



Aloha Friends of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary:

We are pleased to announce that we are accepting applications now through September 9, 2022 to fill vacant seats on our sanctuary advisory council.

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) was established pursuant to Federal law to ensure continued public participation in the management of the sanctuary. The 32 member SAC was established in March 1996 with broad representation from cultural, business, tourism, fishing, environmental, science, youth, government, and other community and stakeholder groups from Kaua‘i, O‘ahu, Moloka‘i, Lāna‘i, Maui and Hawai‘i Island. The council advises sanctuary managers and serves as the link between the sanctuary, government agencies, and community members and groups focused on the protection and management of humpback whales and their habitat.

Enclosed is our sanctuary advisory council application kit, which includes a copy of the [council charter](#) and an application form, as well as information about the sanctuary. Council terms will be for three years.

Please note that you will not be eligible to serve as a member of the sanctuary advisory council if you have been a federally registered lobbyist in the past two years. State employees should consult their employer for specific guidance on eligibility.

Please email completed applications to Cindy Among-Serrao at [cindy.among-serrao@noaa.gov](mailto:cindy.among-serrao@noaa.gov) by September 9, 2022. Applications will be reviewed by members of the SAC selection subcommittee. The panel will help us narrow down the number of candidates for each seat to the top three. Of these, new members and alternates will be chosen, and officially notified of their selection.

If at any point you have a change in circumstance that will not allow you to serve on the council, please notify Cindy Among-Serrao at [cindy.among-serrao@noaa.gov](mailto:cindy.among-serrao@noaa.gov). Also, feel free to contact Cindy if you have any questions about the sanctuary, the council or the council member selection process.

Sincerely,

*Kim S. Hum*  
Sanctuary Superintendent

Enclosures

# Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary



Photo: HIHWNMS, NOAA Fisheries Permit #782-1438

The sanctuary constitutes one of the **world's most important humpback whale** habitats.



Photo: Ed Lyman, NOAA

The sanctuary recognizes the importance of Native Hawaiian cultural traditions and their relationship to the long-term health of **Hawai'i's oceans**.



Photo: James Watt, NOAA

The main Hawaiian Islands are surrounded by small, fringing reefs.

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHWNMS) was designated to protect the humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) **and its habitat in Hawai'i**. The sanctuary enables citizens and government to work collectively on safeguarding humpback whale breeding, calving, and nursing grounds in waters around the main Hawaiian Islands, an area that supports more than half of the North Pacific humpback whale population. Encompassing 1,370 square miles of federal and state waters surrounding the main Hawaiian Islands, the sanctuary extends from the shoreline to the 100 fathom isobath (183 meter or 600 foot depth contour) and is composed of five separate marine protected areas accessible from six of the eight main Hawaiian Islands.

## Research and Monitoring

Research and long-term monitoring are **essential to achieve the sanctuary's primary** goal to protect humpback whales and their habitat in Hawai'i. Although past research efforts have made significant advancements in characterizing and monitoring humpback whales and their habitat, many unanswered questions and unknowns remain, including habitat requirements, population size,

distribution and dynamics, threats and impacts, and other important biological and ecological parameters.

Research funded or coordinated by the sanctuary focuses on the sanctuary and its surrounding area as well as other areas in the Pacific. The sanctuary also collaborates with scientists working in other parts of the **humpback whale's range around the world**.

## Education and Outreach

Outreach and education programs and projects are conducted to foster awareness of sanctuary resources and to promote ocean **stewardship among Hawai'i's residents and visitors**. Information about humpback whales **and their habitat in Hawai'i is made available** to the public through educator and student workshops, community lectures, shore-based whale watches, volunteer and naturalist training sessions, and sanctuary publications. **On Maui, the Sanctuary Visitor Center in Kihei** is a beachfront facility with year-round exhibits. **The sanctuary's signature project, the Sanctuary Ocean Count**, is a great way to get involved. Volunteers count whales and record their behaviors from over 60 designated shore **sites on the islands of O'ahu, Kaua'i, and Hawai'i**.



Photo: HIHWNMS, NOAA Fisheries Permit #782-1438

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary was designated to protect humpback whales and their habitat in Hawai'i.



# Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

## NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM

### Location

Shoreline to a 600 foot depth contour around the four main Hawaiian Islands

### Protected Area

1,366 square miles

### Designation

May 1992

### Habitats

Coral reefs  
Humpback whale breeding, calving, and nursing grounds  
Sandy substrate  
Seagrass beds

### Key Species

Coral  
False killer whale  
Hawaiian monk seal  
Humpback whale  
Reef fish  
Sea turtles  
Sharks and rays  
Spinner dolphin



### Find Us

726 South Kihei Road  
Kihei, Hawai'i 96753  
808-879-2818

### On the Web

Email: [hihumpbackwhale@noaa.gov](mailto:hihumpbackwhale@noaa.gov)  
[www.facebook.com/hawaiihumpbackwhale](http://www.facebook.com/hawaiihumpbackwhale)  
 Twitter: @Hihumpbackwhale

### Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Network of marine protected areas  
 Encompasses more than 600,000 square miles  
 Established October 1972

### On the Web

[sanctuaries.noaa.gov](http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov)  
[www.facebook.com/NOAAOfficeofNationalMarineSanctuaries](http://www.facebook.com/NOAAOfficeofNationalMarineSanctuaries)  
 Instagram: @noaasanctuaries  
 Twitter: @sanctuaries  
 Tumblr: @noaasanctuaries



Photo: NOAA

Sanctuary Ocean Count offers the community a chance to monitor humpback whales from the shore.

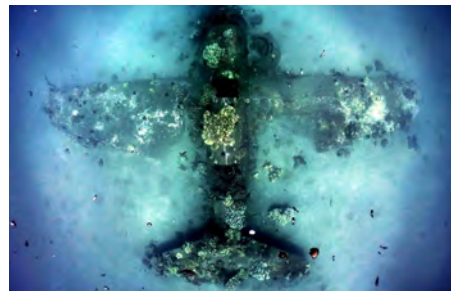


Photo: Hans Van Tilberg, NOAA

A World War II aircraft lies on the sanctuary's seafloor.



Photo: HIHWNMS, NOAA Fisheries Permit #782-1719

The main Hawaiian Islands may contain the world's largest seasonal population of North Pacific humpbacks.

<http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/>



## Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Youth Seat Application Form

### Before applying for sanctuary advisory council membership, please review:

1. Sanctuary advisory council charter provided in your application kit;
2. Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) *National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Implementation Handbook* available online at <http://www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov/management/ac/acref.html> (or you may obtain a copy from your local sanctuary).
3. Importance of Diversity Statement:  
*“Whether within a natural ecosystem or a human community, diversity creates strength and resilience. NOAA’s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries values the remarkable diversity of knowledge, perspectives, and experience found throughout sanctuary communities, and invites a wide range of individuals to seek membership on our sanctuary advisory councils. With a diverse membership, advisory councils can broaden access to understanding and participation in marine conservation and governance, foster innovation and creative problem solving, and can help advance the mission of the National Marine Sanctuary System.”*

Sanctuary advisory councils advise and make recommendations to the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries on issues regarding the designation and management of national marine sanctuaries. The charter outlines the purposes and governs the operation of the sanctuary advisory council. The handbook provides broader operational requirements for sanctuary advisory councils. In applying for sanctuary advisory council membership, you are agreeing to abide by the terms of the charter and the handbook if you are selected as a youth council member or alternate. Also, please note that youth seats are intended to engage high school students and, therefore, term limits for youth seats may be further limited once a youth reaches his or her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday or graduates high school.

Applicants considered for selection, please note that the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries will conduct a LEXIS/NEXIS check and a departmental bureau check for potential conflict of interest and other issues in your background.

Additional information and guidance regarding the use of the information you submit on this form and its availability under federal law can be found at the end of this form. Please review this information. Also, please note that the terms “youth” and “student” are interchangeable in this application form.

### Students filling the youth seat must:

- Be between the ages of 14 and 17 when they apply, unless otherwise stated in the advisory council charter for which you are applying;
- Attend a school in an area associated with the sanctuary (including home schools or other alternative high school options).



- Have a proven ability to communicate and network with other students within their school, in other schools within their community, or with home-schooled students and with adults;
- Possess an interest in sanctuary resource protection and management;
- Have experience or knowledge regarding public uses and activities in the sanctuary; and
- Be able to travel to and attend council meetings and retreats (parent/guardian or student provides transportation).

**Once selected, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary staff will contact students who will be required to provide:**

- Parent/guardian permission;\* and
- School permission.\*

*\* Note: This will grant blanket permission for all council meetings and retreats.*

### **Procedure for Application:**

**Step 1:** Please provide your contact information and respond to the questions below.

**Step 2:** Have a parent/guardian sign to acknowledge he/she is aware of and in support of your application.

**Step 3:** Have a teacher, mentor, or knowledgeable adult provide a letter of recommendation. Note, this is encouraged but not required.

**Step 4:** The application deadline is **September 9, 2022**. Please return all pages of your completed sanctuary advisory council youth seat application form, and any attached statements or documents, to Cindy Among-Serrao, [cindy.among-serrao@noaa.gov](mailto:cindy.among-serrao@noaa.gov), (808) 731-8456.

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**First Name\*:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Middle:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Last:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please include full first, middle, and last names.

### **Position(s)/Seat(s) applying for:**

Youth Seat Primary (non-voting) \_\_\_\_

Youth Seat Alternate (non-voting) \_\_\_\_

### **Home Address**

**Address 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Student Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement:**

I acknowledge that I am aware of and support my child or ward applying for and potentially serving on the *[insert site]* National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council.

**Parent/Guardian Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please answer all of the questions below thoroughly and in numerical order. Answers should be no more than two to three paragraphs and should appear on a separate attached document with each answer clearly marked with the corresponding question number.

1. How did you learn about the opportunity to apply for this sanctuary advisory council seat?
2. How familiar are you with the community or area associated with the sanctuary?
3. Are you willing to participate in sanctuary advisory council activities (e.g., meetings, constituent outreach, retreats and reviewing written materials)? Please address whether it is possible for you to miss a portion of or all of your classes and club or team activities to attend a sanctuary advisory council meeting or retreat?
4. Why are you interested in serving on the sanctuary advisory council? Please include what you hope to gain from participating on the sanctuary advisory council.
5. Describe what you think is the role of the council, and how you will work to best support the sanctuary as a sanctuary advisory council member or alternate.
6. Explain how you will share information with your peers in the community, take action on council-related issues, etc.
7. Describe what engaging underrepresented communities and including diverse perspectives means to you and how you can encourage it in your community.
8. Explain your views regarding the protection and management of marine or Great Lake resources, including natural (fish, coral reefs, etc.), historic and/or cultural resources.
9. Describe what knowledge and experience you can bring to the advisory council, which



may include, but is not limited to, other groups you belong to or affiliations you have (e.g., student council, science club, soccer team, hiking club, scouts, employment). Be sure to include qualifications that you have or relevant information that you think would be beneficial to the council.

Individuals 18 years of age and older are not eligible to apply for the sanctuary advisory council's youth seat, but may apply for other council seats as they become open and are advertised.

Information obtained through this application process will be used to determine the qualifications of the applicant for membership on the sanctuary advisory council. The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries affirms it intends to disclose the applications only to Department of Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration staff, including employees, grantees, and contractors, with a need to know the information in the applications to complete the application review process, and to current sanctuary advisory council members who serve on the applicant review panel. However, the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries may be required to disclose the applications in response to a court order, a congressional request, or a request from the public under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

If disclosure is requested under FOIA, the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries will endeavor to protect the privacy of applicants by withholding personal information, such as home addresses and telephone numbers of applicants, as well as names or other identifying information of applicants who are not chosen as members of the council. In contrast, other information may be released, including names of applicants who are chosen as members of the council, other information in chosen members' applications that relate to their qualifications to be a member or alternate, including education and professional experience, and statements of philosophy or opinions contained in the application. Applying for membership on the sanctuary advisory council is voluntary.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average one hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, 1305 East West Highway, N/NMS, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

OMB Control #0648-0397  
Expires 01/31/2025