

Kaumatua Kaunihera

WHAKARONGOTAI MARAE

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October 16th, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: Support for the Whale Song Kaupapa

I am writing on behalf of the Kaumatua Kaunihera of Whakarongotai Marae to formally express our robust support for the Whale Song Kaupapa. We believe that this initiative has the potential to become a cornerstone for our community, fostering an environment full of opportunities and growth for our people, particularly our rangatahi.

The Whale Song Kaupapa not only celebrates the majestic whales that traverse our waters, but it also signifies a deeper cultural and environmental narrative that resonates with our values as a community. In addition, the proposed initiative promises to create much-needed job opportunities for our rangatahi, empowering them to engage and invest in meaningful work. This aligns perfectly with our aspirations to kindle a sense of purpose and pride within our youth, enabling them to thrive while contributing directly to our community.

Furthermore, the Whale Song initiative is poised to offer a significant economic boost to our area. By promoting eco-tourism, we create avenues for local businesses and attract visitors who will contribute to the sustainability of our economy. The hoped-for influx of visitors, drawn to the magnificent representation of whales and the accompanying cultural exchanges, will generate not only financial benefits but also foster a closer rapport with the natural environment we hold dear.

In addition to these promising economic prospects, our support for the Whale Song Kaupapa identifies a unique opportunity to strengthen and reaffirm our relationships within the community and beyond. Collaborating with the Whale Song team not only highlights our commitment to preserving our cultural heritage and natural customs but also amplifies our voices as guardians of the whenua and moana.

From the outset, I would like to assure you of the full backing of the Kaumatua Kaunihera of Whakarongotai Marae as custodians of our culture and environment. We firmly believe that our partnership with the Whale Song Kaupapa will cultivate unity and strengthen bonds rooted in mutual respect and shared goals. We are excited about the prospect of working together to breathe life into something exceptional that respects our heritage while paving the way for future generations.

As we look to the future, we would welcome an opportunity to discuss this partnership in further detail. Together, let us explore how we can weave our narratives and goals into a compelling tapestry that resonates with not only our communities but with every heart that holds a love for our oceans and the creatures who grace them.

Thank you for your consideration towards our kaumatua kaunihera. We eagerly anticipate the possibility of working closely with the Whale Song Kaupapa and contributing substantial value to our endeavours.

CHAIRMAN & RESPECTED KAUMATUA

JACK RIKIHANA