

Support bigger marine sanctuary

It's time to separate fact from fiction regarding the proposal to expand the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

Expansion would have no effect on the longline fleets' catch, as those quotas are set by national and international agreements, which are completely separate and independent from the proposal. Further, 95 percent of longline fishing already takes place outside of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

For the 5 percent of fish that are caught in or near the monument expansion zone, longliners would simply catch fish elsewhere, and until they reach their standard quotas.

There would be no change in the economic value of the longline fishery after the expansion.

I hope the president, policymakers and residents look to the vast number of scientists, conservationists and Native Hawaiian leaders who rightfully support expanding Papahānaumokuākea Monument for the economic and environmental benefit to all of Hawaii's people.

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