RE: MAUNALUA BAY HUMPBACK WHALE SANCTUARY - OPPOSING LETTER

I am a strong supporter of protecting the Humpback Whales and all marine life, especially endangered species which also include Hawaiian Monk seal and turtles, but I oppose the proposed plans by NOAA to impose a Special Sanctuary Management Area (SSMA) in Maunalua Bay due to the following reasons:

I. The bay is not an area where the Humpback whales frequent.
   A. Having these changes imposed on Maunalua Bay would be similar to having these regulations imposed between the Maui, Lanai, and Molokai islands, which is the predominant whale breeding area, and do not have these regulations.
   B. The whales travel outside of the bay and there should be more concern about all the larger vessels that travel where the whales travel between the Hawaiian islands, that have a larger impact on where the whales go and if they will be hit.

II. There should be more concern about doing other things to protect the whales, such as:
   A. Banning government exercises in which sonar is used in the water during the whale season which affects not only the whales, but all other marine life.
      1. The whales get disoriented and end up on beaches and die, or others are separated from their pods, including calves being separated from their mother's.
   B. Education of distances to keep away from protected mammals.
      1. The recently imposed State test for all boaters to take does not even address any knowledge of what the rules are to stay away from whales, monk seals, skin divers w/ flags, and what the fines are, etc., and that should be included.

III. The desired regulations are unreasonable:
   A. Kuapa Pond (now called Hawaii Kai Marina) was approved by all necessary agencies to be dredged for a man-made marina by Kaiser Aetna in the 1960's. In this marina, three islands were formed so that the waterway inlet from the ocean and the marina could be maintained and dredged periodically and put in these islands. The approval of this marina was and is dependent on continuing this ocean to marina access and ocean water flow to keep maintain the marina water quality. The dredging for the access and use of the Hawaii Kai Marina needs to be maintained for other environmental impacts to be sustained and maintained, for not only use of the marina and maintaining a healthy waterway, but also for the marine life that is in the marina.
   B. The Hawaiian island residents and our guests should be able to use our bay for swimming, snorkeling, surfing, fishing, kayaking, paddling, etc., which many of these activities are via boat and anchoring.
   C. An important Hawaiian sport is canoe paddling and racing, and the race buoys are set up at the finish line within the bay, especially for single or double person kayaks/paddle boards/canoes where the distance to go to Waikiki is too far from Molokai.
   D. There is a boat ramp here at Maunalua Bay, for boating. To say that we cannot anchor in the bay and must anchor in the open ocean, where it is not as safe, would be unreasonable.
   E. Furthermore, previously there have been unreasonable regulations made in the past, such as banning jetski's between Hawaii Kai and Waikiki during whale season which is highly unreasonable since the jetski's don't even have propellers (they suck up surface water) and yet motor boats with propellers can travel in the same area during whale season.

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Name Print Signature Date