



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
MAJURO • REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS • 96960

August 17, 2010

Mr. Chris E. Ostrander
Director
Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS)
1680 East-West Road
c/o CMMED, POST 105
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Dear Mr. Ostrander:

I am writing in support of the Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS) proposal to continue the development of the PacIOOS program under the NOAA Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) program. The work PacIOOS proposes will continue to strengthen ongoing efforts in the Republic of the Marshall Islands to promote a safe, healthy, productive ocean and a resilient coastal zone.

PacIOOS currently provides real-time and forecasted ocean information in the Marshall Islands and through the Insular Pacific region. Further, it promotes outreach, education, and extension of ocean information by supporting student participation in research and field activities, providing material for the development of curriculum in public school systems, and extending timely, relevant, and accurate information on the open and coastal ocean to the public within the Pacific Islands region. Such a project will continue to improve the health of our ocean resources; enhance conservation of protected species, unique habitats, and biological diversity; encourage cutting edge and appropriate ocean science and technology; and build local ocean observing capacity through training, extension, and the creation of jobs.

I support the commitment of PacIOOS and their Governing Council to the elucidation and distribution of ocean information for the benefit of the community as a whole. In this regard, I wholeheartedly support and strongly recommend favorable consideration of this project for continued and sustained funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Martha L. Campbell".

Martha L. Campbell
U.S. Ambassador
Republic of the Marshall Islands