

## **Saipan Man Amko Council Resolution**

WHEREAS, on 15 June 2006, President George W. Bush under the authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906, unilaterally made the decision to designate the North west Hawaiian Island National Marine Monument, a decision that bypassed the fair and equitable approach required by the National Marine Sanctuaries Act; and

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush is now proposing to create an additional large oceanic marine protected monument in the Northern Mariana Islands prior to his leaving office in January 2009; and

WHEREAS, determination of the proposed marine monument boundaries and the “no-take” management approach being advocated might neither be based on the scientific method nor on the traditional sustainable use approach of conserving natural resources practiced by Pacific Islanders; and

WHEREAS, the Antiquities Act grants unilateral authority to the President of the United States to designate any federal lands as a National Monument; and

WHEREAS, the concerns raised by the indigenous people of the Northern Mariana Islands include but are not limited to: permanent federal prohibitions associated with the Antiquities Act, additional resource use restrictions associated with the new management authority – the National Marine Sanctuary Program; a complete ban on commercial and recreational fishing within monument waters, a complete ban on all forms of oil, gas and mineral extraction activities within monument waters; and

WHEREAS, the people of the Mariana Islands presently have total and free access to the entire Northern Marianas Exclusive Economic Zone, and designation of a national marine monument would greatly restrict anyone who wishes to enter the ancestral waters that have been culturally accessible without restriction for thousands of years; and

WHEREAS, numerous correspondence from NMI elected representatives opposing a national marine monument for the Marianas Islands have been sent to the Pew Environment Group and President George W. Bush including:

1. Letter from CNMI Governor Benigno Fitial to Mr. Jay Nelson (Pew Charitable Trusts), dated 19 March 2008;
2. Letter from Governor Benigno Fitial to President George W. Bush, dated 29 April 2008;
3. Joint CNMI Senate/House Resolution No. 16-04, dated April 2008 (*included in Governor Benigno Fitial's letter to President George W. Bush*);
4. Letter from Tinian Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas to President George W. Bush, dated 12 June 2008;

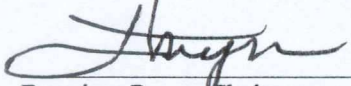
5. Letter from Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela to President George W. Bush, dated 9 June 2008;
6. Letter from Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos to President George W. Bush, dated 15 July 2008;
7. Letter from Northern Islands Mayor Valentin I. Taisakan to President George W. Bush, dated 6 June 2008;
8. Letter from CNMI House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios and Senate President Pete P. Reyes to President George W. Bush, dated 6 August 2008;
9. Joint CNMI House/Senate Resolution No.16-13, dated 10 September 2008; and

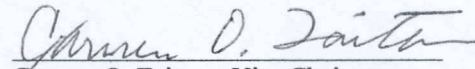
WHEREAS, the Manamko Council supports Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Mayor Valentin I. Taisakan, Mayor Juan B. Tudela, Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas, Mayor Joseph S. Inos, the 16<sup>th</sup> CNMI Legislature, and residents of the Northern Mariana Islands in their strong opposition to the designation of any national marine monument within CNMI waters; and

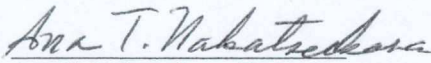
WHEREAS, the manamko Council strongly opposes any form of transfer of resource management authority over Northern Mariana waters to the National Marine Sanctuary Program or federal agencies other than the present arrangement governed by the Magnuson-Stevens Act involving the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that it is the position of the Northern Mariana Islands Manamko Council that every national marine monument proposal for the Mariana Islands be rejected in their entirety.

Date: October 20, 2008

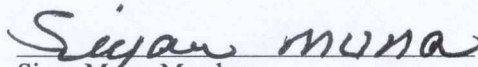
  
Francisco Reyes, Chairman

  
Carmen O. Taitano, Vice Chairperson

  
Ana T. Nakatsukasa, Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teresita Sorroza, Secretary

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Mary Allan Conrad, Member

  
Siyau Muna, Member

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Mila Garin, Member

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Christy Michael, Member