



Dear Native Hawaiian Community Leader,

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) invites you to an engagement session on advancing co-stewardship as outlined in the Joint Secretarial Order 3403.

On November 21, 2022, in coordination with the Department of Interior and the Department of Agriculture, JSO 3403 was amended to include the Department of Commerce (see Attachment 1). The purpose of JSO 3403 is to ensure Federal lands and waters are managed in a manner that protects the treaty, religious, subsistence, and cultural interests of federally recognized Indian Tribes, including the Native Hawaiian Community, with an emphasis on co-stewardship. NOAA is implementing the directives of JSO 3403 and developing co-stewardship opportunities with federally recognized tribes and Native Hawaiian Community.

NOAA is currently in the process of a legal review of our land, water, and fish/wildlife treaty responsibilities and authorities that can support the implementation of JSO 3403. NOAA is interested in working with Native Hawaiians to build our collective understanding of stewardship and co-stewardship and identify ways to advance the goals of JSO 3403 at NOAA and within the Department of Commerce. As part of this process, NOAA would benefit from engagement with Native Hawaiians on a number of issues related to JSO 3403, specifically, we are seeking your input and feedback on the following:

- 1) The definitions of stewardship and co-stewardship in the context of Native Hawaiians. NOAA has prepared draft definitions (Attachment 2) as a starting point for this dialog.
- 2) Examples of co-stewardship agreements that should be modeled or avoided;
- 3) Involvement of Indigenous Knowledge in co-stewardship (i.e., agreements, work, decision-making); and,
- 4) Any other thoughts and input that you may have for NOAA as we work collectively to advance the goals of JSO 3403, such as opportunities for further relationship building.

On behalf of NOAA, Becky Lizama, NOAA Senior Tribal Liaison, and Adam Dilts, NOAA General Counsel Tribal Liaison, will join me in this engagement session. We will hold an engagement for Native Hawaiian representatives on the following date and time.

- October 5, 2023, 3:00-5:00 PM Eastern (9:00-11:00 AM Hawai'i). Please [register here](#) to join.

We strongly value your thoughts, knowledge, and input. In addition to providing input through this engagement, you may provide comments in writing through Thursday, November 9, 2023. Please send your written submissions to Becky Cruz Lizama, NOAA Senior Tribal Liaison, at OLIA.Tribal@noaa.gov, and identify your submission as “Advancing Co-stewardship Engagement.”

If you have any questions regarding this effort, please contact Dr. Zachary Penney via email (zachary.penney@noaa.gov) or phone at 202-482-2530.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zachary Penney', is centered below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Dr. Zachary L. Penney
NOAA Senior Advisor

2 Attachments