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### Kauai Testimony Ballot Regarding Hawaii Humpback Whale Sanctuary Proposed Expansion

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#### Should Sanctuary Expand Whale protections?

*Whale population has gone from 2000 or 3000 in mid 1970's to a current population of around 12000+ according to the Sanctuary's own information. At 6% growth annually, the population will be over 20,000 whales by 2018. There is no clear purpose in increasing protection. Current laws have more than provided for a return in population. Anything beyond which is added bureaucracy.*

- No Expand
- Expand
- Unsure

Comments: Growth in Whale populations has occurred  
regardless of expansion

#### What would the current Humpback population be if there had never been a Sanctuary?

*Based on numbers taken from The Sanctuary's own literature it is questionable if it would have been any different. At best a few whales, probably far less than 100 out of the current count of 12,000 plus humpbacks, can be directly attributed to Sanctuary involvement. All of these are disentanglements or stranding related. The real savior of the Humpback has simply been the ban on whaling. It seems highly unlikely that they have ever actually directly prevented a collision as is implied by their own 'Top 10 Accomplishments'.*

- More
- Less
- About the same

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

### Vessel Speed Limits During Whale Season

*Most whale injuries involving small vessels (non-military or freighters) are a result of the propeller, which does the same damage at 10 knots as it does at 20 knots. More important, is the size of the propeller. None the less, despite the Humpback population doubling, the Sanctuary itself reports little or no recent whale deaths from collision. Many of the reported 'collisions' are, in fact, at dead slow or drifting speed.*

No Limit

Limit to (circle one) 14knts 16knts 18knts

Unsure

Comments: Speed apparently has little effect on  
Collisions.

### Expand the Sanctuary to include all islands all the way around islands out to 100 fathoms (600 feet) depth.

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No Expand

Expand

Unsure

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

### Sea Turtles: Expand the Sanctuary to include?

*Population has dramatically increased since protection from hunting was instituted. No additional protection needed as current laws providing for large fines have been very successful.*

No Expand

Expand

Unsure

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Monk Seals: Expand the Sanctuary to include.**

*Monks seals are clearly endangered, but according to available information the population is growing and pup mortality is down in Human occupied areas. While pup mortality is high and population growth is stagnant in "protected" Northern Hawaiian Island chain. Current laws sufficiently protect Monk seals within the human inhabited islands.*

No Expand

Expand

Unsure

Comments: Death in seals can be related more to  
natural causes than human interaction.

**Dolphins: Expand the Sanctuary to include.**

*Dolphins are not endangered currently in Hawaii.*

No Expand

Expand

Unsure

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Hawaiian Cultural Heritage: Expand the Sanctuary to include.**

*This is a completely unrelated issue that appears to have been added to the Sanctuary's "Vision".*

No Expand

Expand

Unsure

Comments: Heritage education is valuable to Natives.

**Coral Reef: Expand the Sanctuary to include.**

*Coral reefs are clearly suffering around the state and the world. However, the cause of this decline appears more closely related to problems like agricultural run off, climate change, and general pollution. Efforts to control local run off and silting of reefs would incur better results than limiting ocean use. None of the above will be improved by Sanctuary expansion.*

No Expand

Expand

Unsure

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**No Take Zones (fishing)**

*"No take zones" may not be practical in Hawaii due the highly mobile nature of most our preferred food species. Blanket moratoriums also have shown to be of marginal value as once they are re-opened there tends to be a sudden over fishing frenzy that leaves the fish population just as bad off as before. Possibly, a better solution would be statewide or island specific, individual species moratoriums that allow fishermen to continue fishing but allow a specific species to recover and reproduce. Enforcement is still reasonably simple as moratorium fish will have a zero bag count. A bounty on invasive/pest fish should be considered. All the above of which can be legislated and managed by DLNR Fish and Wildlife.*

No Zones

Some Zones

All Sanctuary is No Take

Comments: Limit commercial fishing  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**No Access Zones: Create zones for species where there is no public access (no fishing, boating, tours, swimming, etc.)**

- No Zones
- Yes, create Zones
- Unsure

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Should Sanctuary "Vision" include plan for reducing its size or scope as species are removed from endangered status or reach pre-determined population levels**

*In light of the rapidly increasing populations of most of the species listed in the Sanctuary's "Vision", the future relevance of the Sanctuary is questionable. There seems no current reason for it to expand. It is understandable that there will continue to be a need for volunteers to continue watching the waters and to report on violations of the existing laws. Those laws and regulations are working, but there is no purpose to piling more laws and regulations on top of them.*

- No reduction
- Reduce size
- Unsure

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_