



NOAA NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 7, 2011

National Marine Sanctuary Foundation Honors Jean Ogawa

Jean Ogawa of Kalaheo, Kauai, a volunteer at Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, was honored Tuesday by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) in Washington, D.C.

Ogawa was one of 14 individuals across the National Marine Sanctuary system nominated for the foundation's Volunteer of the Year award. The recognition is part of Capitol Hill Ocean Week, an oceans-focused annual conference coordinated by the NMSF, a private non-profit organization supporting NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

For nearly a decade, Ogawa has provided volunteer support for numerous sanctuary outreach and education efforts on the island of Kauai. She has fostered strong relationships with students and the Girl Scout program. An educator, Ogawa has led activities to encourage ocean stewardship, including beach-based student workshops for the King Kaumualii Elementary School and others. In addition, she has contributed her expertise to the sanctuary's management plan review and the proposed Kauai NOAA/Sanctuary discovery center facility.

"Jean's relationship with the sanctuary has helped foster the deep commitment and relevance the sanctuary has to its communities," said Malia Chow, sanctuary superintendent. "Over the years she has created new venues for sanctuary programs and she continues to recruit volunteers."

For a slideshow of images from CHOW, visit the NMSF website at www.NMSFocean.org.

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary is administered by a partnership between NOAA and the state of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources. The shallow, warm waters surrounding the main Hawaiian Islands constitute one of the world's most important humpback whale habitats.

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. Find us on [Facebook](#).