Solomon Pili Kahoʻolahala  
Chair, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale  
National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council  
c/o Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale  
National Marine Sanctuary  
726 South Kihei Road  
Kihei, Hawaiʻi 96753

Re: Resolution Supporting Transition of the Kauaʻi Office to a New Discovery Center

Dear Mr. Kahoʻolahala;

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 Kauaʻi office to that center. I am very excited about this initiative.

This effort provides a public presence on Kauaʻi 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 Kauaʻi and increasing volunteerism.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
John Armor  
Director

Cc: Rebecca R. Holyoke, Ph.D., ONMS Deputy Director  
Kristen Kekuwa, Acting ONMS Pacific Islands Regional Directors
Resolution Supporting Transition of the Kauaʻi Office to a New Discovery Center
March 19, 2019

WHEREAS Kauaʻi 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 Hawaiʻi;

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

WHEREAS Kauaʻi has tremendous resource value in ongoing marine mammal research with the Navy;

WHEREAS the Kauaʻi 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 Kauaʻi 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 Kauaʻi 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 Kauaʻi 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.


Solomon Pili Kahoʻolahala, 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 Hawaiʻi."