

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF HAWAII – OPERATION WILDLIFE TEACHER OVERVIEW OF HIPPO PRESENTATION

Purpose: To provide the teacher with a summary of the HIPPO presentation. To explore 5 reasons for animals (and plants) becoming “threatened,” “endangered,” or “extinct” and be aware of positive actions taken to conserve and preserve species and natural habitats.

H.I.P.P.O. = 5 reasons for endangered and extinct species

H – Habitat loss – biggest problem and most destructive; human development may destroy animal habitats, which is particularly difficult for endemic animals, especially birds; few endemic bird species remain in Hawaii; various conservation programs protect animals and plants, like native birds and humpback whales; Nene’s survival is success story; major problems around the world including reefs to sea ice, plus disappearance of rainforests and half the world’s amphibians.

I – Invasive species – invade, take over, and reproduce like crazy; are predators and competitors to endemic species; think of invasive species as pests, “everyday/common species” pushing out endemic species. Conservation with special rat traps on Kauai and special fences aid our endemic species. Many illegal snakes and lizards on Oahu have been captured, ferrets in Hilo, and brown tree snake on Guam.

P – Pollution – growing crisis worldwide; contamination of rivers, lakes, oceans, ground + air quality; sea life conservation areas: Northwest Hawaiian Islands National Monument (Hawaiian name: Papahānaumokuākea) and Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument; ocean trash is mostly plastic and a major problem, created Great Pacific Garbage Patch; impacts of pollution trapping in earth’s heat causes big climate/weather change; not too young to help the environment.

P – population increase – goes hand-in-hand with “letter H”; human population growth destroys animal habitats; causes more conflicts between people and animals; special trails allow elephants/tigers/pandas more space in which to live; tunnels and overpasses protect migrating animals; big wildcats are the most seriously endangered animals.

O – Over-hunting/over-fishing – animals and fish are being killed faster than nature can replace them; people no longer hunt only for food but for fun and money; illegal hunting, called poaching, is critically reducing wild species’ numbers; groups and individuals think of creative ideas to save wildlife.

**HAWAII IS THE ENDANGERED SPECIES CAPITAL OF THE WORLD
because our islands have lost more species than anywhere else on
Earth.**