
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING AND SUPPORTING THE NOMINATION AND DESIGNATION OF THE
NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT,
PAPAHANAUMOKUAKEA, AS A WORLD HERITAGE SITE.

1 WHEREAS, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National
2 Monument, recently named *Papahanaumokuakea*, is a place filled
3 with vibrant ecosystems, rich cultural traditions, and special
4 historical value, and is deserving of global recognition and
5 protection; and

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7 WHEREAS, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National
8 Monument is home to approximately seven thousand marine species,
9 at least one-quarter of which are found nowhere else in the
10 world; and

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12 WHEREAS, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National
13 Monument provides critical habitats for numerous threatened and
14 endangered species of marine life, is home to over fourteen
15 million seabirds belonging to over twenty species, and is the
16 largest tropical seabird rookery in the world; and

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18 WHEREAS, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National
19 Monument is an outstanding example of ancient Polynesian culture
20 and seafaring tradition, containing numerous temples and
21 prehistoric cultural sites; and

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23 WHEREAS, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National
24 Monument is an extraordinary site of maritime archaeology and
25 global seafaring history, containing remains of the 19th century
26 whaling industry and sunken artifacts from World War II; and

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28 WHEREAS, the places designated as World Heritage Sites by
29 the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural
30 Organization are recognized for their "outstanding universal



1 value" and are considered part of the common heritage of
2 humankind; and

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4 WHEREAS, World Heritage Sites can be nominated on the basis
5 of Natural or Cultural Outstanding Universal Value, or both; and

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7 WHEREAS as of 2006, a total of only twenty-four sites
8 around the world have been granted World Heritage designation
9 based on both Natural and Cultural Outstanding Universal Value;
10 and

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12 WHEREAS, the co-trustees of the Northwestern Hawaiian
13 Islands Marine National Monument are seeking nomination of the
14 monument for World Heritage designation based on its natural,
15 cultural, and historical value; and

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17 WHEREAS, a World Heritage designation will provide an
18 additional international layer of protection for the Monument;
19 and

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21 WHEREAS, as a World Heritage Site, the Monument will
22 benefit from technical assistance and the latest information
23 from global experts; and

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25 WHEREAS, designation of the Monument as a World Heritage
26 Site will require additional reporting and management
27 obligations that would provide another means of ensuring that
28 conservation and management practices in the Monument are world
29 class and will enjoy heightened positive attention; now,
30 therefore,

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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
33 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
34 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature of
35 the State of Hawaii encourages and supports the nomination and
36 designation of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National
37 Monument, *Papahānaumokuākea*, as a World Heritage Site; and

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
40 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
41 United States, Hawaii's congressional delegation, the Governor,
42 the Pacific Area Director of the National Parks Service, the
43 Director of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National



H.C.R. NO. 265

1 Monument, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and
2 Cultural Organization World Heritage Centre.
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