

December 14, 2023

Mr. Pieter Heerema
CEO
Allseas Engineering B.V.

Mr. Gerard Barron
Executive Chairman & CEO
The Metals Company

Aloha Pieter and Gerard,

This morning, the Allseas Vessel, *Hidden Gem*, arrived in the sacred waters of Hawai'i. Hawaiian culture has a deep connection with the ocean. The Kumulipo, the creation story of our people, tells us that our first ancestors arose from the deep sea. We find it interesting that you would violate this sacred aspect of our culture without our consultation and in waters so close to our shores and now show up here—at our homes—to reveal yourself plainly for our people to see.

Hawaiians are the people of Aloha, so we are pleased to welcome your crew as guests in our home. But our primary concern is the health and safety of our culture, our people, and the creation place of our ancestors. We do not welcome the industry you represent or the technology you carry that presents such a clear and present danger to our values and way of life. We cannot communicate a clearer message to you - ***Deep sea mining is not welcomed in Hawai'i.***

In addition to your presence, we presume that your vessel is still carrying a cargo of polymetallic nodules collected from the creation place of our ancestors. We are concerned about the grave cultural disrespect you are showing by transporting this stolen heritage through our own waters. First, we were not consulted by the nations and agencies that drew lines across our ocean, giving you the misplaced sense of empowerment that this heritage was yours to take. And then we were not consulted by your companies, as you gave yourselves authority to disrupt our creation place in what appears to be nothing more than a race to be the first to exploit a new frontier for wealth—a history we are all too familiar with here in the Pacific and will not continue to tolerate.

We would be pleased to share with you and your team a detailed overview of our culture's connection to the deep sea and how your presence is a violation of our most sacred values. In the interim, we kindly request that your vessel depart Hawaiian waters and not return while purposed for this destructive industry.

We want to ensure that our creation place and people remain safe, and we believe open, transparent communication is the best way to achieve that goal.

Mahalo,



Solomon Kaho'ohalahala
Co-Founder
Maui Nui Makai Network

C.C. Governor Josh Green, Hawai'i
Representative Ed Case, Hawai'i
Hawai'i Department of Transportation
Michael Lodge, International Seabed Authority
Greg O'Brian, U.S. Department of State
Members of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition