

NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM RESERVE
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**Resolution Honoring Laura Thompson for Her Service on the
Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve
Advisory Council**

July 28, 2016

WHEREAS Ms. Laura Thompson has been a Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council (RAC) member since its inception in 2001;

WHEREAS Ms. Thompson, affectionately known as “Aunty Laura,” has been a cherished kupuna on the RAC, providing sage advice and timely reminders to her fellow council members based on her extensive institutional knowledge of past council actions and on her lifetime of conservation work in Hawai‘i;

WHEREAS she has been a strong advocate for outreach and education programs for Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, of which the Reserve is a part, even hosting several events to bring school teachers, students, and community members together to do restoration projects as part of the Monument’s Navigating Change program;

WHEREAS Ms. Thompson was vitally important in the Monument’s successful effort to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2010 by garnering broad community support for the nomination and hosting Maori Paramount Chief Tumu Te Huehehu, Chair of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee;

WHEREAS throughout her tenure as a Conservation representative of the Reserve, Ms. Thompson has served as a liaison between the Reserve/Monument and the Polynesian Voyaging Society, for which she serves as a Board member, leading to the *Hokule‘a* carrying the Monument’s example of marine conservation worldwide;

BE IT RESOLVED that the RAC honors Laura Thomson for her fifteen years of exemplary volunteer service on the Council, promoting the understanding and protection of the precious resources of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

ADOPTED by the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council at its regular meeting on July 28, 2016.

Timothy E. Johns, Chair

The council is an advisory body to the Reserve/NOAA Monument superintendent. The opinions and findings of this document do not necessarily reflect the position of the Reserve, the Monument, or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.