

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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EMC 10-030

February 11, 2010

Ms. Josie Quintrell
Executive Director
National Federation of Regional Associations
for Coastal and Ocean Observing
205 Oakledge Road
Harpwell, Maine 04079

Dear Ms. Quintrell:

Subject: Letter of Support for a National Integrated
Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Program

The City and County of Honolulu, through the Department of Environmental Services, strongly supports the continued development of a national IOOS program; specifically the Hawaii Ocean Observing System (HiOOS), the pilot program of the Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS). It is recognized that the PacIOOS regional system is one of many regional observing partners that together comprise the national IOOS program.

The Department of Environmental Services is responsible for the proper management of collecting, treating and disposing of wastewater in the vast majority of Oahu. There is considerable interest in the conservation and preservation of coastal waters and the monitoring of the ocean environment to ensure it is not adversely impacted by the discharge of treated wastewater. The storage, management, and distribution of oceanographic data related to Honolulu wastewater management efforts is of interest to multiple stakeholder sectors, including the City and County, and can promote the protection of the oceanic environment while improving the safety of those who use it. The HiOOS is presently integrating the existing data streams from City and County monitoring efforts with data gathered from systems deployed through IOOS funding into one centralized database and web portal. The development of this web

Ms. Josie Quintrell
February 11, 2010
Page Two

interface will improve public health and safety through the timely and reliable release of oceanographic data and assist the City and County in management and policy decisions related to wastewater treatment, outflow, and environmental impact. Continued development of the HiOOS data management and information framework, modeling system, and observational network will serve to increase these multi-sector society benefits.

We recognize the IOOS program is a national interagency effort that depends heavily on a distributed architecture consisting of regional observing system nodes. We strongly support this partnership of regional associations and federal interagency partners and their aim to elucidate and distribute ocean information for the benefit of society. The PacIOOS, and their sub-regional pilot program (HiOOS), provides timely, reliable, and relevant information that greatly assist with our management efforts. In this regard, we wholeheartedly endorse the need for a fully-developed national IOOS program that builds on the existing partnerships with regional associations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Steinberger', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

Timothy E. Steinberger, P.E.
Director