



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

January 12, 2012

The Honorable Jane Lubchenco
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230


Jane D. Lubchenco,

I want to express my support for the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan Review process. It is my understanding that this review will consider broadening the focus of the sanctuary from the humpback whale and its habitat to the ecosystem as a whole, including historic and biocultural resources. An ecosystem-based focus would complement other ongoing efforts at the state level to recognize holistic and traditional approaches to resource management.

As Governor, I am entrusted by the People of Hawai'i to hold in trust the land and water resources of the State, including submerged lands, the uses of which benefit the public. In recognition of these obligations to uphold the Public Trust and acting as the State's chief steward for the environment, I fully support a management plan review process that takes into account our need to protect the biocultural resources of Hawai'i so that they may be used and enjoyed by residents and visitors now and into the future.

As co-manager of the sanctuary, the State of Hawai'i is committed to an open, public process that fully considers the uniqueness of Hawai'i's environment, culture, and people, including the unique needs and perspectives of different islands and communities. We welcome opportunities to work with communities and Native groups to find innovative ways to leverage our local resources to better steward our fragile marine environments.

I want to extend my thanks to Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) Director Dan Basta and his staff for briefing me on the sanctuary's review process here in Hawai'i last year. I value the cooperative and productive partnership for ocean stewardship that the State of Hawai'i and ONMS has enjoyed since the sanctuary was designated in 1998.

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I look forward to following the results and successes of the management plan review process as we work together to restore and protect our precious marine and coastal environments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Neil Abercrombie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i