

**NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS CORAL REEF
ECOSYSTEM RESERVE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

April 25, 2005

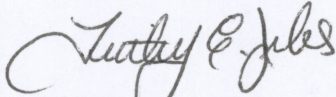
Ms. T. Aulani Wilhelm
Acting Reserve Coordinator, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands
Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve
6600 Kalanianaʻole Highway
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

Dear Aulani:

At the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council ("RAC") meeting on January 26-27, 2005, the RAC approved the attached resolutions, one regarding the Management Plan/EIS Workshop, and the other regarding the selection panel for new RAC members.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Timothy E. Johns

**RESOLUTION REGARDING REMAINING COUNCIL MEMBERS TO
SERVE ON A SELECTION PANEL FOR NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS
AND ALTERNATES**

JANUARY 27, 2005

The Council notes the following:

In the year 2003, there were 7 seats whose members and alternates terms were expiring. As part of the selection process, an opportunity was given to the remaining voting and non-voting Council members to serve on the Selection Panel in choosing new members and alternates for the Council. After the application period ended, application packets were mailed to those members who volunteered to be a part of this Selection Panel. The Panel was to review all applications and submit to the Reserve Coordinator, their top 3 recommendations for each member and alternate seat that is expiring.

The Reserve Coordinator then used the panel's recommendations to make the final field recommendations that were later submitted to the National Marine Sanctuary Program Headquarters for review.

The Council recommends that:

1. The same selection process described above be used for this year's round of selections for new members and alternates.
2. The new members that have been selected be seated after the RAC takes action on the management plan.

**RESOLUTION REGARDING MANAGEMENT PLAN/DEIS
ALTERNATIVE WORKSHOP AND SCHEDULE**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE NWHI CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM
RESERVE ADVISORY COUNCIL
TO
THE NWHI CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM RESERVE**

JANUARY 27, 2005

The Council notes the following:

1. The management plan subcommittee has met regularly to discuss sections of the draft management plan as they have been developed by staff.
2. Although the subcommittee will review all of the management plan sections individually, a focused workshop is needed to discuss the management plan as a whole, as well as to discuss regulations, permits associated with the proposed sanctuary.
3. This workshop should also generate information that will lead to the development of a broad range of sanctuary alternatives to be analyzed in the DEIS.

Regarding the workshop and management plan/DEIS schedule, the Council recommends that:

1. The management plan subcommittee meet on March 9, 2005 to review section 3.3 (Managing Human Activities) of the draft management plan.
2. Reserve staff work with the subcommittees appointed representative, Kem Lowry, to plan a facilitated workshop scheduled for April 6-7, 2005 that will include input and participation from RAC members, alternates, and the public.
3. The results of this workshop should be described in a report that includes, among other things, raw workshop results as well as summarized input on management plan related to:
 - a. Overall structural organization of the management plan;
 - b. Regulations and permits;
 - c. Priority management needs/issues;
 - d. Overlaps and linkages and;
 - e. Other changes as needed.

Regarding the results of the workshop, the Council recommends that:

1. The workshop report will be provided to the subcommittee along with a draft alternative to be analyzed in the DEIS on May 4, 2005.
2. The subcommittee will develop a draft resolution and preferred RAC alternative to be evaluated in the DEIS.

3. Minority and majority opinions will be recorded. Minority opinions will be recommended for inclusion in the range of alternatives analyzed in the DEIS along with the majority alternative.
4. Discussion and recommendations on the subcommittee resolution will take place at the June 1-2, 2005 RAC meeting.
5. The RAC will convene again in the fall of 2005 to provide comment on the DEIS/MP during the public comment period.