

17 APR 1997

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*cc: Balayo
Antonio
Tillman*

The Senate
The Nineteenth Legislature
of the
State of Hawaii

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 16, 1997

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CHIEF CLERK
PAUL T. KAWAGUCHI

R. Michael Laurs, Ph.D. Director
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
2570 Dole Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Dear Dr. Laurs:

I have the honor to transmit herewith Senate Resolution No. 29, S.D. 2, which was adopted on April 10, 1997 by the Senate of the Nineteenth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 1997.

Sincerely yours,

PAUL T. KAWAGUCHI
Clerk of the Senate

Enclosure

SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH INTO THE PRESERVATION OF
HAWAII'S GREEN SEA TURTLES.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's waters are home to the green sea turtle,
2 listed by the state and federal government as threatened and
3 the hawksbill sea turtle, listed by the state and federal
4 government as endangered; and
5

6 WHEREAS, despite being listed as threatened and
7 endangered, and thereby being protected by law, Hawaii's sea
8 turtles continue to face a host of threats to their survival;
9 and
10

11 WHEREAS, the green sea turtle, or "honu", is currently
12 being afflicted by a mysterious and fatal disease of unknown
13 cause called fibropapilloma, which is at epidemic levels in
14 several areas of Hawaii; and
15

16 WHEREAS, the extent and seriousness of fibropapilloma have
17 been amply demonstrated by wildlife biologists, and their
18 research efforts have been documented in written reports and
19 papers as well as in the television documentary, "Fall of the
20 Ancients: Hawaii's Green Sea Turtles in Crisis", which was
21 produced by two Hawaii-based wildlife conservation
22 organizations -- The Honu Project and Earthtrust; and
23

24 WHEREAS, the National Marine Fisheries Service has taken
25 the authority and lead by establishing a Sea Turtle Recovery
26 Plan and has been working with the Department of Land and
27 Natural Resources in tagging, releasing, and recovering green
28 sea turtles, and assisting in the disposal of "sick" or dead
29 turtles; and
30

31 WHEREAS, although some research into the cause of
32 fibropapilloma has been conducted, much more research must be
33 performed to determine the cause and cure of this disease, in
34 order to protect the green sea turtle, both as an important
35 part of Hawaii's heritage and as one of the Earth's endangered
36 species; now, therefore,
37

38 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Nineteenth Legislature

1 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 1997, that the
 2 Legislature hereby resolves that fibropapilloma is in fact a
 3 serious threat to Hawaii's green sea turtle, a species
 4 protected by both state and federal statutes; and
 5

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
 7 Natural Resources report to the Legislature prior to the 1998
 8 Regular Session on the progress of the Sea Turtle Recovery Plan
 9 and research into the preservation of Hawaii's green sea
 10 turtles; and
 11

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 13 Resolution be transmitted to the National Marine Fisheries
 14 Service, the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Hawaii
 15 Institute of Marine Biology, Sea Life Park, and the Waikiki
 16 Aquarium.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true
 and correct copy of Senate Resolution No. 29 SD2
 which was duly adopted by the Senate of the State
 of Hawaii on April 10, 1997
 Dated: April 16, 1997

Carol T. Langrich
 Assistant Clerk of the Senate