



**PACIFIC
REMOTE ISLANDS
COALITION**

Pacific Remote Islands Coalition
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The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

February 27, 2023

Dear Mr. President:

On May 31, 2022, our coalition—led by Native Hawaiians, Indigenous Chamoru, and other communities across Moananuiakea, the vast Pacific Ocean—wrote and requested that you use your authorities under the Antiquities Act of 1906 to expand and rename the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (PRI). In June 2022, we had an opportunity to engage with many members of your administration to discuss our proposal. And since that time our coalition has had multiple engagements with fishery managers, members of the fishing community, nonprofits, government agencies, appointed and elected officials, various communities, and scientists.

As a result of this engagement, support for our efforts has grown, and we have had an opportunity to consider input on the best way to protect and expand the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument. While our coalition still supports the use of the Antiquities Act of 1906 to immediately expand the current PRI, we understand that the Administration may wish to consider other pathways, and we have chosen to act upon community input and seek the designation of a national marine sanctuary. We will continue to work with the Administration to pursue whatever pathway allows this consideration to begin as soon as possible but we are hopeful that our efforts will naturally align.

In considering this or any alternatives, our coalition will have an open mind with an aim to ensure that any plan prioritizes management consistency to achieve the objective of strong and enduring protection. We believe the entire area should be designated using the same mechanism and subsequent regulations, therefore the study area for any potential national marine sanctuary to protect the islands, atolls, shoals, seamounts, banks and reefs of the Pacific Remote Islands should include both the existing Monument and all surrounding waters contained within the 200 NM US EEZ limit.



Further:

- Any directive should include a strong purpose statement, along with clear goals and objectives consistent with the comprehensive conservation provisions of the current PRI to ensure any subsequent monument expansion or national marine sanctuary designation should supplement, complement and enhance the current high levels of protection across the entire EEZ;
- A sustainable management regime that includes co-management by Indigenous Peoples;
- The sanctuary program should establish a sanctuary advisory council to provide guidance throughout the process;
- Any renaming process and final decision on names should be pursued in a culturally-appropriate framework;
- Consistent with our initial letter, we believe posthumous Presidential recognition should be given for the notable bravery and sacrifice of the more than 130 mostly Native Hawaiian young men, known as the Hui Panalaʻau, who voluntarily occupied the islands of Jarvis, Baker, and Howland from 1935 to 1942 to help secure America's territorial claim over the islands. This recognition should not be rushed but rather done in consultation with their surviving families, potentially timed with any final designation of the area.

Mr. President, we applaud your leadership on conservation issues as set forth in your America the Beautiful call to action as well as your bold decision to restore Antiquities Act protections for Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante, and Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monuments. We now ask for you to turn your attention to the Pacific Ocean and to take bold action in this region for the health, well-being and prosperity of our people and our planet. It is our hope that as this Coalition rides the swell of support for expanding PRI that our efforts support other indigenous communities already chartering their course towards a Sanctuary Designation to achieve their aims alongside us.

In anticipation that you may be considering initiation of a sanctuary designation process for this area, we plan to submit a formal nomination request to NOAA by the end of this week. We stand ready to support your efforts and are actively working to secure additional support and necessary resources from philanthropic sources to enable this to happen.

Me ke aloha nō/Saina ma'ase

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(Kaua'i)

Sol Kaho'ohalahala
(Lāna'i)

Mike Nakachi
(Hawai'i)

Shad Kane
(O'ahu)

William Aila Jr.
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Umi Kai
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Mehana Vaughan
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Nai'a Lewis
(O'ahu)

Nikki Palomo Monforte
(Guam)



Ekolu Lindsey
(Maui)

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(O'ahu)

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Keoni Kū'oha
(Maui)

Kekoa Taparra
(O'ahu)

Dane Uluwehi Maxwell
(Maui)

Marjorie Daria
(Tinian)

cc: Chair Mallory, Secretary Raimondo, Secretary Haaland, Under Secretary Spinrad

