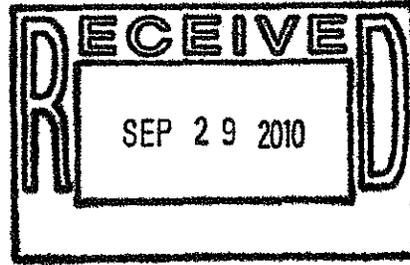


UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

College of Natural Sciences
Marine Option Program



3 September 2010

Allen Tom
Acting Superintendent
Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary
726 S. Kihei Road
Kihei, HI 96753

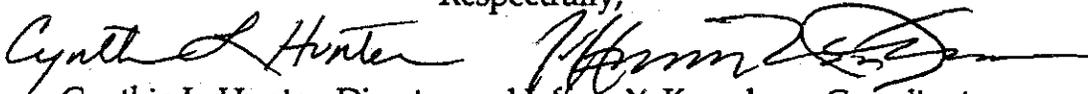
Dear Mr. Tom:

We understand that the HIHWNMS management plan will be reviewed soon and request that you include maritime archaeological research within the Sanctuary's mission. Significant submerged cultural resources, some involving our whaling past pepper these waters, and there is a serious lack of priority and coordination in studying these sites. The Sanctuary Program has already taken the lead on maritime archaeology at many of its mainland sites as well as in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Extending this effort to the Sanctuary waters in the Main Hawaiian Islands would protect these valuable cultural resources state-wide.

The University of Hawaii Marine Option Program (MOP) has been conducting maritime archaeology field schools since the early 1990's. Most of these were under the coordination of Dr. Hans Van Tilburg, Maritime Heritage Coordinator, NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program. A MOP/Sanctuary Program partnership through such a field school would allow us to offer our students opportunities in underwater archaeology, and would help the Sanctuary map and document its cultural sites.

Your organization has done a stellar job of raising humpback whale awareness in Hawaii. Over the past decade MOP has enjoyed a healthy partnership with the Sanctuary. Diversifying your mission by including the study of significant maritime archaeological sites would strengthen the Sanctuary's role in the community and would bring more visibility to your program and ours. If you do this, the Sanctuary, MOP and the state of Hawaii will reap the benefits. We hope that you give this serious consideration.

Respectfully,


Cynthia L. Hunter, Director and Jeffrey Y. Kuwabara, Coordinator
UH Manoa Marine Option Program

Cc: Daniel Inouye, Senator, State of Hawaii
Linda Lingle, Governor, State of Hawaii
Dan Basta, Director, NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program
Laura Thielen, Administrator, Hawaii DLNR

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