WASHINGTON, D.C., August 26, 2016 - Today, President Barack Obama expanded the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument off the coast of Hawaii by 442,781 square miles. Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT) and Congresswoman Aumua Amata (American Samoa) issued the following statements:

“The sweeping size of this expansion is unjustified,” Bishop stated. “It will impose great harm to a critical local industry. The President once again abused the Antiquities Act so there could be no meaningful input from Native Hawaiians and regional industry. The President’s legacy may be intact – at the expense of local fisheries, cultural traditions and State rights.”

“The continuation of these designations without the consultation of the local governments and industry is irresponsible and is placing American Samoa, who is already the most economically challenged state or territory in the U.S., at even greater risk,” Amata stated. “Our local fishing industry, which comprises more than 80% of the local economy depends heavily on access to these waters.”

Background Information:

- “Concerns over whether USA can manage huge fishing protected zone.” Radio New Zealand. 15 Aug. 2016.
- “Hawaii’s commercial fishery a good steward of the ocean.” Honolulu Star-Advertiser. 10 Aug. 2016.
- “Scientist says expanding Hawaii monument is abuse of law.” Radio New Zealand. 16 June 2016.
- “Can We Talk About Papahanaumokuakea?” Honolulu Civil Beat. 8 July 2016.

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