Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Resolution supporting the creation of a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary
July 14, 2020

WHEREAS the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary has the largest advisory council (over 30 members) in the entire national marine sanctuary system;

WHEREAS we represent a number of different and varied community groups, including fishing, diving interests, transportation, cultural, and research specialists, as well as state and federal agencies;

WHEREAS the value of a national marine sanctuary has been proven to enhance protections of the marine environment, further research and provide educational opportunities to communities adjacent to the sanctuary boundaries;

WHEREAS the area proposed for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary is rich in ecological, historical, cultural, recreational, economic, and archaeological significance;

WHEREAS the proposed sanctuary embodies internationally and nationally significant oceanographic features, habitat and sacred Chumash onshore and submerged sites, some as far as 13 miles offshore. Codependent onshore resources include the high coastal dunes, wetlands and Chumash sacred sites continuously occupied for 9,000 or more years;

WHEREAS the SAC supports the views and concerns of the Northern Chumash Tribal Council leaders who are the original authors of the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary;

WHEREAS the SAC views our sister sanctuaries as cornerstones of protection in the marine waters around the United States;

WHEREAS the native Hawaiian people have demonstrated cultural practices, knowledge and experiences that provide opportunities for other indigenous cultures to exchange ideas and experiences;

BE IT RESOLVED that the SAC supports the creation of a national marine sanctuary that supports the Chumash people and heritage.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the SAC strongly supports the establishment of a cultural exchange between the Chumash people and the Kanaka Maoli (native people of Hawai‘i).


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.””