

JOINT DECLARATION FOR THE OCEANS

Pape'ete - 23rd May 2022





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23 MAI 2022

We Recall~

Our shared Polynesian cultural and natural heritage as “People of the Canoe,” a feti‘i / ‘ohana [family] connected by this shared cultural and natural heritage.

Our identity as ocean people of the largest ocean in the world - Te Moana Nui O Hiva / Moananuiākea. A shared genealogy between Tahiti and Hawai‘i, extending centuries into the past, that was revived when Hōkūle‘a made her historic landfall in Pape‘ete 46 years ago.

We Honor~

Our ancestors, whose courage, values, and excellence allowed them to connect islands spread across 10 millions square miles of ocean in Polynesia. They are this Ocean, so are we.

Our ancient sea road, Te Ara I Tahiti / Kealaikahiki, that we maintain as “People of the Canoe” that has and will continue to connect us spiritually, culturally and physically.

Our common aroha / aloha [love] for our peoples, our fenua [lands], and our moana [ocean].

Our va‘a / wa‘a [canoe] as a symbol and identity of the people of Tahiti and Hawai‘i.

We Recognize~

Our Ocean identity fundamentally connects our health and survival with that of the Ocean. By protecting the life of the Ocean, we protect our ancestors, our culture and traditions, our home, and most importantly the future of our children.

Our actions will decide the future of Te Moana Nui O Hiva / Moananuiākea for our children, who are entitled to have a right to a healthy, thriving world.

For us, “the People of the Canoe,” protecting our Ocean and our environment means being resilient to the adverse impact of climate change and remaining steadfast to our Polynesian identity and values.

We acknowledge our Ocean, islands, and people will be most impacted by the loss of territorial integrity, displacements of populations, deterioration of our natural and cultural heritage and the management of our common Ocean.

We Affirm~

Ancestral knowledge is a critical source of solutions against climate change and urgent environmental threats including ocean warming, sea level rise, contamination and overconsumption of marine life and erosion of our shorelines.

For justice among and across generations of peoples with a shared history, it is our responsibility to preserve our cultures, to manage our Ocean and to protect our lands.

We Commit To:

Elevating the voices of island people, Polynesia and “The People of the Canoe” by carrying the values of Polynesia on the Moananuiākea Voyage around the Pacific.

Making an urgent call for the sustainable management and protection of our oceans for future generations.

Continue to strengthen our relationship between French Polynesia and the Polynesian Voyaging Society with our common desire to preserve and protect traditional knowledge, culture, language, voyaging, oceans and life on earth.

Emphasizing the importance of culture and ancestral knowledge to educate and empower our children to become responsible navigators for Island Earth.

Promoting unity and collaboration towards our shared goal of Mālama Honua - a healthy ocean and thriving Island Earth for humanity and future generations.

We, the “People of the Canoe”, have managed to withstand the test of time and deal with many challenges to adapt ourselves, build resilience and continue to exist. We are proud to be Polynesian and proud of our maritime heritage.

Declared in Pape’ete, on May 23rd 2022.

The Polynesian Voyaging Society President


Nainoa Thompson

The President of French Polynesia


Edouard Fritch

