

William Aila Speaker for the NWHI Cultural Briefing

William Aila's opinion on the NWHI: The Original Executive Order designated a special place for the Native Hawaiians. There were three seats on the RA and it recognized the Native Hawaiian management in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. In place of the reserve, Bush created a monument. The way the Monument was set up makes it so that the Monument can't go back to the way it was.

The Cultural Briefing

The NWHI are where the Sky God and the Earth mother meet. It is believed by the Native Hawaiians that the soul goes through certain paths. The soul leaps over islands in order to reach their end location. The NWHI are very spiritual because it is believed that the spirits may still be there. The marine debris crew are, therefore, told to treat the land and ocean with spiritual respect. They are expected to behave "pono" and with ike papalooa- deep understanding from their studies. Because of the federal pono research information and ike papalooa it will be better for future generations as well as the future well being of the NWHI.

William Aila also discussed the disagreement about whether sharks should be killed. He explained that the amakua must be understood; that those who hunt sharks must respect the sharks and ask for them to will give themselves up. If those who hunt sharks were to do this then the hunt will be successful, but if they donot then it will not be.

Aila also stated that there are signs in Hawaiian culture and that these signs may come in different ways. A sign may appear in the shaped cloud or a bird appearing at just the right time or vision will open up. If the shark hunters were to behave respectfully they will be able to see these signs and it with open them up to see them. When Pele migrated she did it from north to south. Pele visited all the islands. The spirits of the people still exist on these islands and so do their amakua. The sharks which have been attacking are probable not the amakua who are the red sharks, but those people that are objecting do not understand these.

Side Notes from one of the Marine debris crew.

It takes 36 hours to Nihoa and more time to Moku ainana. The engineers in the crew ere contracted from UH Hawaii and have NOAA diving certificates. The crew collects stuff from the beaches and tries to see how much debris is created at the baseline. They have truck lines to see this. The crew keeps to whats on land from Kure to French Frigate Shoals. A lot of it goes to the Gyre. They really do not dive. It mostly shows up in shallow areas and every one of these areas fluctuates.

NOAA regulation does not allow scuba diving. The most impact to the reef is shallow anyway. The Coast guard is really eager to help. The crew wont go up next year because they will stay out at the NWHI longer this year. Everything in the Pacific gets stuck in the pacific gyre.

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