10/12/10

To: The director of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback whale marine Sanctary
Aloha and greetings from the island of Kauai.

Recently I attended a meeting in Lihue with fisherman, tour boat operators, beach users, DLNR representatives, and NOAA officials. I myself am a shoreline fisherman (commercial, subsistense and recreational) and have been for the last 40 yrs., as was my father and grandfather before me.

At that meeting we were introduced to certain 'visions' that the Hawaiian Humpback whale sanctary have in mind, one of which is to expand its area and to also include addition species such as the Hawaiian sea turtles, monk seals, and various corals. I agree that education is key. However I disagree with the 'visions' being discussed. First of all the Hawaiian Sea turtles, (by our own marine biologists) are no longer

endangered and in the near future may be taken off the endangered list. It was brought out at that meeting that NOAA was looking at the turtles on a 'worldwide' perspective. This argument doesn't hold up since the Hawaiian Sea turtles are found only in Hawaiian waters. Secondly the monk seals were introduced to the main Hawaiian islands in the 1970's by your own people. To my knowledge, no documentation has ever been found to connect the monk seals to the main Hawaiian isles. I feel ~~to~~ that for the safety concerns of both seals and public they should have been and need to be back on the Northern Hawaiian isles. In regards to corals, they are more affected by ocean temperatures, which are being studied but yet not fully understood.

When speaking to most 'local people on the island, the general concensus is that "no taking or fishing" zones will be established, which has created misunderstanding and animosity towards the H.I.H.W.N.M.S.'

The feeling that our culture and lifestyles, are on the endangered list. I believe mis-communication has a lot to do with this sent-iment.

In closing, again I say education is the key, not expansions and inclusions. By the way, even by your own studies and literature the Humpback whales have increased ~~and~~ sub-stantialy. I hope this is not about federal dollars and the justification of jobs at the expense of the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for your time,

Peter Lopez (native Hawaiian)

RECEIVED
OCT 15 2010