



Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

24 November 2009

NON-GOVERNMENT

(Voting)

Jim Coon
Business and Commerce

David Hoffman
Citizen-At-Large

Dale Hazlehurst
Commercial Shipping

Louis M. Herman, Ph.D.
Conservation

Liz Kumabe
Education

Robert Bruck
Fishing

Luana Howell
Hawai'i County

William A. Friedl
Honolulu County

James Yamamoto
Kaua'i County

Cheryl Sterling
Maui County

Pohai Kirkland
Native Hawaiian

Teri Leicher
Ocean Recreation

Adam Pack, Ph.D.
Research

Michael Stanton
Tourism

Reginald A. White
Whale Watching

GOVERNMENT

Marnie Meyer
DBEDT - OP

Elizabeth Corbin
DBEDT Ocean Resources

Athline M. Clark
DLNR - DAR

Vacant
DOH

Dean Watase
DOT - Harbors

Gene Brighthouse
Fagatele Bay NMS

Jerry B. Norris
OHA-Voting

Jeff Pollack
NMFS - Law Enforcement

Lisa Van Atta
NMFS - PIRO

Aulani Wilhelm
Papahānaumokuākea MNM

Eric Kingma
WESPAC-Voting

Cindy Barger
US ACOE

Eric Roberts
US Coast Guard

Rebecca Hommon
US Navy

Ms. Naomi McIntosh
Sanctuary Superintendent,
Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary
6600 Kalaniana'ole Highway, Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

Re: The President's Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force and the creation of a national policy for the oceans, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.

Dear Ms. McIntosh:

On November 16, 2009 The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council voted unanimously to endorse the enclosed statement prepared by members of the Research Committee and Change Solutions Working Group in reference to the President's Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force Interim Report and the creation of a national policy for the oceans, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. Additionally, the statement addresses both marine spatial planning and emerging issues on ocean, coasts and Great Lakes policy.

The council requests that the enclosed statement be forwarded to all appropriate parties including the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force.

Sincerely,

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

cc: David Nichols, Acting Co-Manager, HI Humpback Whale NMS (Hawaii DLNR, DAR)

STATEMENT

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
Re: The President's Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force and the creation of a
national policy for the oceans, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) appreciates the opportunity that the President's Ocean Policy Task Force (OPTF) provided to residents of the Hawaiian and other Pacific Islands through briefing and listening sessions in Honolulu on September 29, 2009. This statement specifies issues raised at the listening session which the SAC supports, and provides comments on issues in the OPTF's Interim Report of particular concern to the SAC. Additionally, the statement addresses both marine spatial planning and emerging issues on ocean, coasts and Great Lakes policy raised by community members. The SAC recognizes that the final recommendations of the OPTF will play an important role in guiding management of sanctuary resources in the future. Therefore, as community representatives for the stewardship of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, the SAC recognizes its duty to comment on policy development that may affect the Sanctuary.

The SAC recognizes and endorses the following objectives and issues presented at the Honolulu sessions:

1. The importance of connecting science and culture.
2. The need to strengthen the protection of our ocean and our coastline environments.
3. The need to balance access to the ocean and coastline for all US residents including native people for recreation, business, and sustenance through ecosystem-based management practices that encourage communities to become ecologically and economically sustainable.
4. Concern about potential ecosystem degradation through global climate change, sea level rise, and ocean acidification.
5. The recognition that terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems are inter-related and require integrated management "from the top of the mountain to the ocean" ("mauka to makai;").
6. Water quality issues including non-point source pollution such as surface-water runoff, reef sedimentation, sewage leaching from injection wells, and discharges from boats in near-shore areas all of which pollute the ocean, and marine debris such as plastics that may entangle or be ingested by marine wildlife.
7. Concerns over food security and energy independence, recognizing the need to proceed with caution in the implementation of existing or advancement of new technologies while incorporating the best available ecological management practices.
8. The need to ensure protection of reefs and reef resources that are crucial for the existence of marine wildlife and the livelihoods of the people of Hawaii and neighboring islands.
9. The development of a framework for marine spatial planning that integrates state and federal waters and protects "special places" or areas of cultural, biological, and historical importance.

The Hawaiian Islands and its surrounding marine ecosystem are unique and clearly “one size does not fit all” for management of this unique resource. Thus, the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council supports a public policy that takes into account the issues and concerns mentioned above. Furthermore, the advisory council recognizes the need to combine the best available scientific information with traditional knowledge of the ecosystem. Finally, the SAC suggests incorporating information from science and place-based knowledge into policy development, using the principles of ecosystem-based management and adaptive management practices that adapt to changing conditions and regional differences, including those between mainland and island coastal ecosystems and communities.