

May 2, 2016

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC, 20500

RE: The possible expansion of the US Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

Dear President Barack Obama,

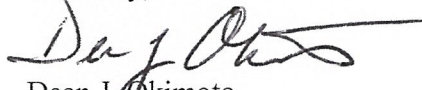
My name is Dean J. Okimoto I am the owner of Nalo Farms, Inc... I am testifying for myself. I am against expanding PMNM. Being a small business owner in Hawaii and especially a farmer I understand and can empathize with any business that can/will be devastated by this expansion.

Changing current boundaries from 50 miles from shore out to 200 miles will basically eliminate the Hawaii longline fishery from fishing between 50-200 miles and will not provide added protection for the nearshore resources. This fishery operates in Open Ocean with no impact on the bottom substrate and protections for sea turtles, seabirds and marine mammals. This is verified by fishery scientists and observers. So I ask why add this expansion?

This expansion does not take into account the negative socio-economic impact to Hawaii fisheries and the local seafood market. Why does this farmer care about fisheries? I care because this can/will affect my business. I sell my locally grown produce to over 80 restaurants and if they can't get local fish or prices go up as expected, they may reconsider buying local produce. In addition how many jobs will be lost with this PMNM expansion? How much desperately needed State Taxes will our State loose with this PMNM expansion? Hawaii can't afford to lose any income. Our State is struggling as it is. We don't need this legislation to add to the already destitute coffers of our State.

I respectfully ask you to stand for buying Local in Hawaii, Hawaii fisheries, Small Business and not support the PMNM expansion.

Sincerely,



Dean J. Okimoto
Owner/President

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