

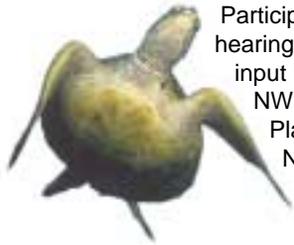
HOW YOU CAN HELP TO PROTECT THE NWHI

Voice your concerns about the North-western Hawaiian Islands to policymakers. Join over 750,000 people concerned about the environment by signing up with the on-line Action Alert Network. Through the Action Network, you can make your voice heard through free faxes or emails to key decision-makers.

Sign up with KAHEA and Environmental Defense at www.actionnetwork.org to receive information on steps you can take to protect the NWHI and to receive periodic alerts about other pressing issues.

Contact Governor Cayetano and encourage the state to develop protection measures in state NWHI waters that are consistent with the Executive Order protections for NWHI federal waters.
Fax: (808) 586-0006

Contact Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans and encourage him to keep all of the NWHI Executive Order protections in place.
Fax: (202) 482-4576



Participate in upcoming public hearings on the NWHI. Public input is needed on the Draft NWHI Reserve Operations Plan developed by the NWHI Reserve Council, a broadly representative body tasked with recommending appropriate management strategies to protect the NWHI.

As the NWHI Reserve moves toward Sanctuary status, there will be other important public hearings and opportunities to make your voice heard.

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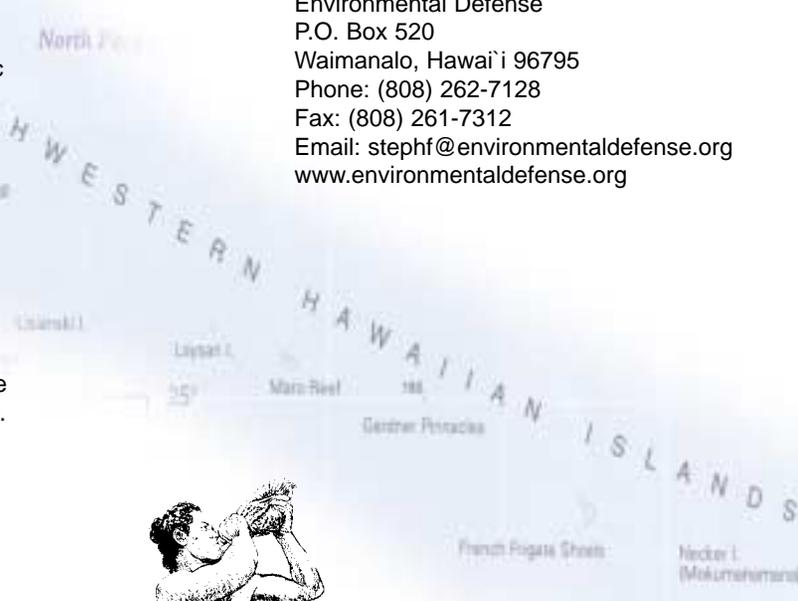
ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE

finding the ways that work

Environmental Defense is a leading environmental organization combining science, law, and economics to achieve lasting solutions to environmental problems, with over 2,000 members throughout the Islands and 300,000 members throughout the United States.

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NORTH WESTERN
HAWAIIAN ISLANDS



KAHEA
The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance

KAHEA is an alliance of Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners, environmentalists and others concerned about protecting traditional and customary rights and our fragile environment.

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The Northwestern Hawaiian Island
CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM
RESERVE provides a pu'uhonua
(refuge) for our future generations.





THE NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands are the most isolated archipelago in the world. Stretching over 1200 miles northwest of Kaua'i, these fragile atolls and shoals contain 70% of the coral reefs under U.S. jurisdiction and encompass tremendous biodiversity, including some of the world's oldest living coral colonies.

The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands are of great significance in Hawaiian culture and history. Ancient 'oli and mele (chants and songs) tell of the fire goddess Pele and her family traversing the NWHI and stopping at Mokumanamana (Necker Island) on their way to the Main Hawaiian Islands. Numerous agricultural, religious, and burial sites indicate early Polynesian and Hawaiian use of these islands.



PU'UHONUA

The remote atolls and reefs of the NWHI form a pu'uhonua -- a place of safety and regeneration. They are the breeding grounds for the world's population of the highly endangered Hawaiian monk seal, sea turtles, and 14 million seabirds, including 99% of the world's Laysan albatross and 98% of the black-footed albatross population.

Recent research reinforces traditional knowledge of the role that NWHI bottomfish larvae play in replenishing distant and depleted fisheries in the Main Hawaiian Islands. NWHI turtles, which migrate to the Main Islands, are a key component of the \$700 million ocean recreation industry, much of which depends on snorkeling and scuba diving to view marine life.

A CENTURY OF PROTECTION EFFORTS

In 1909, President Theodore Roosevelt issued an Executive Order designed to protect the NWHI from the depredations of guano harvesting, pillaging of feathers (for hats), eggs, and shells. This led to the creation of national wildlife refuges designed to protect land and surrounding waters of the NWHI. In the 1990's, however, under the management of the federally funded Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (Wespac), the NWHI lobster population crashed after severe overfishing. The lobster industry also trapped close to 200 "non-target" species of fish, octopus and other animals which monk seals depend upon for food. An increasing number of monk seals in the NWHI have been found emaciated and starving. As a result of legal action, the lobster fishery -- consisting of 7 vessels in 1998 -- has been closed for the past two years.

PUBLIC INPUT

In May 2000, President William Clinton called for public input into the design of additional protection measures for the vast and distant NWHI. This led to one of the most open public dialogues ever held in Hawai'i on a resource protection issue. A Native Hawaiian fisherman drafted a community-based protection plan for the NWHI and presented it at a workshop organized by KAHEA, a grassroots alliance of Hawaiian cultural practitioners and environmentalists. Led by kupuna (elders), sixty-five people from 5 islands reworked the fisherman's plan. Two sets of six public federal hearings were held throughout the islands. Over 9,500 people submitted written testimony, overwhelmingly in support of many of the strong conservation measures outlined in the community plan.



PROTECTING JOBS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

President Clinton issued two Executive Orders to establish the NWHI Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve which was designed to protect fishing jobs and the environment. The Reserve provides modest protection for the ecosystem in the form of small closed areas which make up 0.2% of Reserve waters. Due to vast distances and rough waters, only a handful of fishermen actively fish in the NWHI. These recreational and commercial fishers are grandfathered into the Reserve at their current levels of catch. Over 95% of the NWHI bottomfishing grounds are open to fishing. The Hawai'i Chapter of the Recreational Fishing Alliance came out in strong support of the Reserve. Many of Hawai'i's small boat, subsistence, and recreational fishers consider the NWHI an essential nursery for fish for their families, and for the tourist and restaurant industries on the Main Hawaiian Islands.



THREATS TO THE NWHI RESERVE

The Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council has led an unrelenting campaign to convince the Bush Administration to annul or rescind the Executive Orders establishing the NWHI Reserve. Wespac is seeking to open up the protected area for coral harvesting and other extractive activities. The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands need your help.