

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

October 8, 2025

Ms. Laura Grimm  
Chief of Staff performing the duties of Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and  
Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230-0002

SUBJECT: E.O. 14276 Notice Response – Protecting Papahānaumokuākea and  
Pacific Islands Heritage Marine National Monuments

Dear Acting Administrator Grimm:

As Governor of the State of Hawai'i, I write to express my strong support for Papahānaumokuākea and Pacific Islands Heritage Marine National Monuments and to urge the Administration to maintain their robust and enduring protections.

These extraordinary areas support an incredible diversity of coral, fish, birds, endangered marine mammals, and other flora and fauna—many of which are unique to the Hawaiian Islands and Pacific region. Beyond their ecological importance, these places hold great cultural and historical significance for Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and my constituents.

Maintaining existing protections is essential to preserving biodiversity and healthy fisheries. Studies have proven that highly-protected marine areas can generate a “spillover effect” where fish populations increase inside monument boundaries and subsequently migrate into surrounding waters, ultimately strengthening nearby commercial fisheries and supporting long-term economic resilience.

National monuments that protect our land and ocean have long been a source of bipartisan pride and leadership. In particular, Papahānaumokuākea has one of the richest bipartisan conservation histories of any protected area on Earth. Over the past

120 years, eight U.S. Presidents have taken action to protect the area and its unique ecosystems and wildlife. The Pacific Islands Heritage Marine National Monument stands today as a result of bipartisan leadership and was established by President Bush in 2009. Importantly, the added protections for both monuments over the last decade underwent a robust public process with direct consultation from stakeholders, including active dialogue with communities and the commercial fishing industry, resulting in smaller areas of protection than originally proposed.

I urge the Administration to stand firm in upholding the full protections for Papahānaumokuākea and the Pacific Islands Heritage Marine National Monuments.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D." in a cursive, flowing style.

Josh Green, M.D.

Governor, State of Hawai'i