

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

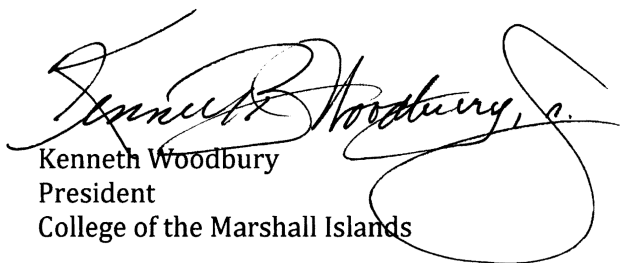
Dear Mr. Ostrander:

We are 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 resilient coastal zone.


PacIOOS currently provides not only real-time and forecasted ocean information in the Marshall Islands and through the Insular Pacific region, but also 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.

We 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, we wholeheartedly support and strongly recommend favorable consideration of this project for continued and sustained funding.

Sincerely,



Kenneth Woodbury  
President  
College of the Marshall Islands



Deborah Barker-Manase  
General Manager  
RMI Environment Protection Authority



Jeffery Zebedy  
Acting Director  
Marshall Islands Conservation Society



Glen Joseph  
Executive Director  
Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority