

## SEA LIFE PARK'S MONK SEAL HABITAT



The Pu'uhonua project is sponsored by the Monk Seal Foundation, Sea Life Park, Na Mea Hulu, and the Hawaiian Monk Seal Response Team Oahu. Cover image © William Stohler.

## BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!

Why do monk seals need a permanent care facility?

The Hawaiian Monk Seal is the most critically endangered marine mammal in the United States. Fewer than 1,100 individuals remain, and the overall population is continuing to decline by 4% per year.

What are the goals for the facility?

The recovery goal for the species calls for a healthy wild population. Recovery activities throughout the Hawaiian archipelago include responding to injured seals, rehabilitating them, and placing them back in the wild. But rehabilitation and release are not always options. Critical injuries or other environmental factors sometimes leave an animal "non-releasable," meaning that it cannot be returned to the wild. These animals need a safe home, or pu'uhonua, so lethal options need never be considered.

Where will the new facility be constructed?

Sea Life Park is poised to provide these seals such a home where they can live out their lives safely and securely, as strong ambassadors for their species.

# YOU CAN HELP!

We need your help to make this dedicated Hawaiian monk seal facility and education program at Seal Like Park a reality.

Help us create a Monk Seal Pu'uhonua (a Hawaiian place of refuge).

## MAKE A DONATION

Make a tax-deductible donation:

Online at:  
[www.monksealfoundation.org](http://www.monksealfoundation.org)

Send a check:  
Payable to "Monk Seal Foundation-Pu'uhonua Initiative" at

**Monk Seal Foundation**  
P.O. Box 10042  
Lahaina, HI 96761



## PU'UHONUA

### ...A place of refuge

Help provide a permanent home for non-releasable Hawaiian monk seals. |

## OVERVIEW

### STATISTICS

FEWER THAN  
**1,100**  
INDIVIDUALS  
REMAIN

**20** PERCENT THAT LIVES IN THE MAIN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS ARE THRIVING

**6** PERCENT INCREASE PER YEAR OF THOSE THAT LIVE IN THE MAIN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

**4** PERCENT OF THE OVERALL POPULATION IS DECLINING PER YEAR

The Hawaiian Monk Seal is the most critically endangered marine mammal in the United States.

The recovery goal for the species calls for a healthy wild population. Recovery activities throughout the Hawaiian archipelago include responding to injured seals, rehabilitating them, and placing them back into the wild.

But rehabilitation and release are not always options. Critical injuries or other environmental factors sometimes leave an animal "non-releasable," meaning that it cannot be returned to the wild.

These animals need a safe home, or pu'uhonua, so lethal options need never be considered. Sea Life Park is poised to provide these seals such a home where they can live out their lives safely and securely, as strong ambassadors for their species. We need your help to make this dedicated Hawaiian monk seal facility and education program at Sea Life Park a reality. Help us create a Monk Seal Pu'uhonua - a Hawaiian place of refuge

## HO'AILONA

One of the most recent examples of a non-releasable seal is "Ho'ailona" (KP2). KP2 was born on Kaua'i and left shortly after his birth by his mother. That unfortunate occurrence triggered a series of events that would transform monk seal recovery in Hawai'i.



*Ho'ailona interacting with surfers on Molokai. While Ho'ailona helped to raise support from community members on Molokai his "friendly behavior" became a public safety concern and started a movement on why seals need to stay wild.*

Rescued by volunteers and NOAA staff, KP2 was brought to O'ahu, where volunteers nursed and cared for the newborn seal around the clock. KP2 would eventually be taken to Moloka'i and released in the county of Kalawao.

Accustomed to human interaction as a

result of the care taking which saved the abandoned pup's life, KP2 sought out human relationships. He found his way to the Kaunakakai Harbor on the south side of Moloka'i, where he befriended children and adults alike. He would quickly become "Moloka'i's Seal" and the Hawaiian and local community which adopted him gave him the name Ho'ailona, meaning "sign" or "prophecy" as a symbol of the return of the seals to the inhabited Hawaiian islands.



*Ho'ailona now has a home at the Waikiki Aquarium where he is an ambassador for the species.*

## KAIMALINO



Another recent example of a non-releasable seal is "Kaimalino" (KE18). This seal lived on Kure and Midway atolls in the northwest Hawaiian Islands where he became unnaturally aggressive toward several females and their young and had to be removed from the wild to protect the population. He was removed from Midway atoll and brought to the Waikiki Aquarium for temporary holding. He since has been moved to California for 2 years.

Since being brought into an aquarium setting this seal has mellowed a great deal to the point where Hawaiian Cultural Practitioners have given him the name Kaimalino.

Kaimalino is a combination of the words kai (ocean) and malino (calm, quiet, peaceful, pacific, as the sea). The name has two meanings: the first is just a description of his emerging personality, he is a calm animal and kinolau of Kanaloa, which represents all elements of the ocean. The name is a hope that he remains this way.

So the kaona of the name is a reference to the calm that has been brought to the kai (ocean waters) from which he was taken. It is a spiritual offering that wishes malino on the place that was disrupted by his behavior. It is a hope that all the spiritual and biological disruption is gone in him and that he remains calm.