

**From:** [Boyd, Amanda J](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] PMDP: PMNM-2025-004 Permit  
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Aloha,

I'm writing in support of Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Program's (PMDP) PMNM-2025-004 permit for activities within Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM) this coming field season. PMDP has supported PMNM's Management goals by removing 1 million pounds of marine debris in the last 5 years since they were created. PMDP helps us meet our mission of protecting the wildlife in the Monument by reducing wildlife entrapment hazards as well as saving endangered seals, turtles and birds which they have found entangled in debris during their visits to the Monument. PMDP has been a trusted partner of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as they have reduced the footprint of derelict fishing gear on reefs and marine debris on Refuge lands and near shore waters at Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge and Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge (MANWR). The staff at MANWR has spoken highly of their work ethic and the way the PMDP team cares for both the Natural and Cultural Resources of the Monument. PMDP fills in the pukas that federal government budget falls short on. Unfortunately with future projected budget cuts, the federal govt. lacks the resources to tackle the ongoing problem of marine debris affecting wildlife and the marine environment. We look forward to partnering with PMDP and their aligning mission in the future. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service asks that the Board of Land and Natural Resources approves PMDP's current permit.

All the best,  
Amanda Boyd  
Deputy Superintendent  
Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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**NATIONAL  
WILDLIFE  
REFUGE SYSTEM**



PAPA HĀNAUMOKUĀKEA  
Marine National Monument

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MANOA

Kewalo Marine Laboratory  
Pacific Biosciences Research Center  
41 Ahui Street, Honolulu, HI 96744

March 25, 2025

Board of Land and Natural Resources  
State of Hawaii

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the BLNR,

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project (PMDP) and its vital role in protecting one of the most ecologically, culturally, and scientifically significant areas in the world.

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument is home to a myriad of marine species, a quarter of which are endemic, found nowhere else on Earth. Its pristine coral reef ecosystems serve as critical habitat for ESA listed species including the endangered Hawaiian monk seals, green sea turtles, and seabirds that depend on these islands for nesting and foraging. Despite its remote location, Papahānaumokuākea faces a persistent threat from marine debris, particularly derelict fishing gear and plastics. These hazards cause entanglement, habitat degradation, and ingestion risks that severely impact wildlife and ecosystem health.

From a scientific and management perspective, PMDP provides critical data to support marine conservation efforts. By documenting debris accumulation trends, sources, and impacts, their work informs broader policy decisions and enhances our understanding of oceanic debris movement. These efforts align with national and international marine debris strategies, reinforcing Papahānaumokuākea's role as a sentinel site for climate resilience, ecosystem monitoring, and adaptive management.

Supporting the PMDP ensures continued removal of hazardous debris, protecting both the biodiversity and cultural integrity of the Monument. Sustained investment in this work strengthens the science and management needed to safeguard one of the world's largest marine protected areas for future generations.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.



Robert H. Richmond, Ph.D.  
Research Professor and Director