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NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

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September 7, 2010

Mr. Chris E. Ostrander
Director
Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS)
1680 East-West Road
c/o CMMED, POST 105
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Dear Mr. Ostrander:

I am writing in support of the Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS) proposal to continue the development of the PacIOOS program under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) program. The work PacIOOS proposes will expand current ocean observation network which will result in strengthening ongoing efforts in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to promote a safe, healthy, productive ocean and a resilient coastal zone.

Such improvements will allow for substantive development of capacity in the Marianas Archipelago through the deployment of current meters, coastal cameras, LIDAR (light detection and ranging) mapping, and the development of wave, ocean, and atmospheric numerical models. PacIOOS proposes to continue the promotion of outreach, education, and extension of ocean information by supporting student participation in research and field activities, providing material for the development of curriculum in public school systems, and extending timely, relevant, and accurate information on the open and coastal ocean to the public within the Pacific Islands region.

I support and strongly recommend favorable consideration of this project for continued and sustained funding.

Sincerely,



GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Member of Congress