
HOUSE 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
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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



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

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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,
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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, that the United States Military is urged to detect and
17 avoid harm to animals and marine life near the Pacific Missile
18 Range Facility; and

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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

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



