



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR

February 28, 2008

Mr. Daniel J. Basta  
National Marine Sanctuary Program  
National Ocean Service  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
1305 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Basta:

To follow up on my December 11, 2007 letter regarding the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Chairperson, Laura Thielen, has informed me that the requested meeting, held January 31, 2008, between DLNR and the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) was very productive.

I understand that the meeting resulted in DLNR and ONMS reaching an agreement regarding the general scope and approach of the upcoming sanctuary's management plan review process. I support the decision to begin scoping activities to consider adding sea turtles, Hawaiian monk seals, spinner dolphins, and other marine mammals to the sanctuary in the Main Hawaiian Islands. I also concur that the process should consider adding marine habitat conservation responsibilities, such as deep coral reef conservation, to the sanctuary's mandate to the extent that such habitat conservation supports the ecological needs of the species under consideration.

As also discussed in the meeting, I want to reiterate Chairperson Thielen's commitment to devote State staff and resources as a true co-management partner to support the full implementation the sanctuary's management plan review process.

I want to express my thanks to you and your staff for working with DLNR to develop what I believe to be an excellent guiding strategy for the sanctuary's management plan review process. I continue to value and support our productive partnership for ocean stewardship and I look forward to following the results and successes of the process as it proceeds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Lingle".

LINDA LINGLE