



Hawaiian Monk Seal Preservation Ohana

"Here to protect and preserve Hawai'i's endangered Hawaiian Monk Seal Ohana



# HMSPO HAPPENINGS AND 2025 UPDATE

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# HMSPO Happenings and 2025 Update



Aloha Monk Seal Friends & Ohana,

We are so proud of our many accomplishments in 2025. Our HMSPO staff, volunteers and partners had an exceptionally busy year. It's not unusual for us to receive requests for interviews and invitations from news media, but a highlight of 2025 was a request to participate in a podcast hosted in the UK. Our mission has gone global and that's exciting! We have uploaded a copy of the podcast on our website, [www.hmspohana.org](http://www.hmspohana.org) if you are interested in listening to it.

The Keiki in Oahu's schools also received a lot of attention. This year was a huge success with a whopping 6,860 students receiving monk seal education. Our partners and volunteers have done a terrific job reaching out to schools in nearly every area of Oahu. They have not only educated students and teachers in the classrooms, but they have conducted outreach programs at busy beaches and hotels to educate visitors and staff. Of course, I must mention and give a big shout out to our partners at Sea Life Park who are taking such terrific care of KE18, the unreleasable "bad boy" seal at the park, as well as the many military bases who invited and welcomed HMSPO as a participant in their on-base outreach programs.

In late April, HMSPO again participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Manu O Kū Festival at Iolani Palace where we have had a booth for the past many years. The event was hosted by our partner The Conservation Council for Hawaii. It's estimated that over 1,000 people came by that day to celebrate not only the Manu O Kū, but also the Hawaiian Monk Seals and other Hawaii endangered wildlife and those organizations who watch over them. We had a terrific turnout at our booth, and we will continue to participate in this amazing event for as long as people visit the islands and harass the monk seals or leave their dogs off leash. It should be all of our continued commitment to watch over our beloved seals.





MelodyBentzPhotography

In 2025, we also welcomed back KP2 to his 3<sup>rd</sup>?, 4<sup>th</sup>?, 5<sup>th</sup>? home at the Waikiki Aquarium. We are thrilled that he is back and has a beautiful newly renovated habitat where he can be an Ambassador for his species while enjoying the good life he deserves. I am only speculating, but my guess is that he was instrumental in the UH study about monk seal communications and vocalizations. The podcast I mentioned previously touches on this study. I was personally pleased that HMSPO was asked to chime in on the subject. In the early KP2 days, I spent many nights listening to KP2 talk to himself (poor guy). As a volunteer, we weren't allowed to talk to him until it became apparent that he could not be released due to his eyesight issues. It was especially poignant that I was able to share my experiences of those early days and long nights listening to KP2's songs as I slept near him on the concrete floor at the Waikiki Aquarium.

Beyond the above, HMSPO has been in communications with several Mainland universities and individuals throughout the year. The education and information sharing that we've experienced has been a terrific program to share with people who have visited the islands, have seen a monk seal, and who want to learn more about them. **THE WORD IS OUT!!**

I will continue to man the airwaves from my home in Florida and spread the word even more. Being able to educate people before they visit the islands, "pre-education before pre-boarding", is an important goal for all of us at HMSPO and I'm hoping it will be yours too as we continue to grow. I anticipate a stellar year in 2026 with new adventures and accomplishments to share.

As always, if you have any questions or needs, reach out to me and I will try to address them in a timely manner. Again, my heartfelt mahalo goes out to our partners, volunteers, and those who have helped us around the globe to educate others. We cannot do it alone. Nothing would be a success without all of you.

Sincerely,  
Dana Jones



*Mahalo Nui Loa to our  
sponsor the Conservation  
Council for Hawaii*



Festivals



## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Conservation Events



On Base



Schools



At their new homes  
KE18 Sea Life Park