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## United States Senate

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September 21, 2010

**Mr. Christopher Ostrander**  
**Director**  
**Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS)**  
**University of Hawaii at Manoa**  
**Post Building, Room 105b**  
**Honolulu, HI 96822**

**Dear Mr. Ostrander:**

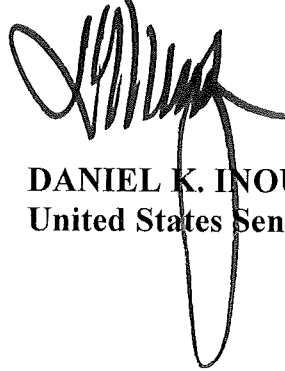
**I am pleased to provide you with this letter of support for the continued work of the Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS). As the Pacific Islands regional partner of the eleven-region U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), PacIOOS focuses on the development and operation of observing systems for coastal ocean forecasting; coastal hazards and resiliency; water quality sensing; and marine ecosystem information and monitoring. The environmental data and information that PacIOOS collects will continue to serve as a critical resource for the Coast Guard, Army Corps of Engineers, Navy, Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Homeland Security, state agencies, and others to make regulatory and policy decisions about rapid emergency response, the health of our environment, and the connectedness to our economy.**

**As a senior member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, and as chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I understand the value and need for sound scientific data and information that can be applied to everyday decisions. The Pacific Islands rely heavily on the ocean for our sustenance, recreation, and economy, and the important role that PacIOOS can play in Hawaii and our region cannot be overstated. The vulnerable ecosystems of the Hawaiian archipelago and the greater Pacific are susceptible to climate change, extreme events, marine debris, and other threats. As PacIOOS continues to measure and monitor these systems, the connections and collaborations that PacIOOS facilitates between the ocean sciences research, policy, and education communities will benefit all of Hawaii's citizens, and those throughout the region.**

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**I look forward to receiving the good news of your successful endeavor, and supporting the important efforts of PacIOOS in any way that I can.**

**Aloha,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Inouye', with a long vertical flourish extending downwards from the end of the signature.

**DANIEL K. INOUE**  
**United States Senator**

**DKI:jk**