

From Kauai Commad
box
8/14

To: Marine Sanctuary

From: Kaua'i Westside Watershed Council

RE: *Statement to Management Plan Review process of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary- Kona district, Kaua'i*

Aloha!

Through many meetings and community communications, NOAA's proposed management circumvention of the kona district na ahupua'a (i.e. includes marine, estuary, ocean, and coastal) have been found inappropriate and aggressive, for the cultural stewards of this district have already encumbered the resources and food supply area with a management plan for many generations now and are engaged with the county and state in recognizing and acknowledging their stewardship and regional management. Funding is always an issue and we look forward in your assistance and considerations in those respects. NOAA will need to adopt pre-existing cultural resources management and enforcement plan of the kona district of Kaua'i. Kaua'i usually includes Ni'ihau and we have a meeting with their delegates in preparation of their statement of fact and policies.

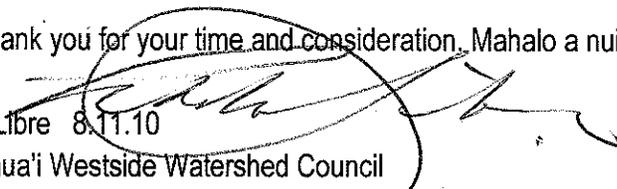
Kaua'i Westside Watershed Council has been serving the kona district of Kaua'i since 1993. Kanaka maoli and na keiki o ka aina of the kona district of Kaua'i have been implementing our cultural treasures management plan for many generations and we welcome your assistance in our efforts and processes to protect our regional cultural treasures and food supply. This includes the resources beneath, on top, below, within, and above as our traditional practices of native fisheries, land management, and cultural respects in perpetuity. The regional cultural people of the kona district do not relinquish our rights, liberties, or privileges to our resources and all processes thereof.

Our resources management plan serves as a framework for addressing critical and current issues facing our regional watershed treasures, ocean, marine, estuary, and coastal food supplies. It lays the foundation for restoring and protecting our cultural sanctuary's integrity and target resources, RESPONSE details from human pressures and threats impacting our sanctuary and initiates action that should be taken now and in the future to better manage our historical and cultural sanctuary area (currently designated as "undesignated area" by the division of boating and ocean recreation of Kaua'i that has been perpetuating the degradation and the illegal activities in our cultural areas for many years now). Our generational guiding documents comprehensively outline regulations (kapu), describe boundaries (ahupua'a), identify staffing (regional stewards) and budget needs (cultural regional precedence), and set priorities for cultural resources restoration, protection, conservation, research, intellectual and cultural property rights and food security, and outreach educational programs. They are constantly reviewed to ensure that we address regional watershed and community issues and Ahupua'a protection, traditional fisheries practices, native gathering rights, regional precedent stewardship enforcement, enhancements, maintenance, socio-economics and management.

We highly welcome your efforts and suggest that the kona district of Kaua'i's watershed master plan be adopted and identify that these areas are already **encumbered** by cultural native inhabitants of stewardship and practitioners that monitor and maintain their native habitat and its inhabitants and the regional watersheds (i.e., coast, ocean, estuary, endemic and indigenous inhabitants and biota, minerals, submerged resources and lands, within, above, and all processes thereof) for many centuries and implement policies to adhere to pre-existing cultural watershed management plan to your current

administrative policies and rules. As we continue to implement our management plans for the kona district of Kaua'i and our native population naturally grows, we welcome your efforts in our common goals. Since we are currently updating our 1994 legacy watershed plan for our implementation action plan 2010-2020, we humbly ask for your support and hope that we can work together to accomplish our mutual efforts of friendly cooperation.

Thank you for your time and consideration, Mahalo a nui loa a me ku'e ola,


r. Libre 8.11.10

Kaua'i Westside Watershed Council
Hawaii State Marine and Coastal Zone Advisory