



## Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

The Honorable Governor Linda Lingle  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

September 12, 2007

Dear Governor Lingle,

The Advisory Council (council) of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary is pleased to endorse and acknowledge the sanctuary programs and accomplishments over the last five years. Based on the sanctuary's successful efforts in protecting humpback whales and their habitat; their outstanding outreach and education programs; innovative research, rescue, and response initiatives; and the effective working relationships established with the many federal, state and private partners throughout Hawai'i, the council, for the first time, recommends that efforts be made to strengthen the sanctuary's status in Hawaiian State waters.

The sanctuary has made significant accomplishments during the last five years including:

- Conservation:
  - Population increase of humpback whales from approximately 5,000 in 1993 to up to 10,000 in 2007
  - Successful intervention and release of 8 entangled humpback whales and conducted over 26 responses to whales reported injured
  - Helped rescue dozens of injured and entangled Hawaiian monk seals
  - Organized a national 3-day workshop to address ship strikes on humpback whales
  - Developed new whale avoidance signs and brochures that warn recreational boaters to take measures to avoid collisions with humpback whales
  - Promoted and helped fund pump-out facilities for the commercial fleet to improve water quality in the whales' habitat
  - National and International Relevance—Provides protection for important breeding area when whaling interest appears to be growing in some areas of the Pacific Ocean
- Education:
  - Development of statewide marine science curriculum for grades K-12 in partnership with the Hawai'i Department of Education (DOE)
  - Opening of Maui Learning Center in 2008 to provide a state of the art facility and natural laboratory to increase opportunities for "in the field" student learning
  - Development of education cruises to pilot an at sea classroom
  - Education efforts to empower thousands of Hawai'i students and residents to make and lead change efforts to care for the environment that will include: dune restoration, fishpond restoration, and monitoring of endangered and threatened species

### NON-GOVERNMENT

Dale Sarver  
*Business and Commerce*

David Hoffman  
*Citizen-At-Large*

Terry O' Halloran  
*Commercial Shipping*

Louis M. Herman, Ph.D.  
*Conservation*

Jeanne Russell  
*Education*

Robert Bruck  
*Fishing*

Sara Peck  
*Hawai'i County*

William A. Friedl  
*Honolulu County*

Don Thornburg  
*Kaua'i County*

Cheryl Sterling  
*Maui County*

Kimoeko Kapahulehua  
*Native Hawaiian*

Teri Leicher  
*Ocean Recreation*

Marc Lammers, Ph.D.  
*Research*

Michael Stanton  
*Tourism*

James E. Coon  
*Whale Watching*

### GOVERNMENT

Athline M. Clark  
*DLNR - DAR*

Elizabeth Corbin  
*DBEDT Ocean Resources*

Vacant  
*DOH*

Eric Kingma  
*WESPAC*

Cindy Barger  
*US ACOE*

Jerry B. Norris  
*OHA*

Marnie Meyer  
*DBEDT - OP*

Dean Watase  
*DOT - Harbors*

LCDR Mark Young  
*US Coast Guard*

NON-VOTING  
Bill Kiene  
*Fogatele Bay NMS*

Rebecca Hommon  
*US Navy*

Tom Friel  
*NMFS - Law Enforcement*

Chris Yates  
*NMFS - PIRO*

'Aulani Wilhelm  
*NWHI Reserve*

- Research:
  - Co-ordination of SPLASH (Structure of Populations, Levels of Abundance, and Status of Humpbacks), the largest international cooperative study of any whale species that includes Japan, Mexico, Russia, Canada, and the United States
  - Support of numerous research projects to study threats to humpback whales on their wintering grounds, residency characteristics of humpbacks, historical trends in vessel collisions with humpback whales, and communication in humpback whales

Finally, the council would like to recognize the dedicated sanctuary program staff. These individuals share a commitment to protecting and preserving humpback whales and their habitat, and increasing our knowledge and understanding of these amazing and endangered animals.

We recommend that you support the sanctuary by endorsing the following:

- Amend NOAA and the State's Agreements to explicitly state that you support having a humpback whale sanctuary in state waters as a long term mechanism for humpback whale conservation in Hawai'i
- Support the management plan review and the public process for evaluating the existing sanctuary and its programs to protect the humpback whale and its habitat, as well as emerging issues and additional resources
- Provide State support to augment the sanctuary's funding for conservation, research, and education

Sincerely,



William A. Friedl  
Chair  
Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale  
National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

cc: HIHW SAC