

## General Information



### Location

Within the 100-fathom isobath in the four-island area of Maui; Penguin Bank, and off the north shore of Kaua'i, the north and south shores of O'ahu, and Kohala coastline off the Big Island.

### Protected Area

1,370-square miles

### Designation

1992

### Communication

#### Maui Office

(808) 879-2818

1-800-831-4888 (toll free)

#### O'ahu Office

(808) 397-2651

1-888-55-WHALE (toll free)

#### Kaua'i Office

(808) 246-2860

#### Hawai'i Office

(808) 327-3697

#### State Office

(808) 587-0100

### E-mail:

hihumpbackwhale@noaa.gov

### Website:

hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov

## About the Sanctuary

*The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary is jointly managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the State of Hawai'i.*

### Unique to Hawai'i

The shallow (less than 600 feet), warm waters surrounding the main Hawaiian Islands constitutes one of the world's most important humpback whale habitats. Scientists estimate that two-thirds of the entire North Pacific humpback whale population return to Hawaiian waters each winter to engage in breeding, calving, and nursing activities. Through education, outreach, research and cultural activities, the sanctuary strives to protect humpback whales and their habitat in Hawai'i. This continued protection is crucial to the long-term recovery of this endangered species.

### Resource Protection

While humpback whale numbers have increased, threats to these animals still exist. The sanctuary works to mitigate these affects

through programs such as the Hawaiian Islands Large Whale Entanglement Response Network, a sanctuary-led community-based effort that works to free large whales from life-threatening entanglements and gain valuable information towards reducing the threat of entanglement from marine debris and other anthropogenic gear in the future.

### Education Activities

Outreach and education programs and projects are conducted to foster awareness of sanctuary resources and to promote resource protection. Information about humpback whales and their habitat in Hawai'i is made available to the public through educator and student workshops, community lectures, shore-based whale watches, volunteer and naturalist training sessions, and sanctuary publications. On Maui, the sanctuary education center in Kihei is a beach-front facility with year-round exhibits and programs.



North Pacific humpback whale, *Megaptera novaeangliae* mother and calf

Photo: Mike Nolan



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