WHEREAS, Hawaiian monk seals are an endangered species found only in the Hawaiian Islands; and

WHEREAS, a Hawaiian monk seal known as "Honey Girl" is a regular visitor of the Hauula Beach Park and frequents a particular section of the beach park adjacent to the intersection of Kamehameha Highway and Kakuna Road; and

WHEREAS, members of the nearby community have expressed concerns for the safety of Honey Girl and other Hawaiian monk seals visiting Hauula Beach Park; and

WHEREAS, seals seeking warmth and shelter may tend to sleep under parked vehicles in the area; and

WHEREAS, many visitors arrive at Hauula Beach Park on tour buses and take pictures of or with the seals at an unsafe distance, creating the risk of injury to both the seals and the tourists; and

WHEREAS, safeguards are necessary at Hauula Beach Park to protect Honey Girl and other Hawaiian monk seals visiting Hauula Beach Park; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, that the Department of Transportation and the City and County of Honolulu are requested to implement safeguards at Hauula Beach Park to protect Hawaiian monk seals; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation, the Mayor of Honolulu, and the Chairperson of the Honolulu City Council.

OFFERED BY: 

MAR 08 2018