



In Recognition of the
15th Anniversary
Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
and UNESCO World Heritage Site

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2006, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument was established (later renamed the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument) to protect natural and cultural resources in an area which now covers over 582,578 square miles of waters, islands, atolls and shoals in the Pacific Ocean; and

WHEREAS, the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument contains more than 60 percent of our nation's coral reefs and the highest level of endemism found in any marine ecosystem on Earth; and

WHEREAS, this region represents Pō, an area where Hawaiians believe all life originated and where their ancestors return after death; includes the island of Mokumanamana, which contains one of the highest concentrations of heiau within the archipelago; and crosses the Tropic of Cancer, known in Hawaiian as Ke Alanui Polohiwa a Kāne, the western pathway for ancestral spirits; and

WHEREAS, the lands within Papahānaumokuākea serve as one of the largest seabird rookeries on the planet, the only home to four critically endangered land birds, and a critical habitat for nesting and breeding for Hawaiian monk seals and Hawaiian green sea turtles; and

WHEREAS, these islands and waters also hold historical significance as the memorial sites for many who fought with valor and perished in the Battle of Midway during World War II; and

WHEREAS, on July 30, 2010, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization recognized the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument as a mixed World Heritage Site for its natural and cultural value; and

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hawai'i State Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs co-manage the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument to mālama this sacred site, build resilience to global challenges such as climate change, and integrate traditional knowledge and western science to enhance overall understanding of the Monument's natural, cultural and historic resources; and

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor of the **State of Hawai'i**, do hereby recognize the 15th anniversary of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, which serves to remind us of our state's commitment towards the conservation and protection of the resources of the northwestern Hawaiian Islands for future generations.

Done at the State Capitol in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this fifteenth day of June 2021.



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i