



November 2, 2018

Shinsuke J. Sugiyama
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United States of America
2520 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

Re: Opposition to Inhumane killing of Dolphins and Whales in Taiji, Japan

Dear Honorable Ambassador Sugiyama,

As an organization of animal advocates and educators operated by marine mammal veterinarians, we are deeply concerned about the inhumane treatment and slaughter of dolphins and whales in Taiji, Japan. Our host hotel partner on Oahu, The Kahala Hotel & Resort, shares our concern and joins us in this request to help stop the inhumane treatment of these dolphins and whales.

As you may be aware, the drive fishery in Taiji uses a practice where boats corral dolphins and whales into shallow waters where they are killed, sold for food or sold to marine parks. While we recognize this is a centuries-old practice and a complex issue, we cannot condone the inhumane treatment or killing of these marine animals.

At our Dolphin Quest marine life parks in Hawaii and Bermuda we educate and inspire people every day to care about and help protect dolphins in the wild. None of our dolphins come from drive fisheries, and the vast majority were born in our care or through cooperative breeding programs with other accredited marine mammal facilities.

Because of advances in animal welfare and husbandry practices, there has not been a need for US marine parks or aquariums to collect dolphins from US waters in over three decades. Dolphin Quest is working closely with marine mammal specialists in Japan to share the knowledge our community has learned and assist in advancing husbandry and animal welfare practices that support population sustainability in marine parks to avoid acquiring animals from the drive.

We respectfully urge you to help stop this inhumane treatment of the dolphins and whales by ending the drive fishery practice in Taiji.

Please let us know if there is anything that we can do to support this change.

Sincerely,

Rae Stone, DVM
President, Partner
Dolphin Quest / Quest Global Management

Gerald Glennon
General Manager
The Kahala Hotel & Resort