



October 16, 2010

To: Management Plan Review Coordinator  
Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHWNMS)

Fr: Terry O'Halloran  
Executive Director, Malama Kai Foundation

Re: Addition of Maritime Heritage in the HIHWNMS

The Malama Kai Foundation (MKF) supports the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary inclusion of maritime heritage in the sanctuary.

Maritime heritage resource refers to the cultural, archaeological, and historical remains which relate to our seafaring past. These include shipwreck sites, historic aircraft sites, the remains of landings and dock facilities, prehistoric archaeological sites, and other types of materials. These resources are important to our island identity and history. The MKF supports the preservation of these resources, advancement of knowledge and gathering of scientific data, and educating the public while allowing access and observation.

We support the HIHWNMS working collaboratively with NGOs and dive operations around the state in developing programs and materials that will help educate the public and provide accurate interpretation of maritime heritage resources to resident and visiting divers. Submerged heritage sites serve as unique windows into the past, providing opportunities for historians, archaeologists, sport divers, and the general public to experience and appreciate these public resources in a responsible manner. Like many other states, Hawaii could feature interpretive shipwreck "trails" and vocational training programs that involve the public directly in stewardship of our common maritime heritage.

MAHALO for providing an opportunity for us to comment on the management plan review and future direction of the HIHWNMS.

Coastal and Ocean Stewardship for Current and Future Generations

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