



Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

February 23, 2009

NON-GOVERNMENT (Voting)

Dale Sarver
Business and Commerce

David Hoffman
Citizen-At-Large

Terry O'Halloran
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

James E. Coon
Whale Watching

GOVERNMENT

Marnie Meyer
DBEDT - OP

Elizabeth Corbin
DBEDT Ocean Resources

Athline M. Clark
DLNR - DAR

Vacant
DOH

Dean Watase
DOT - Harbors

Vacant
Fagatele Bay NMS

Jerry B. Norris
OHA-Voting

Jeff Pollack
NMFS - Law Enforcement

Chris Yates
NMFS - PIRO

Aulani Wilhelm
Papahānaumokuākea MNM

Eric Kingma
WESPAC-Voting

Cindy Barger
US ACOE

LCDR Mark Young
US Coast Guard

Rebecca Hommon
US Navy

Mr. Ben Villaflor
Senate Sergeant-At-Arms
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 015
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Hawaii Inter-Island Large Capacity Ferry Oversight Task Force

Dear Mr. Villaflor:

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (sanctuary) is dedicated to the protection of a unique resource: the Central Pacific population of humpback whales and their habitat in the main Hawaiian Islands. The Sanctuary Advisory Council recently reviewed the final report that the Hawaii Inter-Island Large Capacity Ferry Oversight Task Force (OTF) submitted to the Legislature on December 29, 2008.

As the Council Chair, I am writing to inform the Hawaii State Legislature that the council supports the following task force recommendations that are relevant to humpback whales:

- Conduct a study to determine the validity of the Hawaii Superferry whale avoidance policy, with the study to be structured by a credentialed person, include at least four voyages during the evening (after dusk), be conducted during February, focus on the personnel used to serve as whale observers, and be funded by a source determined by the Legislature
- Conduct a fly over study of the marine mammals in the Hawaiian Islands in 2009 with the study (estimated to cost \$200K) to be funded by the Legislature.
- Have the large capacity ferry provide scatter logs of whale sightings from November through May for each year, with the information to be provided to DLNR and other appropriate government agencies.

Please convey the Council's support of these recommendations to all appropriate parties.

Sincerely,

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

cc: Daniel J. Basta, Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (NOAA)
Naomi McIntosh, Sanctuary Superintendent, HI Humpback Whale NMS (NOAA)
Laura Thielen, Chairperson, Department of Land And Natural Resources (Hawaii DLNR)
Kevin R. Kuroda, House Sergeant-At-Arms, Hawaii State Legislature
Jeffrey Walters, Ph.D., Sanctuary Co-Manager, HI Humpback Whale NMS (Hawaii DLNR, DAR)



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Mr. Kevin R. Kuroda
House Sergeant-At-Arms
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 017
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Hawaii Inter-Island Large Capacity Ferry Oversight Task Force

Dear Mr. Kuroda:

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