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October 16, 2010

Department of the Interior

c/o: hihwmanagementplan@noaa.gov

National Marine & Oceanic Administration

Subject: National Marine Hawaii Humpback Whale Sanctuary

As Kanaka (native Hawaiian) and State Representative of west Kauai and Niihau, I have been in consultation with residents and natives of Kauai and Niihau. Based in large part on these conversations, I am compelled to respond in opposition to any and all plans to designate Hawaii as a National Marine Sanctuary. Natives and residents rely on these waters to feed their families.

From its status as the Hawaii Humpback Whale Sanctuary, which is now a single species sanctuary. I feel strongly that this National Marine Sanctuary expansion is designed to take more Federal control over State of Hawaii Coastline and coastal and offshore waters out to 3 miles, by using these Marine resources to expand Federal control. I feel the National Hawaii Humpback Whale Marine Sanctuary has done its job and that the recovery of the Humpback Whale population has been one of the greatest success stories of an endangered species in US history. I commend you all for your hard work. It is time to look at an exit strategy. A National Marine sanctuary no longer is a good fit for Hawaii and its citizens. Too much of our Coastal lands and waters surrounding our coastline has been put under federal control. We are a small island State which relies on its Marine resources for food and recreation. In almost all areas where the federal government has taken control of our coastline and surrounding waters there have been restricted user and access issues that still to this day, have not be resolved in favor of the citizens of Hawaii.

We feel education can be accomplished by the State of Hawaii and if the Federal Government would be willing to fund the State of Hawaii in their efforts to protect the marine resources and educate the public, then that would be very welcomed. All management of Marine resources should ultimately be locally based and State managed within the State of Hawaii. I reject any Nationally based protection and enforcement except for funding or consultation with the State of Hawaii unless it is deemed vital to the survival of these species. But only after exhausting all options and consulting those who use the ocean for work and pleasure as Hawaii citizens.

Many including myself feel too many of Hawaii's people, were deliberately left out of the scoping process by vague announcements of scoping meeting with no proposed vision in the announcement but there was a proposed vision which is made clear at the scoping meeting. Many more of our Kauai residents would have come to your one scoping meeting on Kauai if they had known more in your announcements. Citizens needed to hear from your agency more than once and requested many times for another public meeting and an extension to the deadline. These were rejected.

We have Federal laws that protect all these resources such as the Federal Endangered Species Act, The Federal Marine Mammals Protection act and numerous State aquatic laws.

The Federal Government has already taken away too much of our coastal waters and coastline. Papahanaaumokuakea

National Marine Monument being larger than all National parks combined is enough of Hawaii's valuable resources for our National interests. For the People of Kauai and Niihau the overwhelming response I have heard is against and expansion and the reasonable departure of the Hawaii Humpback Whale Sanctuary from our state waters. Thank you for your help in educating our people but it is time for Hawaii to be about Hawaii's people needs to take care of our Main Hawaiian Island Marine resources.

Sincerely,

Roland D. Sagum, III

State Representative

16th District