

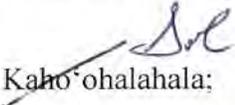


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

OCT 08 2019

Solomon Pili Kaho'ohalahala
Chair, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale
National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
c/o Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale
National Marine Sanctuary
726 South Kihei Road
Kihei, Hawai'i 96753

Re: Resolution Supporting Transition of the Kaua'i Office to a New Discovery Center

Dear Mr.  Kaho'ohalahala:

As you requested, Allen Tom shared with me the August 13, 2019, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHWNMS) Advisory Council's resolution supporting the establishment of a discovery center and the relocation of the Kaua'i office to that center. I am very excited about this initiative.

This effort provides a public presence on Kaua'i and can serve as a venue to increase volunteerism and public engagement with HIHWNMS. I hope that, schedule permitting, I will be able to attend the opening of what will be a valuable asset for marine conservation in the Pacific Island Region.

Thank you for your interest in and continued support for a venue for public presence on Kaua'i and increasing volunteerism.

Sincerely,


John Armor
Director

Cc: Rebecca R. Holyoke, Ph.D., ONMS Deputy Director
Kristen Kekuwa, Acting ONMS Pacific Islands Regional Directors





Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Resolution Supporting Transition of the Kaua'i Office to a New Discovery Center March 19, 2019

NON-GOVERNMENT (Voting)

Vacant
Business Commerce

VACANT
Commercial Shipping

Barbara (Maka'ala) Kaaumanoa
Conservation

Judith Lemus
Education

Myrick (Rick) Gaffney
Fishing

Steve Turner
Hawai'i Island

Maxx Phillips
Oahu Island

Nina Monasevitch
Kaua'i Island

Solomon Pili Kaho'ohalahala
Lana'i Island

Robin Newbold
Maui Island

Vacant
Moloka'i Island

Vacant
Native Hawaiian

Jim Coon
Ocean Recreation

Mark Deakos
Research

Vacant
Tourism

Tara Leota
Whale Watching

GOVERNMENT (Non-Voting)

Leo Asuncion
DBEDT - Office of Planning

Cameron Black
DBEDT Renewable Energy

Vacant
Division of Aquatic Resources

Alec Wong
DOH

Sandra Rossetter
DOT - Harbors

Keola Lindsey
OHA (Voting)

Nancy Daeschbach
*Hawaiian Islands
Humpback Whale NMS*

Athline Clark
Papahānaumokuākea MNM

Jeffrey Pollack
NOAA OLE

Jeff Walters
NOAA Fisheries PIRO

Eric Kingma
WESPAC (Voting)

Tunis McElwain
US Army Corps of Engineers

Eric Roberts
US Coast Guard

Janice Fukawa
US Navy

WHEREAS Kaua'i hosted more than 1.3 million visitors in 2018. Demonstrating the need and interest for a community and visitor discovery center with a focus on native, endemic and introduced wildlife in Hawai'i;

WHEREAS native Hawaiian people have demonstrated cultural practices, knowledge and experiences that provide opportunities to enrich and bridge our understanding of the kōhōlā to place;

WHEREAS Kaua'i has tremendous resource value in ongoing marine mammal research with the Navy;

WHEREAS the Kaua'i Office has quality and dedicated volunteers, who together with its one-person staff, has a community presence that belies its size and has demonstrated performance and collaboration skills, meeting community needs like no other agency resident on Kaua'i where the population exceeded 72,000 (2017);

WHEREAS Kukui Grove Center is centrally located and is a good, safe place close to many schools and has undertaken upgrades and improved the scope of community opportunities while improving its occupancy and foot traffic;

WHEREAS the Reserve Advisory Council and Sanctuary Advisory Council and education working group have expressed their support for a joint discovery center;

BE IT RESOLVED that the SAC supports the relocation of the Kaua'i Office to Kukui Grove Center;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the SAC strongly supports the establishment of a discovery center and relocation of the Kaua'i office to that center. The SAC would also be happy to provide any assistance in this project. The strength of our islands lies in our ability to work together for a common purpose. With the support of this project, it will be a place of education and gathering for all people.

ADOPTED by Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council during a video teleconference call on August 13, 2019.


Solomon Pili Kaho'ohalahala, Chair

"The opinions and findings of this letter/publication do not necessarily reflect the position of the sanctuary, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the State of Hawai'i."