwater, the air-to-surface missions could
16 cause acoustic and pressure-related problems for whales,
17 dolphins, and other marine mammals in the area; and
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19 WHEREAS, there are very specific populations of marine
20 mammals that only live around Kauai, and the military weapons
21 training poses a threat to those populations; and
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23 WHEREAS, the following species of marine mammals could be
24 affected by the explosions: humpback whale, sei whale, minke
25 whale, pygmy sperm whale, dwarf sperm whale, pygmy killer whale,
26 short-finned pilot whale, melon headed whale, bottlenose
27 dolphin, pantropical spotted dolphin, striped dolphin, spinner
28 dolphin, rough-toothed dolphin, Fraser's Dolphin, Risso's
29 Dolphin, and Longman's Beaked Whale; and



H.C.R. NO. 205

1 WHEREAS, at least 219 animals were found to be likely to
 2 experience a significant change in behavioral patterns,
 3 including those involving migration, surfacing, nursing,
 4 breeding, and feeding; and

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 6 WHEREAS, military estimates indicate that 382 animals could
 7 suffer temporary hearing loss, and roughly 36 could permanently
 8 lose their hearing; and

9
 10 WHEREAS, many species of whales may be affected by military
 11 testing as they rely on their hearing to find food, avoid
 12 predators, find mates, and rear their young; now, therefore,

13
 14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 15 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 16 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the United States Military
 17 is urged to detect and avoid harm to animals and marine life
 18 near the Pacific Missile Range Facility; and

19
 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Air Force is
 21 respectfully urged to use the Navy's network of hydrophones (or
 22 underwater microphones) to help detect these vulnerable species
 23 around its bomb site, and to keep its activities to the northern
 24 end of the weapons training area, where the islands' resident
 25 whales and dolphins are less likely to go; and

26
 27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Commanding Officer
 29 of the Pacific Missile Range Facility.

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OFFERED BY: _____

[Handwritten signatures]

 Nicole E. Lower

MAR 10 2017

