



Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Resolution in support of designating Pacific Remote Islands National Marine Sanctuary

November 8, 2023

NON-GOVERNMENT (Voting)

Thorne Abbott
Business Commerce

Karwika Winter
Conservation

Maya Walton
Education

Jayne LeFors
Hawai'i Island

Barbara Maka'ala Ka'umouana
Kaua'i Island

Solomon Pili Kaho'ohalahala
Lāna'i Island

Vernon Kalamikan
Mau'i Island

Malia Akutagawa
Moloka'i Island

Roxane Keli'ikipikāneokolohaka
Native Hawaiian

Maxx Phillips
O'ahu Island

Chad Wiggins
Ocean Recreation

Jens Currie
Research

Magen Schiffiliti
Tourism

Sherry LeMaster
Whale Watching

GOVERNMENT (Non-Voting)

Justine Nihipali
DBEDT - Office of Planning

Cameron Black
DBEDT - Hawai'i State Energy Office

Jeanine Rossa
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Kcaloha Pisciotta
OHA (Voting)

Eric Roberts
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Brian Christy
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Joshua DeMello
WESPAC (Voting)

Linda Speerstra
US Army Corps of Engineers

Maile Norman
US Coast Guard

Emily Hauck
US Navy

WHEREAS Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (“PRI”) was first established by Presidential Proclamation 8336 in January 2009 and expanded through Presidential Proclamation 9173 in 2014 by then President Obama;

WHEREAS PRI was established to protect and preserve the marine environment around Baker, Howland, and Jarvis Islands, Wake, Johnston and Palmyra Atolls, and Kingman Reef for the care and management of the cultural, biological, and natural objects therein;

WHEREAS PRI is an important part of the most widespread collection of marine- and terrestrial-life protected areas on the planet, sustaining many endemic species including corals, fish, shellfish, marine mammals, seabirds, water birds, land birds, insects, and vegetation not found elsewhere, as stated in Presidential Proclamation 9173;

WHEREAS the designation of Pacific Remote Islands National Marine Sanctuary (“PRINMS”) would support the Biden-Harris administration’s goal of protecting 30% of lands and oceans under U.S. jurisdiction by 2030 by adding 770,000 square miles of protected ocean area;

WHEREAS the National Marine Sanctuary System comprises 15 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments;

WHEREAS national marine sanctuaries and marine national monuments provide two different types of protections and are created under different federal laws. National marine sanctuaries are designated under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA), while marine national monuments are established under the Antiquities Act. The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council acknowledges the PRI Marine National Monument is afforded certain protections under the Antiquities Act, and supports the additional protections afforded under NMSA;

WHEREAS national marine sanctuaries are required to seek input from groups called Sanctuary Advisory Councils that represent relevant government agency and local community experts and interested parties that provide important advice and guidance to sanctuary managers;

WHEREAS under the Antiquities Act, currently PRI is a Marine National Monument; the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council supports sanctuary designation to facilitate greater community engagement, stronger education programs, and the formation of an advisory council for continued oversight and management;

WHEREAS the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council has more than 30 Hawai‘i community and stakeholder members that provide perspectives, from fishing, cultural, business, youth, education, conservation, and research interests, as well as state and federal agencies;

“The opinions and findings of this letter/publication do not necessarily reflect the position of the sanctuary, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the State of Hawai‘i.”



Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

WHEREAS the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council confronts some of the same regional marine ecosystem issues that PRI faces, including impacts from climate change, marine debris, invasive species, and resource depletion;

WHEREAS the value of a national marine sanctuary has been proven to enhance protections of the marine environment, further research, and provide educational opportunities to local communities;

WHEREAS the protection of PRI is critical to the ecological health of the Pacific Islands Region and directly impacts humpback whales and their marine habitat;

WHEREAS the PRI are connected to Hawai'i culturally due to the historic celestially guided voyages of Hawaiians across the Pacific Ocean;

WHEREAS Hawai'i is also connected to the PRI through the service of young Native Hawaiian men who were recruited by the United States to continuously occupy islands in the region in order for the U.S. to lay claim for annexation;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council supports the designation of Pacific Remote Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

ADOPTED by Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council on November 8, 2023.

Solomon Pili Kaho'ohalahala, Chair

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