

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICY LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS

November 12, 2019

Policy Number 4.45

STRANDED OR BEACHED SEA MAMMALS

POLICY

In the event a sea mammal is found stranded or beached, the department's role will be limited to providing support to the National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Department of Commerce.

PROCEDURE

I. JURISDICTION

- A. The National Marine Fisheries Service is the only government agency having jurisdiction over stranded or beached sea mammals.
- B. Only agents of the National Marine Fisheries Service or persons granted the authority to act on their behalf have the authority to determine the manner in which to dispose of the carcass of a sea mammal.

II. PROCEDURES

When a report is received of a sea mammal found stranded or beached:

- A. The Communications Division shall assign an officer to confirm the complaint;
- B. The responding officer shall:
 - 1. Notify the Communications Division of the number and condition of the mammals in distress, their description, exact location, injury description, and other pertinent information necessary to facilitate rescue or removal;

2. Secure the scene, keeping away persons not involved or authorized in the rescue effort; and
 3. Document the incident as a Miscellaneous Public case;
- C. The officer in charge of the Communications Division shall contact the Protected Species Program, National Marine Fisheries Service, from a list of telephone numbers maintained in the Communications Division;
- D. An authorized agent of the Protected Species Program will notify the Communications Division of the persons or groups granted authority to act on behalf of the National Marine Fisheries Service in the disposition of the sea mammal; and
- E. The Communications Division shall immediately inform the officer of the estimated time of arrival and the persons or groups granted authority to act on behalf of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

III. VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers have no official authority to intervene in any rescue attempt unless directed to do so by agents of the National Marine Fisheries Service.



SUSAN BALLARD
Chief of Police

Post on bulletin
board for one week

Policy first issued
March 29, 2002