

Pacific Seabird Group



DEDICATED TO THE STUDY AND CONSERVATION OF PACIFIC SEABIRDS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT

April 21, 1987

Senator Robert Byrd, Chairman
Interior Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Acquisition of Crater Hill Coastal Wildlands, Hawaii

Dear Senator Byrd:

On behalf of the Pacific Seabird Group ("PSG"), I ask that you appropriate funds to acquire the 138 acres adjacent to Kilauea National Wildlife Refuge, Kauai, Hawaii. The federal government has an option to acquire the land before it is subdivided and developed.

PSG is an international organization dedicated to the study and conservation of Pacific seabirds and their environment. Kilauea Point has the only breeding colony of albatrosses in the main Hawaiian Islands and consequently is the only colony that can readily be observed and enjoyed by the public. Almost 500,000 visitors come to Kilauea Point each year to see great frigatebirds, red-footed boobies, wedge-tailed shearwaters and other seabirds. A hurricane caused the booby colony to move just outside of the present refuge where it cannot be adequately protected today from wild dogs. Red-tailed and white-tailed tropicbirds nest just beyond the present boundaries of the refuge in the coastal bluffs of Crater Hill and are a spectacular sight for visitors.

Long before the arrival of westerners or Polynesians, seabird colonies were legion in the main Hawaiian Islands. With humans came dogs, cats, mongoose, rats and other predators that have destroyed seabirds and their nest sites. Mere remnants of this natural heritage remain. We urge you to protect and preserve this resource for future generations by acquiring the 138 acres at Crater Hill.

Sincerely,

KTB Briggs
Kenneth T. Briggs, Chairman
Coastal Marine Laboratory
University of California
Santa Cruz, California 95064