

EXPAND
PAPAHĀNAUMOKUĀKEA
 He Pu'uhonua no Hawai'i  A Sanctuary for our Ocean Heritage

Understanding the role of *Aloha 'Āina* (love of the land) in traditional resource management; and
Observing that the existing borders of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument do not allow for the proper care and management of known, newly discovered and/or little understood deep sea ecosystems and populations of migratory birds, fish, mammals, and sea turtles; and
Being aware that Papahānaumokuākea is considered a sacred area from which Native Hawaiians believe life springs and to which spirits return after death, and is a place where Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners of today go to deepen their lineal ties to their ancestors and gods, and is home to native species inextricably connected to the integrity of their culture; and
Keeping in mind the quality of the world's oceans continue to deteriorate, and that scientists now recommend protecting 30% of all marine habitats in fully-protected, no-take marine reserves, and only about 2% of the ocean has been set aside as fully protected marine reserves; and
Welcoming the opportunity for Hawai'i to once again be a world leader in ocean conservation and call to other nations to take action;
Recognizing the service of America's veterans and the importance of the Battle of Midway to the Freedom we enjoy today; and
Believing that Native Hawaiians through the Office of Hawaiian Affairs should have an equal role in the management of important cultural resources; and
Wishing to assure the preservation and protection of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands in their full context for future generations,
We the undersigned, do hereby petition the President of the United States, Barack Obama, to expand Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument to the full extent of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone, excluding the waters surrounding Kaua'i and Ni'ihau, and grant co-trusteeship to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

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