

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

10 June 2009

Ms. T 'Aulani Wilhelm  
Acting Reserve Coordinator, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands  
Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve  
6600 Kalaniana'ole Highway, Suite 300  
Honolulu, HI 96825

Dear Ms. Wilhelm:

At the 9-10 June 2009 meeting of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Reserve Advisory Council (RAC) discussed recommendations provided by the ad hoc Monument Alliance Subcommittee relating to developing a Monument Alliance for Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

We strongly support the existence of an advisory-type body for the Monument and encourage the managers to incorporate the Monument Alliance in the management of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. In our consideration in designing an advisory-type body for the Monument, we offer the recommendations listed below.

**Recommendation 1** (as recommended by the RAC in a X-X-X vote): The purpose of the Monument Alliance would be to:

- Carry out the Vision, Mission, Guiding Principles and Goals for the Monument
- Provide effective advice that influences and informs the management of PMNM resources;
- Provide broad representation of stakeholders and constituent groups;
- Inform community;
- Provide a discussion forum;
- Provide a voice, conscience, and institutional memory for the place;
- Provide feedback on management actions.

**Recommendation 2** (as recommended by the RAC in a X-X-X vote): When defining its responsibilities, Monument Alliance should seek to:

- Offer opportunities for informed, constructive engagement with managers before formal review processes commence;
- Act as liaison with user groups and the community;
- Provide guidance to managers on the Monument Management Plan implementation, review and revisions;
- Contribute expertise on various aspects of Monument activities and management;
- Provide recommendations on research and education needs and gaps, and permit use and trends, and any other matter of concern.

**Recommendation 3** (as recommended by the RAC in a X-X-X vote): The following parameters are suggested in outlining the membership of the Monument Alliance:

- Members shall be appointed to three-year terms with a limit of no more than two consecutive terms. Members may re-apply after laying out for one term.
- Terms shall be staggered to avoid having all of the members turn over at the same time. Members shall be selected through recommendations by an ad hoc membership review committee, which will then provide recommendations to the managers.
- Each seat shall have a primary representative. Alternates shall represent membership categories rather than individual seats and may vote in the absence of any member in that category.
- The Alliance shall have 15 voting seats outlined as follows:
  - Three Native Hawaiian representatives, including one kupuna (elder), with experience or knowledge regarding Native Hawaiian subsistence, cultural, and/or religious practices;
  - Three science representatives with expertise related to the NWHI;
  - Three conservation representatives with demonstrated experience related to the protection of the resources of the NWHI.
  - Two education/public outreach representatives;
  - One representative with demonstrated experience in historic and/or current activities related to Midway Atoll;
  - Three citizen-at-large representatives.
- Members shall be selected via application or nomination demonstrating expertise and experience. Selected members should be diverse in terms of age, gender and geographic location or experience;
- Non-voting members: the following entities should be issued an open invitation to come to all Alliance meetings. The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, the Marine Mammal Commission, the U.S. Coast Guard, the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, the NOAA General Council, the FWS Office of Law Enforcement, the U.S.DOD, PIRO, Pacific Science Center, WESPAC, EPA, DOCARE, OHA, FOMA, DAR, DOFAW, National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Pacific Islands Fish & Wildlife Office, the U.S. Geological Survey, the FAA, the Department of State, the Humpback Whale SAC, and any other appropriate entity. Representatives of these entities may be invited to give specific presentations as needed.

There was a discussion about the value of having representatives of certain entities seated at the table. However, there was also discussion about the need to keep the Alliance at a manageable size. Therefore the RAC recommends that no more than 15 non-voting entities be appointed as non-voting members of the Alliance and leaves it up to the discretion of the MMB who the 15 selected to sit at the table as non-voting members of the Alliance shall be.

**Recommendation 4** (as recommended by the RAC in a X-X-X vote): The following parameters are suggested in outlining the operations of the Monument Alliance:

- Decision-making—A quorum is needed before a decision can be made by the Alliance. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the voting members of the Alliance. Alliance participants should strive for consensus, but if consensus cannot be reached, a vote may be taken. A simple majority of the total number of voting members is needed for passage. ‘Majority’ and ‘minority’ opinions may be issued and individual opinions expressed in the meetings shall be noted in the minutes. Council members participating by phone may vote.

- Leadership— The Alliance should be led by two or three co-chairs
- The Alliance shall have the ability to establish sub-units (i.e. working groups and subcommittees)
- The Alliance should have the ability to use some type of virtual meeting and participants will be allowed to vote.

We hope you will give these recommendations full consideration.

Sincerely,

Timothy E. Johns  
Northwestern Hawaiian Islands  
Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve  
Advisory Council Chair

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