

Notes from Second Dolphin-Human Interaction Meeting held on November 30, 2016 at the New Thought Center of Hawaii

Summary

The first meeting was held on October 15, 2016. 52 People were present. The meeting focused on creating an environment of collaboration and respect. In other words, a safe and non-judgmental space so each participant's voice may be heard, without interruption or judgement. This goal was achieved.

The purpose of the second meeting was to further build on this community work. As part of this safe space, new ideas started to emerge. Individuals began to offer solutions. Specifically, it became clear that the voices of Native Hawaiians were missing. At least three surrogate participants offered to be these voices. In the space of collaboration and respect, it was acknowledged that compromise would be needed if the community wished to achieve its larger goal of an "Irresistible Agreement". Groups were formed to focus on specific areas. They will continue to meet to formulate input prior to the next meeting.

Stakeholders Identified and those Present:

37 in total attended (several stakeholders present had more than one area of representation).

Stakeholder	Present at Oct 15	Present at Nov 30
Total Present	52	37
NOAA	0	0
DLNR	0	0
"Dolphinville"	33	30
Boat/Commercial Operators	5	1
Those effected financially by the proposals	23	7?
Local Hawaiians	0 (represented by 1 proxy)	0 (represented by 3 proxy)
Chamber of Commerce	1	1
Captive Dolphin Group	0	0
Independent Scientists	2	4
Dolphins under care	1	1
Other	?	7

Points Raised:

1. The EIS data is old and most likely no longer accurate. New EIS data is required in order to be relevant.
2. Two primary dolphin-human activities emerged:
 - a. Swimming with the dolphins in open water launching off boats
 - b. Swimming with the dolphins in bays, entering the water from the beach or from anchored boats
3. It became apparent the above two activities were viewed separately and should be considered separately moving forward.
4. Significant discussion emerged around Native Hawaiian cultural issues, including:

- a. Why is it necessary to swim with the dolphins at all?
 - b. A perceived resentment from making money out of the dolphin interaction activities.
 - c. A need to further engage the Native Hawaiian community and invite their participation.
 - d. They need to be a part of the “Irresistible Agreement”
5. Suggestions started emerging around “drawing a line” in the water to separate swimmers and dolphins and for this line to be respected. More discussion required.
 6. More research was needed through the formation of a citizens-science group. How was this to be funded?
 7. Above-surface observation only was insufficient for scientific conclusions. Video evidence is required for submission as part of the “Irresistible Agreement”. Community members are in a strong position to supply this.
 8. Individuals were to continue to submit comments on the NOAA web site for consideration as part of NOAA’s review process. Whilst the previous deadline for submitting comment’s had been extended to December 1, 2016, it was the general consensus of the group that provided meaningful progress was being made towards reaching the “Irresistible Agreement”, NOAA would continue to respect such input submitted after the comment closing date.

Common Consensus Expanded

To seek an “Irresistible Agreement” amongst all stakeholders, embracing Aloha and clarifying Rules of Engagement with the dolphins was expanded to include [lokahi](#), or unity.

Formation of Groups

The previous meeting identified three main areas for focus, namely:

1. Education (including community research)
2. Respect for Hawaiian Local Culture
3. Self-Regulation vs legislation

Participants broke into these groups. In addition, a fourth group comprising “Elders” was created. The role of the Elders group is to hold the energy of the space and to provide wise counsel to the overall process.

Participants may join one or more groups, and this is encouraged to ensure cross pollination of ideas.

Group Dynamics and Facilitation

It is important that every member in each group participates in the spirit of lokahi. Failure to do so will result in the breakdown of the group, thereby serving nobody’s interests. Group spokespersons are welcome to contact the facilitator, Nigel Patterson on (808) 747-4654 should assistance be required in facilitating individual group meetings. This is a true test on whether the community can work together, respectfully.

Action Items:

1. The groups were invited to meet privately before the next meeting.
2. A spokesperson is to be nominated for each group

3. Each group was to come up with their contribution to the “Irresistible Agreement”.
4. The group spokesperson will share this information at the next meeting.

Follow up before next meeting

1. Each groups’ spokesperson to send email with contact details to facilitator, Nigel Patterson at Nigel@NigelBPatterson.com
2. Nigel will circulate the contact details of the group spokespersons to all on the email distribution list enabling individuals to join these groups
3. Group members to advise Nigel whether they wish to have their group participation and email addresses made available to the larger group.

Next Meeting – To be confirmed

Date: January 3, 2017

Time: 3pm – 5pm

Venue: New Thought Center of Hawaii (as before)