

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF COMPLETE AND PERMANENT PROTECTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS ECOSYSTEM.

WHEREAS, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) are the most remote, large-scale coral reef ecosystem on earth; and

WHEREAS, the NWHI are of great significance in Hawaiian culture and history; and

WHEREAS, the cold waters of the NWHI and the limited nutrient cycling make the NWHI ecosystem fragile; and

WHEREAS, the NWHI must be able to provide adequate support to endemic, rare, threatened, and endangered species including:

Hawaiian monk seals,
Green, Hawksbill, and Leatherback marine turtles,
migratory sea birds,
ancient coral colonies, and
fish populations, many of which are depleted from the waters of the main Hawaiian Islands; and

WHEREAS, the NWHI Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve (Reserve) was created by federal Executive Order 13178 dated December 4, 2000, as amended by federal Executive Order 13196 dated January 18, 2001; and

WHEREAS, the National Marine Sanctuary Program has initiated the process to designate the Reserve as a National Marine Sanctuary under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act to secure comprehensive protection and enhance public awareness of resources within the Reserve; and

WHEREAS, public input has demanded the strongest possible protections for this special place, including the creation of a fully protected Refuge in State waters of the NWHI; and

WHEREAS, such a Refuge reflects public-input by guaranteeing Native Hawaiian cultural, religious, and subsistence practices, while prohibiting all commercial and recreational fishing in the state waters of the NWHI; and

WHEREAS, consistent and complementary regulation is essential throughout both the State and federal waters in the NWHI to ensure this special place is completely protected; and

WHEREAS, Congressional legislation is the paramount means of guaranteeing complete and permanent protection of the entire NWHI ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, a National Marine Sanctuary protecting the NWHI ecosystem would benefit Hawai'i's international reputation for ocean protection by creating the largest marine protected area in the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Hawai'i that leaders at all levels of government are urged to advocate U.S. Congressional action that permanently and completely protects the NWHI, by prohibiting all commercial activities, while protecting Native Hawaiian cultural, religious, and subsistence practices, and allowing only limited and appropriate scientific and educational activities in the NWHI; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Hawai'i to support immediate administrative action by the National Marine Sanctuary Program to prohibit all extractive uses in the proposed federal sanctuary in the NWHI, while protecting the traditional and cultural practices in the area; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation to the U.S. Congress, the Chief Administrator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Chairperson of the Council on Environmental Quality.

Dated at _____, Hawai'i, this _____ day of _____, 2005.

INTRODUCED BY:

COUNCIL MEMBER, COUNTY OF
HAWAI'I

COUNTY COUNCIL County of Hawai'i Hilo, Hawai'i		ROLL CALL VOTE		
		AYES	NOES	
ARAKAKI				
HIGA				

I hereby certify that the foregoing RESOLUTION was by the vote indicated to the right hereof adopted by the COUNCIL of the County of Hawai'i on

ATTEST:

HOFFMANN				
HOLSCHUH				
IKEDA				
ISBELL				
JACOBSON				
PILAGO				
SAFARIK				

Reference: _____

COUNTY CLERK CHAIRMAN & PRESIDING OFFICER

—
 RESOLUTION NO. _____

Addresses for certified copies

Honorable Governor Linda Lingle
Executive Chambers

Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i
96813
Fax: 808-586-0034

U.S. Senator Daniel Akaka
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-1103
Fax: 202-224-2126

U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-2201
Fax: 202-224-6747

U.S. Representative Neil Abercrombie
1502 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-1101
Fax: 202-225-4580

U.S. Representative Ed Case
115 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-1102
Fax: 202-225-4987

Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr., U.S. Navy (Ret.)
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
14th Street & Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Room 6217
Washington, D.C. 20230
Fax: 202-482-3154

Chairperson James Connaughton
Council on Environmental Quality
722 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503
Fax: 202-456-6546

COUNTY OF HAWAI'I	EMBED Word.Picture.6	STATE OF HAWAI'I
------------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------------

RESOLUTION NO.

COUNTY OF HAWAI'I	EMBED Word.Picture.6	STATE OF HAWAI'I
------------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------------

RESOLUTION NO.