

## **Editorial Letters**

### **Expanding refuge will help fish supply**

Expansion of the Papahānaūmokuākea Marine National Monument will ensure that our small-boat commercial, sustenance and charter fishermen continue to catch the fish so important in our community.

Conservation areas give fish refuge and a chance to repopulate, where females grow older and larger, producing geometrically more eggs. Science has confirmed that protected fish populations spill over into adjacent waters, increasing the quantity of fish available to fishermen. Expanding the monument would mean our fishermen would have access to more fish.

The Hawaii longline fleet hooks only a tiny percentage of its catch in the proposed expansion area. Because it fishes under a quota, it can move and catch just as many fish.

Pono fishermen recognize that their predecessors understood that kapu ensured productive fisheries.

Creating an expanded pu'uhonua (refuge) in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, would honor that heritage of pono fishing, and assure good catches for future generations.

**Rick Gaffney**

Kailua-Kona