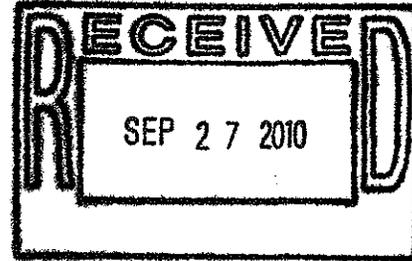




United States Department of the Interior  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION  
12795 W. Alameda Parkway  
Lakewood, Colorado 80225



In Reply Refer to:  
H24(IMDE-SRC)



September 22, 2010

Mr. Allen Tom, Sanctuary Manager  
Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary  
6600 Kalaniana'ole Highway, Suite 301  
Honolulu Hawai'i 96825

Dear Mr. Tom:

I am writing to advocate NOAA's extension of the core management mandate of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary to include cultural resources and incorporate this extension into your revised Sanctuary Management Plan.

Hawai'i has been intimately tied to the sea since the beginning of human history in the area, and within the sanctuary there are many cultural resources that should be managed on parity with natural resources. Beyond native Hawaiian traditions, the sanctuary contains within its waters whaling ships and schooners as well as military ships and aircraft that together contain important information about the islands' role in American and international maritime history. NOAA is uniquely qualified to expand its management responsibilities to protect these irreplaceable and non-renewable cultural resources for future generations. I have every confidence that NOAA's Maritime Heritage Program staff have the ability to make significant contributions to effective management of cultural resources in the sanctuary.

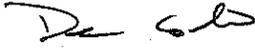
As you may know, NPS and NOAA have a long and fruitful relationship and professional exchange involving developing and refining science-based management of submerged natural and cultural resources. Recent examples of this partnership in your area include working jointly on the Japanese midget submarine lost off of Pearl Harbor, conducting side scan sonar survey to locate wrecks and material related to the Pearl Harbor attack, and together teaching underwater archeological skills to many NOAA diving scientists that are likely to encounter cultural materials in the course of their work. I fully expect this partnership will continue and grow. The National Park Service and the Submerged Resources Center will assist in any way we can to contribute to this expansion of NOAA's important preservation mandate.

TAKE PRIDE  
IN AMERICA 

*pau-ba*

Should you require more information or require additional clarification, please feel free to contact me at any time. I appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



David L. Conlin, Ph.D.  
Chief, National Park Service Submerged Resources Center

Cc: Laura Thielen, Chairperson  
State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Dan Basta, Director NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program  
The Honorable Linda Lingle, Governor  
State of Hawai'i  
Sande McDermott, NPS IMR Associate Regional Director,  
Resource Science and Stewardship

*dan-ba*