

Aloha

I would like to inform you that the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary is currently seeking interested individuals to fill both primary and alternate non-governmental seats on the Sanctuary Advisory Council. Beginning immediately, we will accept applications for council membership for the following seats: Native Hawaiian, Fishing, Education, Research, Hawai'i County, Kaua'i County, Maui County, Honolulu County, and a newly created Youth/Student Seat (ages 14-17).

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council was established pursuant to Federal law to ensure continued public participation in the management of the sanctuary.

The council was originally established in March 1996 and has a broad representation consisting of 31 members. The Council represents the coordination link between the Sanctuary and the State and Federal management agencies, Native Hawaiians, user groups, researchers, educators, policy makers, and other various groups that help to focus efforts and attention on the humpback whale and its habitat. Additionally, the sanctuary will be the one of the first sanctuaries in the country to recruit a youth member seat to participate on the advisory council.

The council's role is to provide the sanctuary management with advice on resource protection, research, education and outreach programs. Topics that the council is currently addressing include: ocean acidification, protection of areas of cultural and biological importance, response and rescue efforts for marine animals, vessel-whale collisions, proposed development activities within sanctuary waters, and planning to engage communities and seek public input during the review and revision process for the sanctuary's current management plan. The Council works with the Sanctuary Managers to keep them informed about issues of concern throughout the sanctuary.

The sanctuary is currently accepting applications for primary and alternate seats representing Native Hawaiians, Fishing, Education, Research, Honolulu County, Hawaii County, Maui County, and Kauai County. Candidates will be selected based on their expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying, community and professional affiliations, and views regarding the protection and management of marine resources.

Additionally, for the first time, the sanctuary is seeking to fill a non-voting youth/student seat and alternate seat to represent the youth segment of the community, defined as ages 14-17. The interest and enthusiasm of youth under the age of 18 is very important to the sanctuary; these students are our future generation of ocean stewards and leaders. The sanctuary wishes to foster and facilitate these links with youth in sanctuary communities and has added a non-voting youth seat to the advisory council.

Membership Terms:

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary is currently seeking interested individuals to fill both primary and alternate non-governmental seats on the Sanctuary Advisory Council. Terms for non-governmental members are two years in length and are staggered to establish continuity within the Council (the current Council seats up for reselection were selected in 2005). Governmental members of the Council serve at the discretion of their agency or entity and do not have a term limit.

Members of the Council shall serve without pay but the Sanctuary program will cover travel expenses to and from official Council meetings. The Council shall meet as frequently as necessary, not to exceed once per month but at least once every six months. Applicants should be residents of Hawai'i and must be able to attend meetings as needed.

Application Guidelines:

Applications should provide information regarding the candidate's particular interests, qualifications and experience and address the itemized topics to the best of their abilities. A description has been provided of the general expectations and qualifications for each of the seats:

Native Hawaiian Representative: knowledge and understanding of Native Hawaiian practices and culture related to ocean use and conservation. Affiliation with Native Hawaiian institutions or organizations desired but not required. Ability and willingness to communicate with key representatives from the Native Hawaiian community to promote understanding of the sanctuary's efforts to establish programs and activities that nurture cultural awareness for conservation of Hawai'i's ocean resources.

Education Representative: affiliation with educational institutions or organizations in the Sanctuary region; ability to effectively communicate with multiple institutions and educators; direct experience with marine education programs; experience, ability, and availability to conduct educational outreach consistent with the goals of the Sanctuary and the mission of the Council; and commitment and availability of time to chair the Council's Education Committee.

Fishing Representative: knowledge of fishing (commercial, recreation, or both) activities within the Sanctuary region; breadth of experience and knowledge regarding fisheries law, policies, and practices affecting the Sanctuary; and ability and willingness to communicate with key representatives from the fishing industries.

County Representative: familiarity with communities near the Sanctuary, experience and/or knowledge regarding marine or management and resource protection issues in the Sanctuary; experience and/or knowledge regarding public uses and activities in the Sanctuary; and freedom to express views and cast votes without consideration of any expectations held by an employer or other organization with which the member is affiliated. Island and community representatives should be willing and able to meet with constituents to discuss Sanctuary issues and ideas and be able to report these back to the Council as a whole.

Research Representative: affiliation with scientific research institutions or organizations active in the Sanctuary region; ability to effectively communicate with multiple institutions and scientists; direct experience with marine research programs; experience, ability, and availability to conduct outreach within the research community consistent with the goals of the Sanctuary and the mission of the Council; and commitment and availability of time to chair the Council's Research Committee.

Youth Representative: A non-governmental, non-voting youth/student seat represents the youth segment of the community, defined as ages 14-17. A youth/student member may be appointed for a term of two years, and may compete for reappointment unless the individual will exceed the age limit during the additional term.

The Sanctuary Manager, the State Sanctuary Co-manager and a Council Selection Committee will review all completed applications. Of these, a member and an alternate will be chosen, and officially notified of their selection.

*Applications must be received by: **January 31, 2010***
(Only hard-copies will be accepted)

Please send all applications to Council Coordinator, Joseph Paulin at the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, 6600 Kalaniana'ole Hwy, Suite 301, Honolulu, HI 96825. Phone: 808-397-2650 x.257 Fax: 808-397-2650

A copy of the sanctuary advisory council application kit, which includes a copy of the charter for the council and an application form, as well as some information about the sanctuary can be found on our website at <http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov> . Council terms will be for 2 years.

We are looking forward to receiving completed applications at our office at the address listed above by January 31, 2010. Applications will be reviewed by a preliminary review panel consisting of council members. The panel will help us narrow down the number of candidates for each seat to the top three. Of these, a member and an alternate will be chosen, and officially notified of their selection.

If you have any questions concerning the council, feel free to contact Joseph Paulin at 808-397-2651 x.257 or via E-Mail: joseph.paulin@noaa.gov

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Naomi McIntosh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Naomi McIntosh
Sanctuary Superintendent