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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 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 is my understanding that the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is in the early stages of conducting a Sanctuary Management Plan Review and has proposed expanding its scope and direction of the Sanctuary to protect and conserve other living marine resources in addition to humpback whales, including Hawaiian monk seals, other whales and dolphins, sea turtles, federally protected coral species, areas of significant habitat, and submerged historic and cultural resources.

My concerns for expansion of the Sanctuary are for the people who rely on the ocean for their livelihood, whether as an outlet for them to put food on the table or earn a respectable living wage to support their family. The Hawaiian people have historically sought the ocean as a resource for sustenance and recreational enjoyment. Fishing, diving, surfing, and other recreational ocean activities are a customary way of life for the people of Hawai'i, and the ocean surrounding our islands is the lifeblood for many people in Hawai'i. Additionally, tour boat operators play a large role in the outdoor activities sector of our tourism industry and have been proactive in increasing education and awareness of our marine species through their tours. Tour boat operators, fishermen, divers and all other ocean users have embraced their responsibility as stewards of the ocean and its finite resources.

Proposing to increase protection of marine species through expansion of the Sanctuary sends a message to the community that may create more divergence among interest groups rather than collaboration.

I am requesting that NOAA please take the concerns of all interest groups into consideration in this process, especially the fishermen, tour boat operators, and those who use the ocean for sustenance and enjoyment. It appears that there is a need to clarify misconceptions of the purpose of the sanctuary and its prohibitions,

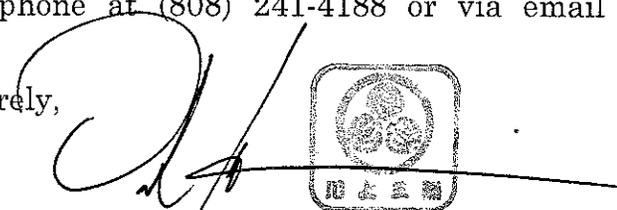
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and I would also request that NOAA consider investing in efforts to increase communication and public awareness within the community so that the public will have a better understanding of the Sanctuary.

I would like to inform you that I intend to introduce a resolution at a future Kaua'i County Council Meeting to request that NOAA take into consideration the concerns of all citizens affected by the Management Plan Review.

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 dkawakami@kauai.gov.

Sincerely,



DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI
Kaua'i County Councilmember

cc: faxed (808) 397-2650

YS/wa2010-736