



# *Commendation*

*Presented to*

## **North Maui Community Fisheries Enforcement Unit**

July 18, 2014

On behalf of the people of the State of Hawai'i, it is with great pleasure that I commend the officers and administrators of the North Maui Community Fisheries Enforcement Unit (CFEU) of the Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR) on the first anniversary of their work in enforcing regulations and building community support around revitalizing the North Maui fishery.

The CFEU is a product of the DLNR Division of Conservation & Resource Management's (DOCARE) unique partnership with Conservation International's Hawai'i Fish Trust and the Harold K.L. Castle foundation. These two non-profit organizations provided resources and equipment—including a dedicated vessel—to allow you to focus your efforts on improving the waters off North Maui.

As Maui-born fishers, divers and hunters, you are each uniquely qualified and invested in protecting these marine resources and rallying the community around their recovery. It is no surprise you have taken great initiative in the uncharted waters of this pilot project, and I am proud to recognize CFEU Supervisor Jeffrey Kinores and CFEU Officers Nathan Hillen, Joshua Rezentes and Pat Rivera for your exemplary dedication, day and night, to the proactive conservation of the North Maui fishery. Beyond an increase in enforcement, your presence in these waters—making 2,798 contacts in the field—has helped build consensus around conservation through education.

This program's success would not have been possible without the contributions of Watch Coordinator Kuhea Asiu, CFEU Program Coordinator Patti Edwards, CFEU Data Manager Cheryl Tachikawa and, of course, Maui Field Supervisor Brooks Tamaye and Maui Branch Chief Clarence "Matt" Yamamoto. The rebound of this fishery has demonstrated that despite an increase in population and great enthusiasm around time-honored fishing traditions, our growing communities can come together to enjoy these waters sustainably. With the help of all fishers, we will pass along to future generations an ethic of conservation that will ensure that these resources flourish.

*Mahalo* for your tireless efforts in promoting the recovery of this fishery, and for providing a strong example of a program that may expand to protect local fisheries across the islands.

*With warmest regards,*

  
NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i