



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

June 22, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke  
Secretary of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

The Honorable Wilbur Ross  
Secretary of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Zinke and Secretary Ross:

I am writing in regards to the open review processes for national monuments under Executive Orders 13792 and 13795. Please consider this an official public comment on Docket No. DOI-2017-0002.

As you know, last year I supported the expansion of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument as proposed by Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI) and formalized by President Obama using his authority under the Antiquities Act. I have attached my letter from August 24, 2016.

My support for the expanded monument is as strong today as it was last year. I believe the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument should remain protected as detailed in the Presidential Proclamations that created and expanded the area. Reducing the size of the monument by changing the boundaries or weakening protections by allowing commercial extraction would run counter to the carefully considered outcome of an extensive public process.

The Papahānaumokuākea expansion and my support was a direct result of a robust public debate and engagement process. The previous Administration conducted listening sessions with elected officials, Native Hawaiians, commercial fishers and related industries, scientists, conservationists, and many other stakeholders. They also held public meetings on O'ahu and Kaua'i and invited additional input via a public comment period. I personally participated in this process and met independently with proponents and opponents of the expansion.

Based on the significant public input, the monument boundary was carefully drawn to best protect the resources and preserve popular fishing grounds for recreational, subsistence, and commercial fishers from the main Hawaiian Islands. While the boundary eliminates an area representing a small percentage of the Hawai'i commercial longline fleet's current catch in pounds, fishing has continued in locations where the majority of longline fishing is already

The Honorable Ryan Zinke  
The Honorable Wilbur Ross  
June 22, 2017  
Page Two

occurring. It is important to note that this fishery is a quota-based system, not place dependent, and therefore large marine monuments like Papahānaumokuākea can be created without decreasing annual catch. In fact, the Hawai'i-based longline fleet is currently thriving with record catch levels.

The public process also provided an opportunity for my constituents to highlight the strong scientific, historic, and cultural case for the expansion. Papahānaumokuākea is a unique marine ecosystem that protects thousands of species, many of which can only be found in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and its surrounding waters. The monument is also a World War II memorial as it is the final resting place for many brave sailors and airmen who paid the ultimate price in the Battle of Midway, the turning point for the Pacific Theater. Finally, the expanded monument better protects this critical cultural seascape for my constituents in the Native Hawaiian community.

Papahānaumokuākea is a culturally significant place, and it is important that management of the monument fully include Native Hawaiians. In 2015 I requested that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) be elevated to a co-trustee in the management structure of the monument. The expansion of Papahānaumokuākea provided a pathway for this change, which has now been implemented.

The State of Hawai'i appreciates your thoughtful consideration of this information and the thousands of letters my constituents submitted during last year's process and for this current comment period. In reviewing these comments, you will find that there is sound rationale for the expansion of Papahānaumokuākea under the Antiquities Act and overwhelming local support for upholding the protections of the monument. The final decision on Papahānaumokuākea struck the right balance for the waters surrounding the Hawaiian Islands.

It is my understanding that you are scheduled to attend the upcoming Western Governors Association meeting in Montana. I look forward to seeing you and am happy to discuss Papahānaumokuākea with you further.

Because they are as important today as they were then, I will close with the same words I used in my letter last year: *E ola ke kai, e oa kākou* — As the ocean thrives, so do we.

Mahalo for considering my support of Papahānaumokuākea in your review of national monuments.

With warm regards,



David Y. Ige  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Enclosure



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

August 24, 2016

The Honorable Barack H. Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to convey my support for the expansion of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument as proposed by Senator Schatz in his June 16, 2016 letter.

There has been a tremendous debate locally on this issue, and I have met with both proponents and opponents listening closely to the concerns of both. While the expansion to the 200-mile EEZ boundary will present some challenges in the short term, it carefully balances the very real human needs of today with the future health of the ecosystem that sustains life in these precious Hawaiian Islands.

*Mahalo* to your administration for taking the time to conduct direct meetings and public forums to hear from the public, even though this proposal involves only federal waters and does not impact state jurisdiction. Doing things the right way for the right reasons leads to better decisions, and I know the input of fishers, Hawaiian cultural practitioners, scientists, conservationists and others interested in the proposal strengthened it.

Based on public input, I appreciate that Senator Schatz's proposal limits the expansion in the current monument southern boundary, to preserve popular fishing grounds for recreational, subsistence and commercial fishers from the main Hawaiian Islands. I understand the proposed boundary eliminates an area representing about 6.5% of the Hawai'i commercial longline fleet's current catch in pounds; fishing effort can be moved to other locations with some impact in travel time and fuel costs, but no material decrease in annual catch is expected.

A related issue that has emerged from my review is the inter-relationship between the much larger purse-seine fishing industry in the Pacific and the smaller longline fishing industry, and the relative impact on the health of the tuna fisheries and on the Hawai'i-based fishing industry. I strongly urge you to direct federal agencies to investigate the equitable balance of the fisheries in international treaty negotiations with regard to economics and fishery sustainability.

The Hon. Barack Obama  
August 24, 2016  
Page 2

As stated in my December 2015 letter to Secretaries Jewell and Pritzker, I request that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs be added as a fourth co-trustee of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. I request as well that the federal-state monument collaborative co-management structure extend to the expansion area.

The State of Hawai‘i appreciates your thoughtful consideration of this proposal and the opportunities that your administration has afforded our communities to engage in this collaborative process. In these times of increasing global threats to our natural and cultural resources, globally significant action will preserve our heritage in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument for our *keiki* and our collective future.

You may be familiar with the Hawaiian proverb, *E ola ke kai, e ola kākou* – As the ocean thrives, so do we. This proposal strikes the right balance at this time for the waters surrounding the Hawaiian Islands, and it can be a model for sustainability in the other oceans of planet Earth.

Sincerely,

  
DAVID IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai‘i

cc: United States Senator Brian Schatz  
United States Senator Mazie Hirono  
United States Representative Tulsi Gabbard  
Brian Deese, Senior Advisor to the President, White House Executive Office  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior  
The Honorable Penny Pritzker, Secretary of Commerce  
Hawai‘i Senate President Ronald Kouchi  
Hawai‘i Speaker of the House Joseph M. Souki  
Suzanne Case, Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Office of Hawaiian Affairs Chair Robert K. Lindsey, Jr.