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Dr. Brian Taylor, Dean
School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology
University of Hawaii
1680 East-West Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Dear Dr. Taylor:

The Office of Planning supports the University of Hawaii's (UH) School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST) proposal to continue the 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 grants 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 proposed project will strengthen Hawaii's efforts to promote a safe, healthy, productive, and resilient ocean and coastal zone.

This project currently provides not only real-time and forecasted ocean information, but also promotes outreach, education, and extension of ocean information by supporting UH student participation in research and field activities, providing material for the development of K-12 curriculum in the Hawaii public school system, and extending timely, relevant, and accurate information on the open and coastal ocean to the public of the State. Such a project 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 SOEST's commitment to the elucidation and distribution of ocean information for the benefit of the community as a whole. In this regard, we wholeheartedly support and strongly recommend favorable consideration of this project under the NOAA Integrated Ocean Observing System implementation funding opportunity.

Sincerely,

Abbey Seth Mayer