



18 April 2024

Secretary General Michael W. Lodge

RE: The Maui Nui Makai Network's Application for Observer Status at the International Seabed Authority

Dear Secretary General,

On behalf of the Maui Nui Makai Network (the Greater Maui Marine Network), I am writing this letter to request observer status at the International Seabed Authority. The Maui Nui Makai Network is a group of community and partner organizations across Maui Nui (Maui, Lānaʻi, Molokaʻi, and Kahoʻolawe) in Hawaiʻi, who are exerting our kuleana (responsibility) to care for the ocean in a way that honors our kūpuna (ancestors), and the traditional and cultural practices of our places. The Maui Nui Makai Network is also a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code as of January 2016.

We have submitted the below in the format required by Enclosure 1 of the Guidelines for observer status of non-governmental organizations with the International Seabed Authority (ISBA/25/A/16) more than three months before the opening of the July 2024 Assembly session. We are submitting to the Secretary General per paragraph 6 of the same document.

A. Information about the organization

1. Name of organization: Maui Nui Makai Network <https://www.mauinui.net/>

2. Address of headquarters: 121 Apau Place, Makawao, HI, United States, 96768

3. Addresses of all branches and/or regional headquarters: n/a

4. Telephone number: +1 808 728 8970

5. Fax number: n/a

6. Email address coorinadator@mauinui.net

7. Name, title and contact details of focal point:

Solomon P. Kahoʻohalahala
Network Member and Co-Founder
+1 808 463 9550
maunalei.ahupuuaa@gmail.com

8. Background information on the organization:

Our purpose is "Paipai a ola", which means encourage and live – encourage each other to sustain the relationships within our communities and with the land and sea. Those are the relationships that we need to thrive. We work to protect and restore healthy coastal and marine ecosystems for the people of Maui Nui using powerful place-based, collaborative strategies. Our Network was started in February 2013 after community leaders from across Maui Nui came together asking: 'Do you want to



form a network so we can connect and share lessons learned with each other?' The Network includes 9 community group Alaka'i and Haumana Members that do amazing work in their own areas across Maui Nui for big changes collectively, with the technical support of 4 Kāko'o Members and with the generous financial support from Kōkua Members.

9. Is the organization a member of, affiliated to or otherwise associated with another organization that has been granted observer status with the Authority?

Yes, our members have attended the International Seabed Authority on the Greenpeace delegation. We are affiliated with the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, and are currently becoming an official member.

10. Is the organization affiliated to consultants of the Authority, contractors with the Authority, entities in connection with the law of the sea, the offshore and deep-sea mining industry, research institutes or the mineral marketing and processing industry?

No.

11. Relationships with intergovernmental organizations

Network members were participants in IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawai'i 2016 and attended in Marseille in 2021 as part of a community of non-profits of Hawai'i (KUA, an IUCN member). Network members participated as Indigenous peoples and local communities to advocate for participation of Indigenous peoples, and gave presentations there.
<https://www.iucncongress2020.org/programme/speakers/solomon-kahoohalahala>

Network members participated in the conservation of biodiversity talks which led up to the passage of the BBNJ treaty, attending meetings in Kenya, Montreal, and finally in New York in the final days of the BBNJ treaty. Network members made side event presentations during these meetings.

12. List of publications and/or other relevant documentation

Maui Nui Makai Network:

- Mālama I Ke Kai Community Action Guide which provides a proven, clear process for community groups interested in makai [marine] management to be organized, knowledgeable, and focused. This document is helping other communities to learn about how to organize community management of their resources
- Attendance at Hawai'i Conservation Congresses (e.g. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0tY1jCjxUE>)
- Organized speaker series, every other month inviting people to talk about different areas of interest and expertise. <https://www.mauinui.net/speaker-series.html>
- Organized cultural exchange with the Chumash (California, USA) and the people from Micronesia in 2023.
- Submitted comments to NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries regarding the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Designation https://downloads.regulations.gov/NOAA-NOS-2021-0080-3209/attachment_1.pdf



Solomon P. Kaho'ohalahala

- Kikiloj, K., A. M. Friedlander, A. Wilhelm, N. Lewis, K. Quioco, W. 'Āila Jr., and S. Kaho'ohalahala. 2017. "Papahānaumokuākea: Integrating Culture in the Design and Management of one of the World's Largest Marine Protected Areas." Coastal Management. DOI: 10.1080/08920753.2017.1373450.
- Teneva, Lida T., Margaret A. McManus, Conor Jerolmon, Anna B. Neuheimer, Susan J. Clark, Gordon Walker, Kolomona Kaho'ohalahala, Eric Shimabukuro, Chris Ostrander, and John N. Kittinger. "Understanding reef flat sediment regimes and hydrodynamics can inform erosion mitigation on land." Collabra 2, no. 1 (2016): 1.

Ekolu Lindsey

- Santana, Francisca N., Alana Yurkanin, Tiara E. Stark, Ekolu Lindsey, Nicole M. Ardoin, and Gabrielle Wong-Parodi. "Mālama i ke kai: Exploring psychosocial factors associated with personal and community coral reef conservation behavior on Maui, Hawai 'i." Conservation Science and Practice 5, no. 9 (2023): e13002.
- Koike, Haruko, Ekolu Lindsey, Roxie Sylva, Linda Nakagawa-Castro, Emily Fielding, and Eric Conklin. "Polanui Creel & Human Use Survey." The Nature Conservancy Hawai 'i (2018).

Dr. Alan Friedlander (60+ published marine science articles)

- Grorud-Colvert K, Sullivan-Stack J, Roberts C, Constant V, Horta e Costa B, Pike EP, Kingston N, Laffoley D, Sala E, Claudet J, Friedlander AM. The MPA Guide: A framework to achieve global goals for the ocean. Science. 2021 Sep 10;373(6560):eabf0861.
- Sala E, Mayorga J, Bradley D, Cabral RB, Atwood TB, Auber A, Cheung W, Costello C, Ferretti F, Friedlander AM, Gaines SD. Protecting the global ocean for biodiversity, food and climate. Nature. 2021 Apr 15;592(7854):397-402.

B. Interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly

13. Briefly outline how your organization intends to demonstrate its interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly, including by answering questions 14 to 17 and by providing any other relevant information related to the application for observer status.

It is key to ensure that Indigenous values are considered within the development of potential industries such as deep seabed mining, which falls under the work of the Authority. Maui Nui Makai Network members will assist the Authority with understanding this issue and progressing the breadth of its work. We can assist the Authority to reach a broader network of stakeholders, and empower them to engage in the stewardship and protection of the seabed.

14. Briefly outline whether and how the purposes or activities of the organization relate to the work of the Authority.

The deep sea, in our view, is where we come from and we are the culture of the people of the deep sea. It is our country, it is our home.

The Maui Nui Makai Network has participated with scientists in briefings to US Representatives, the White House Office of Science and Technology, and a member of the Hawaii State Legislature regarding the cultural and scientific issues related to deep-sea mining.



The following videos provide short synopses of our relationship to the ocean, and the deep sea:

<https://ejfoundation.org/news-media/harm-done-to-the-ocean-is-a-direct-attack-on-our-way-of-life>

<https://media.greenpeace.org/Detail/27MZIFJL379AL>

15. Briefly outline whether and how your organization intends to contribute to the work of the Authority, for example by providing specialized information, advice or expertise, or by identifying or helping to procure the services of experts or consultants.

We have been attending the ISA sessions and will continue to do so. The Maui Nui Makai Network intends to participate at the ISA as an observer in Kingston at the ISA. Two of our members, Ekolu Lindsey III and Solomon “Uncle Sol” Kaho’ohalahala have been attending meetings under the Greenpeace delegation.



Photo by IISB/ENB Diego Noguera

We have participated robustly in the intersessional dialogue on underwater cultural heritage, and contributed to a paper on intangible heritage. We participated robustly in the thematic discussions on intangible heritage at ISA 29-I, and will continue to do so.

We will monitor the ISA procurement page and notify any potential consultants we are aware of about relevant opportunities. We have experience in working closely with local communities and understand those ties to Indigenous knowledge and culture.

16. Briefly outline whether and how your organization has the expertise and the capacity to contribute, within its field of competence, to the work of the Authority, in particular in connection with the law of the sea, the protection of the marine environment, the offshore and deep-sea mining industry, technology, minerals processing and marketing, activities in the Area and marine scientific research in the Area.

Our organization houses experts on discussing the cultural aspects and Indigenous perspective of deep seabed mining. A few examples of the work of our network:

Network member Solomon Pili Kaho’ohalahala is a seventh-generation indigenous native Hawaiian descendant, kupa’āina, from the small Hawaiian island of Lāna’i. He is the current native Hawaiian Elder of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Reserve Advisory Council and Native Hawaiian Cultural Working Group. He is the current Chair of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council and also serves as a Cultural



Community Member of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument. He served in the Hawai'i state legislature for 6 years; and was part of the Maui County government as representative for 8 years. He is also a crew member of the Polynesian Voyaging Canoe Hōkūle'a since 1975, and has sailed throughout the Hawaiian Islands and Polynesia.

Network member Ekolu Lindsey III was born and raised in Lahaina, Maui. He is a founding member of Maui Cultural Lands. He completed a ten-day, 500-mile journey aboard the voyaging canoe Hikianalia to the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands to conduct reef surveys and fish monitoring to help better manage Hawai'i's marine resources. Ekolu also cofounded Polanui Hiu, the first Community Managed Makai Area (CMMA) on Maui. Over the years, he has worked closely with the DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources, The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, Maui Nui Marine Resource Council, Papahānaumokuākea Working Group, Coral Reef Alliance and other organizations to protect key cultural and environmental sites across the island

Network affiliate Dr. Alan Friedlander is currently Chief Scientist for National Geographic's Pristine Seas Project where he leads research efforts to help understand and conserve the last wild places in the ocean. Dr. Friedlander's work on marine conservation range from small-scale community-managed areas to some of the largest protected areas on the planet. Dr. Friedlander is also the Director of the Fisheries Ecology Research Lab at the University of Hawaii. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Hawaii and was a National Research Council Postdoctoral Associate with the Pacific Fisheries Environmental Lab in Monterey, California. Dr. Friedlander is a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, 2006 Duke University Distinguished Conservation Scholar, and along with the Pristine Seas Team, was awarded the 2014 Environmental Hero Award by the Environmental Media Association.

17. Briefly outline whether and how your organization intends to contribute to the capacity-building programmes and initiatives of the Authority (e.g., Secretary-General's award, voluntary commitments of the Authority)

We would widely disseminate announcements and encourage engagement and application, where appropriate, through our broad network which reaches throughout Hawai'i. If the Authority intends to offer capacity building training on Indigenous connection to the ocean, we would evaluate providing or advising on such training.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Solomon Pili Kaho'ohalahala". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Solomon Pili Kaho'ohalahala