In 2009, I visited Midway Atoll with a group of Native Hawaiian leaders and others to learn about the Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument. In Hawaii, we know that preservation and conservation of our land and marine environment are key to protecting our future. Our current conversation about whether to expand Papahanaumokuakea should be both transparent and inclusive of community input. I look forward to continuing to work with you – the Hawaii community – and the Obama administration to foster a productive conversation, on the need to balance protecting our environment and issues including food security and sustainability. If you would like to write to me to share your views on the proposed expansion, visit: https://www.hirono.senate.gov/contact