



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

As you know, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument was established on June 15, 2006 by Presidential Proclamation 8031 and was officially designated as the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (Monument) in 2007. Currently, the Monument designates nearly 140,000 square miles as a protected marine area. The Monument overlays the fifty nautical mile Protective Species Zone of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council.

The fishing and seafood industry is an integral part of Hawaii's culture, identity, and economy. While we understand the intent of the creation of the Monument, we do not support any expansion of the size and scope of the Monument. The use restrictions that apply within the Monument's boundaries have already eliminated 50% of Hawaii's bottomfish fishery, which consisted of 17 permits, including those dedicated to indigenous native Hawaiian fishing communities. Hawaii's bottomfish supply, which includes fish such as onaga and opakapaka, is now completely dependent upon individual Main Hawaiian Islands bottomfish fishermen and import. This was a direct result of the declaration of the Monument.

The Hawaii longline fishery (deepset and shallowset) produces high-quality, domestic, safe and sustainable open ocean seafood for Hawaii's residents and visitors, as well as consumers in markets across the country. Hawaii's residents consume more than double the national average in seafood per capita, per year. The longline fishery produces fresh bigeye tuna (ahi), yellowfin tuna (ahi), swordfish (mekajiki), marlin (kajiki) and other famous market species such as dorado (mahimahi), wahoo (ono), and moonfish (opah). This industry would be reduced by at least 8% by this proposed expansion of the Monument, representing a significant loss to Hawaii. In 2013, the amount of fish produced by the longline industry was 27 million pounds, with a dockside value of approximately \$85.4 million dollars. An 8% reduction would represent 2.16 million pounds, with a dockside value of approximately \$6.83 million dollars, which is a significant amount for any industry.

Nearly one-fourth of the waters surrounding the Hawaiian Islands are already designated as no-take marine protected areas, which exceeds the 20% global standard for marine protected areas. The proposed expansion of the Monument would increase the no-take zone to 67% of the United States exclusive economic zone waters surrounding the Hawaii archipelago. That considerable increase – over 40% – has the potential to be devastating to Hawaii's already fragile economy.

As an island state, Hawaii has the ability to be on the leading edge of food security and sustainability. However, too much of our food, even seafood, remains imported. Seafood self-sufficiency in Hawaii is currently around 37% with Hawaii residents consuming an average of 36.9 pounds of seafood per year, while the rest of the United States consumes an average of 14.4 pounds of seafood per year. In 2011, seafood was the number one Hawaii food crop earning some 87.5 million dollars. The proposed expansion of the Monument with a prohibition on fishing in the expanded areas with a reduction in seafood for Hawaii would only exacerbate this problem...

There is no scientific or empirical data to support the claim that the current, already significant size of the Monument is not sufficient to achieve its intended goal. Additionally, the Monument was created by Presidential Proclamation authorized by section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431), known as "the Antiquities Act", which states that "the President, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments,

and to reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected". Further, in Presidential Proclamation 8031, it was declared that: "The Federal land and interests in land reserved includes approximately 139,793 square miles of emergent and submerged lands and waters of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, which is the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected." Thus, without sufficient scientific and empirical data and evidence, this arbitrary expansion would be in direct violation of the Antiquities Act.

We, the undersigned Members of the Hawaii State Legislature, of the Twenty-Eighth Legislature 2016, humbly ask that you do not consider expanding the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument because there is no scientific justification or conservation benefit in doing so. There is only the potential to do harm to Hawaii's economy, lifestyle, culture, and identity.

Aloha,

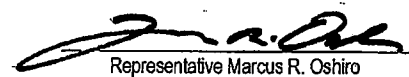
  
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Representative Henry J.C. Aquino

  
Representative Ken Ito

  
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Representative Derek S.K. Kawakami

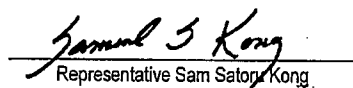
  
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Representative Isaac W. Choy

  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi

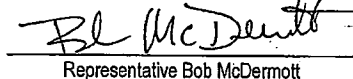
  
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Representative Richard P. Creagan

  
Representative Sam Satoru Kong

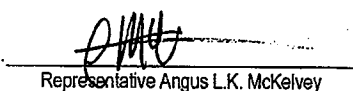
  
Representative Gregg Takayama

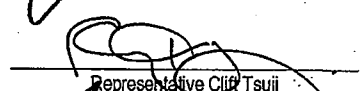
  
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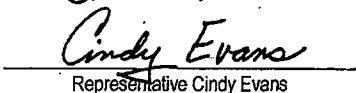
  
Representative Bob McDermott

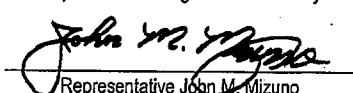
  
Representative James Kunane Tokioka

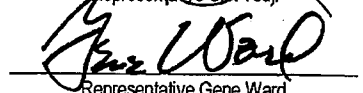
  
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Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey

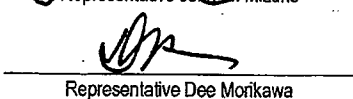
  
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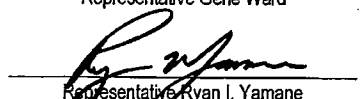
  
Representative Cindy Evans

  
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Representative Gene Ward

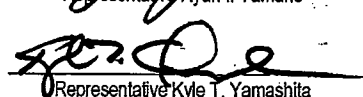
  
Representative Beth Fukumoto Chang

  
Representative Dee Morikawa

  
Representative Ryan I. Yamane

  
Representative Sharon E. Har

  
Representative Mark M. Nakashima

  
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita

cc: Brian Deese, Senior Advisor to the President, White House Executive Office  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
The Honorable David Ige, Governor of the State of Hawai'i  
Hawai'i State Senate  
Hawai'i Congressional Delegation  
Suzanne Case, Chair, Department of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawai'i  
The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior  
The Honorable Penny Pritzker, Secretary of Commerce  
Dr. Kathryn D. Sullivan, Under Secretary of Commerce of Oceans & Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator