

From: [Ian Kasaitis](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Research Permit Agenda Item F-2
Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 9:49:13 PM

Board of Land and Natural Resources 1151 Punchbowl Street Room 131 Honolulu, HI 96813 RE: Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Research Permit, Agenda Item F-2

Dear Chair Case and Members of the Board:

My name is Ian Kasaitis. I am a second-year law student at the William S. Richardson School of Law and have a scientific and policy background concerning the health of marine protected areas in the region.

I am writing to support the authorization and approval to issue a Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM) Research Permit to Dr. Richard L. Pyle for access to State Waters to conduct valuable scientific research. Climate change is the greatest global threat to coral reef ecosystems which harbor the highest biodiversity of any ecosystem globally. The PMNM specifically harbors endangered species such as the hawksbill sea turtle, green sea turtle, and Hawaiian monk seal; yet, the PMNM is still largely unexplored. Obtaining current, accurate data on the waters would not only provide critical data for scientists, but the data can be processed and translated for law and policy makers to protect the integrity and aesthetical beauty of the PMNM. Further, throughout the activities, vessel and research operations would be conducted as to minimize any adverse impacts, and no activities would be performed in the vicinity of known historical resources or cultural archaeological sites.

Please grant access to PMNM to Dr. Richard L. Pyle so that he and his team can provide valuable scientific data for the public and contribute to the preservation of the PMNM.

Thank you for your consideration.

From,
Ian Kasaitis

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