WHEREAS no other U.S. marine protected areas is as large, pristine, culturally and historically significant, globally recognized as the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM);

WHEREAS PMNM was first created as the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve by presidential executive order 13196 in 2001 by then President Clinton. In 2006 PMNM was then established as a marine national monument by presidential proclamation 8031 by then President Bush. In 2010 PMNM was designated a World Heritage Site for its natural and cultural significance. PMNM was then expanded by presidential proclamation 9478 in 2016 by then President Obama and was designated a world heritage site for both cultural and biological purposes in 2010;

WHEREAS PMNM protects some of the world's most unique and endangered marine ecosystems and biota in the world;

WHEREAS the protections of PMNM are critical to the entire ecological health of the Hawaiian archipelago and thus directly affects the protections of the humpback whales and their marine habitat;

WHEREAS recent research has shown that large populations of cetaceans including humpback whales have been recorded in the northwestern Hawaiian Islands which has not been recorded previously;

WHEREAS the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHWNMS) advisory council, considers itself a sister advisory council to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Reserve advisory council by sharing some of the same marine ecosystem issues (climate change, marine debris, biological / species etc.) as well as some members who sit on both councils;

WHEREAS the HIHWNMS advisory council believes that any change to the current management structure or boundary of the PMNM will result in the loss of protections in PMNM;

BE IT RESOLVED that the HIHWNMS advisory council supports maintaining the status quo for PMNM and does not support any changes to its current boundary or regulatory regime.


Solomon Pili Kaho’ohalahala, Chair