



Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Resolution supporting the expansion of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

July 14, 2020

NON-GOVERNMENT (Voting)

Thorne Abbott
Business Commerce

James Kelleher
Commercial Shipping

Kawika Winter
Conservation

Maya Walton
Education

Vacant
Fishing

Jayne LeFors
Hawai'i Island

Maxx Phillips
O'ahu Island

Barbara Maka'ala Ka'aumoana
Kaua'i Island

Solomon Pili Kaho'ohalahala
Lāna'i Island

Vacant
Maui Island

Malia Akutagawa
Moloka'i Island

Roxane Keli'ikipikāneokohaka
Native Hawaiian

Chad Wiggins
Ocean Recreation

Jens Currie
Research

Greg Nielson
Tourism

Jim Coon
Whale Watching

Anabelle Padilla
Youth (non-voting)

GOVERNMENT (Non-Voting)

Mary Alice Evans
DBEDT – Office of Planning

Cameron Black
DBEDT Renewable Energy

Jeannine Rossa
Division of Aquatic Resources

Alec Wong
DOH

Sandra Rosseter
DOT – Harbors

Brad Wong
OHA (Voting)

Eric Roberts
Papahānaumokuākea MNM

Jeffrey Pollack
NOAA OLE

Jeff Walters
NOAA Fisheries PIRO

Joshua DeMello
WESPAC (Voting)

Linda Speerstra
US Army Corps of Engineers

Maile Norman
US Coast Guard

Janice Fukawa
US Navy

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 Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary would further protect critical habitat including 14 additional reefs and banks in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico. The proposal would increase the sanctuary's protected area from 56 square miles to 160 square miles and extend existing sanctuary protections to the new area including prohibiting anchoring, limiting the destructive impacts of activities related to fishing with bottom-tending gears and oil and gas exploration and production, and salvaging activities on sensitive biological resources;

WHEREAS the SAC supports the recommendations of our sister sanctuary advisory council at the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary in terms of the expansion proposal;

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

WHEREAS the SAC recognizes the special importance of national marine sanctuary development and the potential for exchange of research, education and other important information between national marine sanctuary sites;

BE IT RESOLVED that the SAC supports the expansion of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, the only national marine sanctuary located solely in the Gulf of Mexico.

ADOPTED by Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council during a virtual meeting on July 29, 2020.

Solomon Pili Kaho'ohalahala, Chair