HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE, 2016 STATE OF HAWAII

H.R. NO. 84

HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO DENY ANY REQUEST TO EXPAND THE PAPAHĀNAUMOKUĀKEA MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT AND OPPOSE ANY ACTION TO EXPAND THE MONUMENT.

WHEREAS, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National 1 2 Monument was established on June 15, 2006, by Presidential Proclamation 8031 and was officially designated as the 3 Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (Monument) in 2007; 4 and 5 6 7 WHEREAS, the Monument provides permanent protection for nearly 140,000 square miles of reefs, atolls, and shallow and 8 deep sea in the Pacific Ocean out to fifty miles offshore, which 9 are habitats and ecosystems for many species of coral, fish, 10 birds, marine mammals, and other flora and fauna, including 11 endangered species; and 12 13 WHEREAS, the President of the United States has been asked 14 to expand the area covered by the Monument from fifty miles to 15 two hundred miles offshore; and 16 17 WHEREAS, the Monument overlays the fifty nautical mile 18 Protective Species Zone of the Western Pacific Fishery 19 Management Council and the use restrictions that apply within 20 the Monument's boundaries eliminated Hawaii's bottomfish 21 fishery, which consisted of seventeen permits, including permits 22 23 dedicated to indigenous native Hawaiian fishing communities; and 24 25 WHEREAS, an expansion of the Monument's area would cause further harm to Hawaii's fishers and fishing industry which 26 includes wholesalers, retailers, fish cutters, equipment 27 operators, provisioners, and ground transportation, ice, and 28 fuel facilities as well as shipping and boat maintenance service 29 providers; and 30



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WHEREAS, expansion of the Monument's area would also harm 1 Hawaii residents and tourists who depend on fish for sustenance 2 and cultural uses, such as sashimi for the holidays and poke; 3 4 and 5 WHEREAS, Hawaii is second only to Japan in fish consumption 6 and, although residents prefer the iced fresh fish caught by 7 Hawaii fishers, sixty percent of the seafood consumed in Hawaii 8 is imported; and 9 10 WHEREAS, the value of commercial fishery landings that 11 enter the marketplace through Honolulu Harbor annually ranks in 12 the top ten for all United States ports due to the value of the 13 fish caught by Hawaii fishers; and 14 15 WHEREAS, an arbitrary expansion of the Monument could 16 potentially result in an annual loss of \$10,000,000 in landed 17 (ex-vessel) value for Hawaii's long-line fishery and an annual 18 \$30,000,000 loss to the State's retail seafood markets; and 19 20 WHEREAS, any reduction in the amount of fish caught by 21 Hawaii's long-line fleet will be supplanted by seafood imports, 22 thereby increasing reliance on unregulated foreign seafood 23 sources; and 24 25 26 WHEREAS, twenty-three percent of the waters surrounding the Hawaiian Islands and the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands are 27 already no-take marine protected areas, which exceeds the twenty 28 percent global standard for marine protected areas, and an 29 expansion of the Monument to two hundred miles offshore will 30 increase the no-take area to sixty-seven percent of the United 31 States exclusive economic zone waters surrounding the Hawaii 32 33 archipelago; and 34 WHEREAS, existing county, state, and federal management 35 regimes currently provide comprehensive protections for coral 36 reef ecosystems and other vulnerable marine habitat including 37 deep-water coral and the seabed, sea turtles, seabirds, marine 38 39 mammals, sharks, and other marine species; and



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1 WHEREAS, large open ocean marine protected areas do not provide any buffering from the effects of climate change since 2 ocean warming and ocean acidification can occur regardless of 3 4 spatial boundaries; and 5 6 WHEREAS, there is no scientific justification or conservation benefit to support expanding the Monument; now, 7 therefore, 8 9 10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular 11 Session of 2016, that the President of the United States is 12 urged to deny any request to expand the Papahānaumokuākea Marine 13 National Monument and oppose any action to expand the Monument; 14 and 15 16 17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, 18 Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric 19 20 Administration, Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, the Governor, and 21 the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. 22 23 24 25 OFFERED BY: HR HMS 2016-2267 3 AAR 1 1 2016