



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

December 30, 2024

The Honorable Dawn N. S. Chang, Chairperson
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Kalanimoku Building
1151 Punchbowl Street, Suite 130
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813-3047

Determination of Acceptability
Final Environmental Impact Statement
Papahānaumokuākea National Marine Sanctuary

Aloha Chair Chang:

I hereby accept the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Papahānaumokuākea National Marine Sanctuary, published December 23, 2024 (the Final EIS), as satisfactory fulfillment of the requirements of Chapter 343, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, and Section 11-200.1-28, Hawai'i Administrative Rules, which establishes three acceptability criteria for EISs: process, content, and responses to comments.

The economic, social, and environmental impacts that may occur are adequately described in the Final EIS. The analysis, comments made by reviewers, responses to comments, and the additionally included management plan provide useful information to policy makers and the public.

Mahalo,

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

c: Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD)
Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Aquatic Resources

From: webmaster@hawaii.gov
To: [DBEDT OPSD Environmental Review Program](#)
Subject: New online submission for The Environmental Notice
Date: Monday, December 30, 2024 6:01:52 PM

Action Name

Proposed Papahānaumokuākea National Marine Sanctuary

Type of Document/Determination

Final environmental impact statement (FEIS) acceptance or non-acceptance

HRS §343-5(a) Trigger(s)

- (1) Propose the use of state or county lands or the use of state or county funds
- (2) Propose any use within any land classified as a conservation district
- (3) Propose any use within a shoreline area
- (4) Propose any use within any historic site as designated in the National Register or Hawai'i Register

Judicial district

Honolulu, O'ahu

Tax Map Key(s) (TMK(s))

N/A

Action type

Agency

Other required permits and approvals

CZM, NHPA, HRS CH 6E

Proposing/determining agency

Department of Land and Natural Resources

Agency jurisdiction

State of Hawai'i

Agency contact name

Edward (Luna) Kekoa

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Agency contact phone

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Agency address

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United States
[Map It](#)

Accepting authority

Office of the Governor, State of Hawai'i

Accepting authority contact name

Josh Green

Accepting authority contact email or URL

<https://governor.hawaii.gov/contact-us/contact-the-governor/>

Accepting authority contact phone

(808) 586-0034

Accepting authority address

415 South Beretania Street
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[Map It](#)

Is there a consultant for this action?

No

Action summary

NOAA proposes to designate marine portions of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (Monument) as Papahānaumokuākea National Marine Sanctuary to protect nationally significant biological, cultural, and historical resources. The State of Hawai'i (the State) through the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Aquatic Resources proposes to include all State waters. The purpose of this action is to provide comprehensive and coordinated management of the marine areas of Papahānaumokuākea to protect nationally significant biological, cultural, and historical resources. The proposed action would supplement the existing provisions for management of the Monument and further protect resources in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The preferred alternative boundary includes the marine environment from the shoreline of the islands and atolls seaward to 200 nautical miles, including all State waters, approximately 582,570 square miles (439,910 square nautical miles).

Attached documents (signed agency letter & EA/EIS)

- [2412103-1_GOV-Final-EIS-for-Proposed-Papahanaumokuakea-National-Marine-Sanctuary.pdf](#)

Action location map

- [Action_Location_022620243.zip](#)

Authorized individual

Kelli Ann Kobayashi

Authorization

- The above named authorized individual hereby certifies that he/she has the authority to make this submission.