

Te Kaha

15-02-23

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is to convey the support of Te Whanau a Te Ehotu the traditional owners of our seaspace, for the application by the three neighbouring Hapu (ourselves, Kaiaio and Te Ehotu) for part of our territory to be set aside for aquaculture development. Our tribe inhabits a narrow strip of coastal land between the hills and the sea – so, much of our history conveys our long and continuous interaction with our rohe moana which continues up to the present day. (Each hapu has its own taunga ika often shared with neighbours and have a special relationship with some species like the Kahawai at the Motu, the Moki at Whangaparaoa, Maomao at Waikawa and remember many whakatauki of our tipuna that reference the uri of Tangaroa. “Mama pupu, mama kina”, “nga tamure o Paringaere”, “te raho o Tanahanaha”)

Our ancestors regarded our marine estate as did the ancient Romans who called the Mediterranean “Mare nostrum” – our sea. Our domain extends to Whakaari and other Iwi were warned not to pass inside the island.

Any incursions into our marine territory met a swift and often fatal (for the perpetrators) response.

Our peoples’ enthusiasm for the application is because they have been shown a pathway to begin to address the poverty suffered by most of our Iwi.

Research by Stats NZ demonstrates that our Iwi is among the most deprived in the country. Deprivation is linked directly to a lack of employment opportunities in the region and from there a line can be drawn to welfare dependency, criminal offending, drug and alcohol abuse, family violence and mental health issues.

This application can provide an opportunity for transformational change to the Iwi’s current situation and provide a better future for our mokopuna.

I urge your favourable consideration of this application.



Tiaki Parata
Chairman
Te Whanau a Te Ehotu