



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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For Immediate Release
November 19, 2018

News Release 2018-56

HAWAII JOINS BRIEFS CHALLENGING PRESIDENT TRUMP'S NATIONAL MONUMENTS REDUCTIONS

Honolulu, Hawaii – Attorney General Russell A. Suzuki joined ten other states in two amicus — or “friend of the court” — briefs today, challenging President Trump’s proclamations to drastically reduce the size of Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments in Utah.

The briefs were filed in two lawsuits over President Trump’s attempt to eliminate 85 percent of Bears Ears and approximately half of Grand Staircase-Escalante from the monuments. The President’s action, which Attorney General Suzuki argues is illegal, would effectively rescind a national monument for the first time in U.S. history.

In the amicus briefs to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, Hawaii and ten other states assert that the monument reductions overstep presidential authority and upend the purpose of the Antiquities Act of 1906, which delegated authority to the president to preserve the nation’s archeological, historic and scientific resources as national monuments. They also argue President Trump’s rescissions upset the relationship between the states and the federal government regarding managing federal lands within states’ borders.

“The President does not have the authority to rescind a national monument and we stand with our colleagues to protect these treasures,” said Attorney General Suzuki.

The U.S. District Court has not yet set a date for oral argument.

The briefs, led by Washington State, are joined by California, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

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The briefs as filed are available at: https://agportal-s3bucket.s3.amazonaws.com/uploadedfiles/Another/News/Press_Releases/Multi-State%20Amicus%20Briefs%20Combined%20%28002%29.pdf

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