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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
January 7, 2014

### **Old Lahaina Courthouse to host free National Marine Sanctuary lectures**

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary and the Pacific Islands Region of NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, in collaboration with the Lahaina Restoration Foundation, will present weekly sanctuary lectures at the Old Lahaina Courthouse. Scheduled every Tuesday at 11 a.m., on the first floor of the courthouse, the lectures are free and open to the public.

"Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary is pleased with the prospect to extend our outreach on Maui's west side," said Malia Chow, sanctuary superintendent. "Our presence at the Old Lahaina Courthouse will allow us to reach visitors and our local population with sanctuary messages, and we are grateful to the Lahaina Restoration Foundation for this opportunity."

"The Old Lahaina Courthouse has a long history of community use, and we are happy to partner with NOAA to provide a space for the weekly, free whale talks," said Theo Morrison, executive director of the Lahaina Restoration Foundation.

In addition to the weekly lecture, the courthouse houses exhibits about NOAA's work in Lahaina as well as a look at the town's history from both the Hawaiian cultural and historical perspective. NOAA provided support for the recent renovation of the courthouse's museum and second floor public space.

The sanctuary is administered by a partnership of NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and the State of Hawai'i through the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). The sanctuary works to protect humpback whales through research, education, conservation and stewardship. Join us on [Facebook](#).

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and our other [social media channels](#).

DLNR's mission is to enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawaii's unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of visitors and the people of Hawaii nei in partnership with others from the public and private sectors. Join us on [Facebook](#).

#### **On the Web:**

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Pacific Islands Region: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/pacific.html>

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary: <http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov>

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources: <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/>

Lahaina Restoration Foundation: <http://www.lahainarestoration.org/>