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Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

# Ka Palapala Ho‘omaopopo: Papahānaumokuākea

The Informative Letter: Papahānaumokuākea

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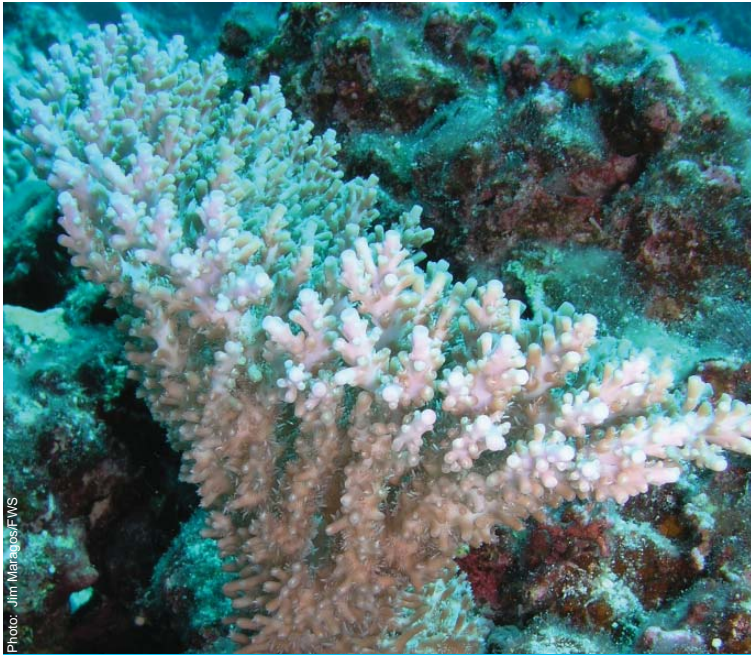


Photo: Jim Maragos/FWS

Aloha mai kākou,

Mahalo nui loa to all of you who have worked with us over the past many months to create the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Management Plan! We are very pleased to announce the plan has been approved and is now available to you. Over the past 5 months, we have been carefully considering your valuable comments on the Draft Monument Management Plan. We believe the plan has benefited greatly from your wisdom.

In this issue of Ka Palapala Ho‘omaopopo, we highlight some of the most frequently heard public comments regarding the draft plan, as well as a summary of our responses to those comments. More detailed information is included in Volume V of the Monument Management Plan–Response to Comments. You can also find out how to obtain a copy of the plan.

Our informative letter would not be complete without a “good news” story, and this time we feature Papahānaumokuākea’s connection to the environmental education program Navigating Change.

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# Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Management Plan

The Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Management Plan has been approved! The plan will guide the work of the Monument Management Board and its individual agencies over the next 15 years. Reviews will be held every 5 years to allow for adaptive management as necessary.

The Draft Monument Management Plan and the Environmental Assessment were released for public review and comment on April 23, 2008. The previous issue of Ka Palapala Ho‘omaopopo summarizing actions in the draft plan was distributed to approximately 1,500 members of the public; nonprofit organizations; local, State, and Federal agencies; and elected officials and posted on our website [papahanaumokuakea.gov](http://papahanaumokuakea.gov). An initial 75-day review period was provided, during which nine public meetings in Hawai‘i and one in Washington, D.C. were held. Upon request, the comment period was extended to 90 days, ending on July 23, 2008. More than 6,400 comments were received from across the Nation.

## What Happened to Your Comments?

Since many letters, emails, and verbal testimony included a number of different topics, they were divided into individual comments that each could be reviewed. The comments were distributed to experts from the Co-Trustee agencies to consider, draft responses, and make suggestions for modifications to the documents. The Monument Management Board reviewed and modified as necessary each of the draft responses, as well as suggested changes to the documents developed by the technical experts.

The “Response to Comments” or Volume V includes a list of the individual comments along with the Monument Management Board responses. In many cases, a number of individual comments expressed the same idea. Some of these comments are listed individually but physically grouped in the document and receive the same response. In other cases, comments that expressed the same idea are summarized into one comment for response.

## What’s New About the Plan?

The only change in the structure of the Monument Management Plan since the draft plan is the addition of a fifth volume – Response to Comments. Some comments led to refinement of the proposals in the draft plan, or specific language changes in the Monument Management Plan or associated draft documents.

The Monument Management Board also received a number of helpful factual and technical corrections that were incorporated into the documents. Your valuable information and suggestions during the public comment period helped build a better Monument Management Plan – thank you!

In summary, the complete plan includes:

- Volume I: Monument Management Plan
- Volume II: Environmental Assessment
- Volume III: Appendices and Supporting Documents
- Volume IV: Midway Atoll Conceptual Site Plan
- Volume V: Response to Comments



## How Can You Obtain a Copy?

As with the draft plan, you have multiple options:

- The complete Monument Management Plan is available to be downloaded from the Monument website at [papahanaumokuakea.gov](http://papahanaumokuakea.gov). Additional FWS supporting documents are available at [www.fws.gov/pacific/planning/](http://www.fws.gov/pacific/planning/).
- The documents will be mailed to all State of Hawai‘i public libraries.
- A limited number of copies will be available on compact disk or in hard copy by contacting NOAA’s Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument office by e-mail at [keeley.belva@noaa.gov](mailto:keeley.belva@noaa.gov) or by calling 808.694.3939. We expect these will be back from the printer in January 2009.
- A limited number of copies may also be available at your local Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources-Division of Aquatic Resources office.

## Summary of Public Comments

The comment summary is presented as Volume V of the Monument Management Plan (MMP), along with the Monument Management Board’s responses. Those comments most frequently raised are summarized in the table below, along with any corresponding changes to the documents.

Topic	Your Comments	Our Responses
Advisory Body and Public Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure continued public participation in management of the Monument (e.g., establish a citizens’ advisory body, public Monument Management Board meeting minutes, add public seats to the Board, open Board meetings to the public.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As stated in CBO-3.5, the Co-Trustees are committed to establish a Monument Alliance within 1 year, composed of individuals who represent communities and stakeholders interested in the Monument’s stewardship. Within 2 years after the release of the Monument Management Plan, the Co-Trustees will charter the Alliance as an advisory committee. See section 3.5 for the full details.</li> <li>The range of suggestions for increasing public participation in Board meetings will be considered as a Monument Management Board Charter is developed.</li> </ul>
Agency Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe how the Co-Trustees will coordinate and prioritize management activities.</li> <li>Roles of the Senior Executive Board and Interagency Coordinating Committee are unclear, especially regarding decision making.</li> <li>Unclear how “agency leads” for planned activities were determined.</li> <li>Mission, vision and goals developed during the sanctuary designation process have been weakened and need to be strengthened.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarified the functions of the MMB, as well as how activities are coordinated and prioritized.</li> <li>Revised descriptions for the roles and purposes of the SEB and ICC in relation to the MMB (MMB takes the lead in decision making, but may seek advice from the SEB and ICC as needed).</li> <li>Clarified the approach to sharing responsibilities among the various management agencies.</li> <li>MMB thoroughly reviewed and revised lead agency assignments in various Action Plans.</li> <li>Revised the vision and mission statements, and goals 1, 2, and 3 to reflect the Monument’s priority for resource protection.</li> </ul>
Cumulative Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include a cumulative impact assessment for all human activities in the Monument and set numerical limits for human use.</li> <li>Concern about the extent and adequacy of the cumulative impacts assessment.</li> <li>Concern about which activities were being analyzed as a part of this EA and which would require further NEPA compliance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understanding the cumulative impacts for all human activities is a goal of the Monument. The first step is collecting baseline information about the Monument’s resources. This information will be used to assess the need for numerical limits on use.</li> <li>Clarified the EA’s scope to analyze environmental impacts to implementing the MMP.</li> <li>Numerous impact assessments in the EA have been updated and expanded.</li> <li>Cultural Impacts Assessment revised and expanded.</li> <li>Information has been added to the future analysis section regarding NEPA compliance, including MMP activities that will likely require further assessment. Additional information has been added about categorical exclusions.</li> </ul>
Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concern for adequate enforcement over the vast area of the Monument.</li> <li>Enforcement violations should be quickly prosecuted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These recommendations will be considered by the law enforcement working group as they prepare step-down plans to implement the Enforcement Action Plan.</li> </ul>



## Summary of Public Comments

Topic	Your Comments	Our Responses
Enforcement, continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resources and assistance from military, fishermen, and transiting vessels should be used.</li> </ul>	(see above)
Global Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The MMP inadequately addresses impacts of global climate change.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The importance of monitoring and understanding climate change is emphasized in several places within the MMP.</li> <li>The intent to monitor impacts of climate change and to address these in detail in the upcoming “Natural Resources Science Plan” has been clarified.</li> <li>Data will be used from existing monitoring and restoration efforts and future studies will be directed to investigate impacts of climate change on species, assemblages, habitats, and ecosystems and analyze management options.</li> </ul>
Midway Atoll & Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concern about impacts of allowing three cruise ships per year to visit Midway.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All vessels and aircraft visiting Midway must meet specific Refuge and Monument requirements and protocols for pollution and alien species prevention (e.g., hull inspections).</li> <li>All visitor groups must meet all Monument findings and permit requirements as specified in Presidential Proclamation 8031 and associated regulations.</li> <li>No more than three permits for large groups will be approved per year. Large defined as 50 – 800 people – with no more than 400 allowed on Midway at any one time.</li> </ul>
Military Presence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opposition to military use of the Monument for training and exercises.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MMP amended to reflect that the Proclamation prohibitions do not apply to activities and exercise of the Armed Forces (including Coast Guard).</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase coordination between the Monument and the military (e.g., marine debris removal, enforcement, and emergency response).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing coordination and opportunities for future training exercises that benefit the Monument are noted, including marine debris and shipwreck removal. MMB will enhance communications through ICC and other forums.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze impacts of military activities on Monument resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The impacts of specific military uses in the NWHI have been detailed in previously completed DoD NEPA documents and Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultations. However, these will be considered as the MMB develops a means to fully assess cumulative threats to the Monument.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accurately describe existing military activities within the Monument.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New sections entitled “Armed Forces Actions” and “Armed Forces Precautions in the Monument” were added to the MMP.</li> </ul>
Native Hawaiian Access & Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure continued access to the Monument for Native Hawaiian cultural activities and research.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modified the Native Hawaiian Culture and History Action Plan to explicitly support access for cultural practices and research.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure continued involvement of the Native Hawaiian community in management of the Monument.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for, and recognition of, the importance of involving the Native Hawaiian community in management was clarified.</li> </ul>

# Summary of Public Comments

Topic	Your Comments	Our Responses
Native Hawaiian Access & Involvement, continued		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committed to regular consultation and engagement with this community, including the Native Hawaiian Cultural Working Group, which will be convened by OHA.</li> <li>Explore the possibility of developing new agreements, including investigating the possibility of amending the 2006 MOA to increase Native Hawaiian involvement in the management of the Monument.</li> <li>Native Hawaiian traditional knowledge included as a research topic in the Marine Conservation Science Action Plan.</li> </ul>
Permitting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The MMB should have an open process to review and approve permits.</li> <li>Human activities in the Monument should be limited to those that contribute to protecting Monument resources.</li> <li>Prohibit bioprospecting in the Monument.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permit applications are currently accessible to the public, per the unified permit posting policy. Permit applications are also reviewed by external experts, as necessary.</li> <li>Proclamation 8031 prohibits entering the Monument unless specifically permitted (or for uninterrupted passage). It also established a permit program to limit access and manage human impacts. Access is only allowed if applicants meet specific permit requirements and criteria.</li> <li>Clarified that all permits have reporting requirements, which will inform the analyses of human impacts.</li> <li>Clarified the Permitting Action Plan to explain that the terms and conditions for all permits that involve collecting samples or specimens preclude commercial bioprospecting. The terms further preclude obtaining patent or intellectual property rights to specimens collected in the Monument.</li> </ul>
Research & Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research activities should only be allowed if they support conservation priorities or management needs of the Monument.</li> <li>Research should be prioritized</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amended the Marine Conservation Science Action Plan to emphasize the requirement that all research be designed to protect ecological integrity, enhance the understanding of Monument resources, and improve resource management and protection actions.</li> <li>Clarified that a Natural Resources Science Plan will be prepared within the 1st year that will coordinate and prioritize management-related research activities in the Monument.</li> </ul>
Threatened & Endangered Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recovering threatened and endangered species should be the highest priority.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarified in many places that resource protection is the highest priority in the Monument; many priority action plans and activities need to be implemented to achieve such protection.</li> </ul>
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concern about vessels transiting the Monument’s waters, including foreign fishing boats, and potential for groundings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The MMB added information to the “Maritime Transportation and Aviation Action Plan” on measures developed by the United States, adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and currently being incorporated into Federal Regulations.</li> <li>The MMB worked with IMO to designate the Monument as a “Particularly Sensitive Sea Area”; delineated large “Areas To Be Avoided”; and required mandatory ship reporting systems for all vessels approaching Monument boundaries.</li> <li>Added an appendix with text of relevant documents.</li> </ul>

## Navigating Change – from Papahānaumokuākea to the Main Hawaiian Islands

As part of the Monument Management Plan, the Ocean Ecosystems Literacy Action Plan seeks to cultivate an ocean ecosystems stewardship ethic, contribute to the Nation’s science and cultural literacy, and create a new generation of conservation leaders through formal environmental education. One of the key pillars upon which the action plan is based is a program entitled “Navigating Change.”

The idea of Navigating Change was inspired 7 years ago by the Polynesian Voyaging Society, on a journey to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands aboard *Hōkūle‘a* (a Hawaiian double hulled voyaging canoe). Native Hawaiian Navigator Nainoa Thompson grew up near Maunalua Bay, which at that time was in a healthier state, and used the bay as an outdoor classroom. From that initial idea, a group of educators, scientists, and Monument staff developed a classroom curriculum to honor and incorporate the importance of the incredible natural and cultural significance of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Through Navigating Change, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands can be an example for us to become better stewards of our communities.



*Students from Hahaione Elementary School in East Honolulu explore the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands through an exhibit at the Hawai‘i Maritime Center.*



*The Hawai‘i Maritime Center’s Northwestern Hawaiian Islands exhibit includes a research ship’s lab where students gather their own data.  
All photos: Matt Limtiaco, Papahānaumokuākea*



In the last year, the Navigating Change program has worked with five schools in the community of Maunalua Bay in east Honolulu. Teachers have not only incorporated the Navigating Change curriculum into their classrooms, but more than 300 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students have participated in enrichment field trips and activities to help students, teachers, and parents learn to mālama (take care of) their own back yard.

As part of the classroom activities, guest speakers who are experts in marine biology, traditional knowledge, and the history of Maunalua Bay have given presentations to help bolster learning and reinforce connections between those fields of study and Maunalua Bay.

In January 2009, Navigating Change students will use their new skills and knowledge to participate in stewardship activities in Maunalua Bay. Some activities are testing water quality in local streams, removing invasive pickleweed to make room for ‘aki‘aki (a native grass) at the Paiko Bird Sanctuary, and removing invasive algae from the shallows in Paiko Lagoon. This year’s program is designed to inspire students to adopt practices that will bring Maunalua Bay back to a healthy state.

Navigating Change is a multi-organizational partnership that includes the Polynesian Voyaging Society, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, State of Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bishop Museum, The Nature Conservancy, Malama Maunalua, and the Hawai‘i Institute of Marine Biology.



Liz Foote/xxxxxx

*Navigating Change also brings students to Moku o Lo‘e at the Hawai‘i Institute of Marine Biology.*



Maunalua Bay is only the first community to participate in Navigating Change. During the 2009-2010 school year, the program will focus its efforts in Hilo Bay on the Island of Hawai‘i. To learn more, visit the Navigating Change website at [www.hawaiianatolls.org](http://www.hawaiianatolls.org).

*Through programs like Navigating Change, we hope to inspire the world’s future leaders to take better care of the Earth’s resources.*

Have you moved? If so, please send us updated address information. Mahalo!



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## Need More Information?

Feel free to call any one of our offices:

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**Watch for news next year as we  
celebrate the 100th anniversary  
of the Hawaiian Islands  
National Wildlife Refuge, part  
of Papahānaumokuākea Marine  
National Monument!**

Visit our website at:

[papahanaumokuakea.gov](http://papahanaumokuakea.gov)