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To Whom It May Concern:

The Office of Planning supports the continued development of the Hawaii Ocean Observing System (HiOOS), the Hawaii sub-regional pilot project for the Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS) Regional Association, under the NOAA Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Program.

Our Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program provides State and County agencies with a common focus on land and water use activities. Its geographical reach is the entire State of Hawaii. The CZM Program continues to support efforts in building coastal resiliency, increasing ocean safety, and promoting the conservation of all of our coastal and marine resources. The full development of the IOOS Program at a national and regional scale will strengthen Hawaii's efforts to promote a safe, healthy, productive, and resilient ocean and coastal zone.

HiOOS and PacIOOS currently provide not only real-time and forecasted ocean information, but also promote outreach, education, and extension of ocean information by supporting UH student participation in research and field activities, and providing material for the development of K-12 curriculum in the Hawaii public school system. Such a program has and will continue to satisfy perspectives and management goals of Hawaii's Ocean Resources Management Plan in: preserving our ocean heritage; improving the health of coastal and ocean resources; enhancing the conservation of Hawaii's marine protected species, unique habitats, and biological diversity; and encouraging cutting edge and appropriate ocean science and technology with safeguards for ocean resource protection.

We support the commitment by federal agencies and their regional partners to the distribution of ocean information for the benefit of the community as a whole. In this regard, we wholeheartedly support and endorse the need for a fully-developed national IOOS that builds on the existing federal partnership with regional associations.

Sincerely,

Abbey Seth Mayer
Director