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Peter A. Nakamura, County Clerk
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Telephone (808) 241-4188
Fax (808) 241-6349
Email cokcouncil@kauai.gov

Council Services Division
3371-A Wilcox Road
Līhu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

October 13, 2010

Management Plan Review Coordinator
Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary
6600 Kalaniana'ole Highway, Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96825



Dear Management Plan Review Coordinator:

RE: HAWAIIAN ISLANDS HUMPBACK WHALE NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARY MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony on the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (hereafter "Sanctuary") Management Plan Review as an individual member of the Kaua'i County Council.

It was recently brought to my attention that NOAA is engaging in a public scoping process for the Sanctuary Management Plan Review and is proposing to expand its scope and direction to protect and conserve other living marine resources, in addition to humpback whales and submerged cultural resources within the Sanctuary.

The ocean is essential to the lifestyle and culture of Kaua'i's people who seek it for fishing, diving, and recreation. Several fishermen have shared their concerns with me as they feel that expansion of the Sanctuary would be a threat to their livelihood and change the composition of what makes Kaua'i special.

I believe this process is important because it allows all interested parties to share their concerns for expansion of the Sanctuary and I am interested in learning more on how NOAA plans to interact with the community in the development of the Management Plan Review. I would encourage that NOAA take the time through this process to clarify common misconceptions about the Sanctuary and the role it plays in protecting our marine species.

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on this crucial community issue. Should you have any questions, I can be contacted at the Office of the County Clerk, Council Services Division by phone at (808) 241-4188 or via email at dchang@kauai.gov.

Sincerely,

DICKIE CHANG
Kaua'i County Councilmember

cc: faxed (808) 397-2650
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