

IMPROVE EDUCATION
PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT
ADDRESS INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES
ADOPT SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC STRATEGIES
MEET HUMAN NEEDS & PRESERVE LOCAL CULTURE

FOCUS OUR
MAUI ISLANDS
NUI OUR FUTURE

Own it!

Dog that runs in rough waters...



ʻIlio holo i ka uaua (dog that runs in rough waters) is the name ancient Hawaiians gave this Native **pinniped** - monk seal - which has thrived for the past 13 million years. Successfully adapted to life in the sea, pinnipeds are thought to have evolved from terrestrial mammals about 20 million years ago and continue to retain strong ties to land. Their closest modern day ancestors are the bear and the dog. Hawaiian monk seals are found only in the Hawaiian Islands and are a unique part of Hawaii's natural and cultural history. They are the only tropical seal in the world, and the only marine mammal found entirely within U.S. waters. Unlike pinnipeds in other regions of the world that congregate in large numbers to rest and sun themselves, this does not hold true for Hawaiian monk seals, which seem to prefer a solitary life and are rarely found in groups. **Hawaiian monk seals are the most endangered mammal in Hawaii, and one of the most endangered in the world.** Fewer than 1,200 remain in the wild. Most are found around the Northwest Hawaiian Islands where their number is rapidly falling due to decades of over-fishing, habitat loss, predation, and entanglement in marine debris. Hawaiian monk seals are protected under federal and state laws.

If you come across monk seals it is recommended that you abide by the following:

- **Do not approach monk seals while on land or in the water. They may approach swimmers, divers or vessels out of curiosity, but in no instance should you approach them. This may be considered a form of harassment.**
- **When it is necessary to pass by a monk seal that has hauled itself on to a beach, it is recommended that you remain a minimum distance of 100 feet away from the seal, so as not to disturb them.**



...and sleeps
with green
turtle.

The Hawaiian
monk seal
was declared
Hawaii's
official state
mammal on
June 11, 2008.



**TO REPORT
HAWAIIAN
MONK SEAL
STRANDINGS
CALL
1-888-256-9840**



FOCUS MAUI NUI is a community-driven vision for the future of our islands, spearheaded by Maui Economic Development Board, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to the economic well-being of Maui County. VISIT www.focusmauinui.com or CALL 808.270.6801