



MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

9 May 2019

Ms. Jolie Harrison, Chief
Permits and Conservation Division
Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3225

Re: Permit Application No. 22750
(Rachel Cartwright, Ph.D.,
Keiki Kohola Project)

Dear Ms. Harrison:

The Marine Mammal Commission (the Commission), in consultation with its Committee of Scientific Advisors on Marine Mammals, has reviewed the above-referenced permit application with regard to the goals, policies, and requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (the MMPA). Dr. Cartwright is requesting authorization to conduct research on cetaceans in the North Pacific Ocean, including waters of Hawaii, Alaska, and California, during a five-year period. The purpose of the research is to investigate (1) behavior, (2) habitat use, (3) health, and (4) life-history characteristics of cetaceans. Dr. Cartwright would harass, observe, photograph/videotape, and/or sample numerous cetaceans of any age class and either sex (see the take table and application for specifics). She would use various measures to minimize impacts on marine mammals and also would be required to abide by the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) standard permit conditions.

The Commission believes that the proposed activities are consistent with the purposes and policies of the MMPA and recommends that NMFS issue the permit, as requested. Kindly contact me if you have any questions concerning the Commission's recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter O. Thomas".

Peter O. Thomas, Ph.D.,
Executive Director