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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
CHAIRWOMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSULAR AFFAIRS,
OCEANS AND WILDLIFE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS,
FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY PERSONNEL

September 10, 2010

Christopher Ostrander
Director
Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Post Building, Room 105b
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Dear Mr. Ostrander,

I write to support the work of the Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS) and their proposal to continue their work in the Pacific Region. This program which is one of eleven regional observing programs established around the country provides a vital resource of marine environmental information utilized by the U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Coast Guard, local government agencies, educational institutions, community organizations, and citizens. As a program activity funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), PacIOOS allows for the timely sharing and coordination of important ocean information across a large region of the Pacific, spanning six time zones.

As the Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife and the elected Congressional representative from Guam, I acknowledge and appreciate the resources and support that the PacIOOS provides for the Pacific Region. The ocean data collected and shared by PacIOOS with other regional partners and entities provides a scientific and fact-based context to make informed navigational, logistical, emergency response and policy decisions. The work and data provided by PacIOOS also helps to better inform policy makers, scientists, educators and other stakeholders on the importance of environmental stewardship. This data is vital to the economic success of the Pacific jurisdictions, as the region relies heavily on ocean resources for tourism, fisheries and recreation.


I continue to work to ensure that federal resources support institutions that work to study and preserve our oceans and coastal environment. Earlier in the 111th Congress, I sponsored H.R. 365, the "Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act." This legislation authorized a long-term framework for new investments to existing entities that engage in ocean observing technologies. H.R. 365 was included in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 and signed into law by President Obama on March 30, 2009.

The fragile ecosystems of Pacific Islands make this region particularly sensitive to the threat of global climate change which is intrinsically linked to the ocean environment. For this

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reason the work of PacIOOS is essential. As our region continues to develop environmental and ocean policy, the work of PacIOOS will play a central role in informing decision-makers, scientists, resource managers, shippers and others throughout the process. I recommend a favorable consideration of their application for continued funding. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,


MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress