



## The State Refuge for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands

Hawai'i's State Board of Land and Natural Resources voted to adopt new regulations to protect the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) on May 13, 2005. The new protection measures are currently awaiting Governor Lingle's signature. These regulations will:

- Designate the NWHI refuge area solely for the protections of natural and cultural resources.
- Issue permits only for scientific or educational purposes, non-extractive purposes that further knowledge about the area, and subsistence, traditional, and customary practices.
- Continue to prohibit anyone to set foot on any shore or emergent land or reef without a permit.
- Prohibit any taking of marine life from the NWHI refuge for commercial or recreational purposes.
- Prohibit the discharge of effluent from vessels as defined by state and federal law.
- Prohibit the anchoring of any vessel that can or does damage coral reef.
- Apply precautionary management principles that preserve, protect, and conserve all natural and cultural resources to limit access to the NWHI refuge area to those activities that "do no harm" to the refuge area.
- Coordinate enforcement with the various federal agencies with jurisdiction over the islands, such as the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services.

**Help to ensure seamless management of this special place by expanding the protective state refuge to Federal Reserve waters through the *NWHI National Refuge Act*.**

**Learn how at [www.kahea.org](http://www.kahea.org)**

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