

POLYNESIAN
VOYAGING SOCIETY



Dear Senator Schatz,

I hope that you and your family are doing well. I am writing to ask for your strong support in the proposed expansion of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument.

Our president has a relationship and respect for the ocean unlike any other president before him. He possesses a genuine understanding that all of us in the Pacific have a strong connection to the ocean, whether from our heritage, for our nourishment, for our lifestyle, or for our economies that need to be preserved for generations far beyond our lifetimes. I commend the Obama Administration's leadership to safeguard some of the last remaining near pristine areas in the world, and appreciate that the first marine monument he has proposed is located in the Pacific.

The ocean is in need of urgent action. Compounding threats including overfishing, extraction, pollution, ocean acidification, and climate change are causing the decline of some of the most precious and significant marine habitats on earth. Global climate change is an emerging threat that only intensifies this crisis. Despite these threats, only one percent of the global ocean is fully protected in marine reserves. President Obama's proposed expansion is a step in the right direction to increase this percentage worldwide.

The proposed protections of the Pacific Remote Islands offer an opportunity to create a large, fully protected marine reserve, which have been proven to help maintain the health and resilience of ocean ecosystems. In addition, recent studies have shown that fully protected marine reserves benefit fish populations and commercial fisheries outside of a protected area.

This expanded marine monument would provide a safe haven for irreplaceable natural resources, including almost 250 seamounts, or undersea mountains, which are hotspots of biodiversity, and a home to countless unrecorded species. An estimated 14 million seabirds representing 19 species use these areas as feeding and breeding grounds. It is an important habitat for protected species of sea turtles and marine mammals, some of which are critically endangered, and remarkably rich coral ecosystems, including some deep water corals up to 5,000 years old.

The Pacific Remote Islands are a natural treasure that support and help maintain the productivity of Hawai'i's ocean ecosystem on which we all depend. They also are a vital link in ensuring the health of the broader central Pacific ecosystem.

I respectfully urge you to support the expansion of the Monument to the full 200 nautical mile US EEZ. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Aloha Pau'ole,

Nainoa Thompson

President
Polynesian Voyaging Society



John P. Sweeney

I hope that you and your family are doing well. I am writing to ask for your strong support in the proposed expansion of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument.

Our president has a relationship and respect for the ocean unlike any other president before him. He possesses a genuine understanding that all of us in the Pacific have a strong connection to the ocean, whether from our hearts or for our livelihoods. For our future, it is for our economies that need to be preserved for generations to come and our children. I commend the Obama Administration's leadership in safeguarding some of the last remaining near pristine areas in the world, and appreciate that the first marine monument he has proposed is located in the Pacific.

The ocean is in need of urgent action. Compounding threats including overfishing, extraction pollution, ocean acidification, and climate change are causing the decline of some of the most precious and significant marine habitats on earth. Global climate change is an emerging threat that only intensifies this crisis. Pacific Island threats only one percent of the global ocean is fully protected in marine reserves. President Obama's proposed expansion is a step in the right direction to increase this percentage.

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The Pacific Remote Islands are a natural treasure that support and help maintain the productivity of Hawaii's ocean ecosystem on which we all depend. They also are a vital link in ensuring the health of the broader central Pacific ecosystem.

I respectfully urge you to support the expansion of the Monument to the full 200 nautical mile U.S. EEZ. Thank you for your time and consideration.

John P. Sweeney

Nancy Thompson

President
Olympian Voyaging Society



The Senate
State of Hawaii

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Aloha President Obama:

As a Native Hawaiian State Senator, it gives me great pleasure to write this letter of strong support of the proposed expansion of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument to the full 200-nautical-mile United States Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Currently, the Pacific Remote Islands consists of seven islands and atolls (Howland, Baker and Jarvis Islands; Johnston, Wake and Palmyra Atolls; and Kingman Reef), the nearest of which is Palmyra Atoll, located approximately 1,000 miles southwest of the main Hawaiian Islands. With a Monument expansion out to 200 nautical miles, these refuges and the waters that surround them would protect some of the richest areas on Earth for sea life, with irreplaceable natural resources.

As a descendant of the original people that first settled these islands, I understand the interconnectedness between the land and the sea, and the dependency we as island people have on our natural resources. As an old Hawaiian adage states, "he ali'i ka 'āina; he kauwā ke kanaka," or 'the land is a chief; man is its servant.'

Through the Mālama Hōnua Worldwide Voyage, our Polynesian voyaging canoes, Hōkūle'a and Hikianalia, are joining the growing global movement toward a more sustainable world. As a former sailing member of Hōkūle'a during its 1992 No Nā Mamo ("For the Children") voyage to Tahiti, Ra'iatea, and Rarotonga, I realized how precious tiny islands, like Hawai'i, are in the vast Pacific Ocean to both human civilization and plant and animal life. Like the voyage, expanding the Monument's boundaries for preservation is the right thing to do for all future generations. Your proposed action will provide a gift to posterity, allowing them to enjoy the benefits of a healthy and thriving ocean ecosystem.

At some point on their journey, both the Hōkūle'a and Hikianalia will sail within the Monument's protected waters. I kindly request that for the duration of their time spent in these waters, members of both designated canoes be allowed to fish, since that is their primary means of sustenance throughout the voyage. As a former member I can attest to the physical hardship of sailing Hōkūle'a in the right direction and the necessity to nourish one's mind, body, and soul with a healthy cooked meal straight from the ocean.

Should you have any questions, please call my office at (808) 586-6740.

Malama Pono,

Brickwood M. Galuteria
State Senator, Senate District 21
Waikīkī, McCully, Mō'ili'ili, Makiki, Ala Moana, Kaka'akō